

more universal than would be imagined, and the Bible pored over instead of the day-book or ledger."†

V. We need hardly assert that Agriculture is a healthy pursuit. The tiller of the soil is not like the operative, obliged to be confined in close and crowded cells which are seldom visited by the pure air. His employment requires out-door exercise, and if he be wise, he will suffer the blush of the morning to redden his cheek, and by constant labour invigorate his frame. His mind, too, cheered by a glowing desire to excel in bringing from nature's bosom her choicest gifts, animated by enquiry and disciplined by experiment, can rarely be enervated or rendered stagnant. He who tills the earth and accustoms himself to note her beauties and their effects upon the soul has ample advantages for improving in intellectual energy, and for fostering that priceless purity of thought which is attained by him who thoughtfully contemplates the outward world.

VI. Besides this, the business of Agriculture is an honourable pursuit. Many examples might be quoted from English and American annals, to prove that husbandry was in great repute with men who have stood high in the world's esteem. But this "Parent Art," needs no examples to show its benefits and importance. It is an honourable pursuit, not because this Philosopher or that Statesman, this Poet or that Warrior so regarded it—it is honourable, not because Heathendom and Christendom unite in pronouncing it so, but because it is, of itself, an industrious and noble calling; because it invigorates the body and strengthens the mind; because it opens to fresh inquiry, the newly discovered beauties of nature, and enlarges the boundary of Science; because it ministers unto life's wants and comforts, and changes the desert and wilderness into a gorgeous scene of verdure and beauty. "There is," says Cowley, "no sort of life that affords so many branches of praise to a panegyrist; the utility of it to a man's self; the usefulness, or rather necessity, of it, to all the rest of mankind, the innocence, the pleasure, the antiquity, the dignity." "The best part of the population of a country," says Andrew Jackson, "are the cultivators of the soil. Independent farmers are everywhere the basis of society and the true friends of liberty."

Thus, I have called attention to the necessity of agricultural exertion, and have endeavoured to show its effects upon the general welfare and prosperity, and have presented other considerations to prove that the occupation of the farmer tends to strengthen the body and ennoble the mind. In conclusion, I beg permission to congratulate the husbandman on a pursuit so useful and innocent, and to offer a few remarks on the means which will give

efficiency to efforts made by him on behalf of agricultural improvement.

VII. The establishment of a society by which members, associately or individually, can perform essential service to the cause, will tend to promote, if not individual, at all events, public good. The members of an Agricultural Society should feel it their duty and privilege to stimulate their neighbours and friends by personal example, by diffusing journals of Agricultural knowledge, by lending their aid to introduce the study into schools, and to procure for Agriculture the fostering aid of our legislative councils, and especially to give the art a more exalted place among arts, and to banish that disposition to neglect it because there are some specimens of humanity so extravagantly wise as to deem the pursuit unfashionable or vulgar. The Members of the Society should keep in perpetual remembrance that he who causes two blades of grass to grow where one grew before, renders some commendable service to the state. There should be created a public spirit in favour of this necessary art, and none should fail in its encouragement, for the work is a noble one and its objects are the good of our country and the happiness of ourselves. The efforts you make, the seed you sow, will sprout and bear fruit, and though you may not live to see and gather the final glorious harvest, yet you may feel sure of a reward in the conscious pride of having faithfully performed a high and important duty.

(ORIGINAL.)

THE CANADIAN CARNIVAL.

THOUGH most residents in Canada are well acquainted with the festivities depicted in the following sketch, it is necessary to state, for the benefit of those who are not so well versed in the "coutumes," that the Carnival properly begins about the middle of December, and extends to Ash Wednesday; during which period the greatest hilarity prevails everywhere. The "fêtes," particularly observed during this interval are Christmas, New-year's, and Twelfth Night, or "Jour des Rois;" on which last it is customary to produce a large cake wherein a bean has been imbedded, and divide it among the assembled party; whichever lady gets the bean reigns queen of the day. On Christmas-eve, high mass is celebrated at midnight, to which people of every denomination flock for amusement, to see the church-parade, and rejoice at the appearing of Christmas; and in the country, on New-Year's-eve, waits (i. e. serenaders) go round to every door, singing a rough catch, beginning with:

"Bonjour le maitre et la maitresse,
Et tous les gens de la maison,"

†Second series of a "Diary in America," by Captain Marryat, page 150.

and levying contributions for the New-Year's dinner of some deserving pauper.