

PREFACE.

"Agriculture feeds us; to a great extent it clothes us; without it we could not have manufactures, and we should not have commerce. These all stand together, but they stand together like pillars in a cluster, the largest in the centre, and that largest is agriculture. Let us remember too, that we live in a country of small farms, and freehold tenements; in a country in which men cultivate with their own hands, their own few simple acres; drawing not only their subsistence, but also their spirit of independence and manly freedom from the ground they plow. They are at once its owners, its cultivators and its defenders. And whatever else may be undervalued, or overlooked, let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labour of man. Man may be civilized, in some degree, without great progress in manufactures, and with little commerce with his distant neighbours. But without the cultivation of the earth he is in all countries, a savage. Until he stops from the chase, and fixes himself in some place, and seeks a living from the earth, he is a roaming barbarian. When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization."—*Hon. Daniel Webster.*

THE utter prostration of the Staple Trade of this Province, consequent upon the altered policy of the Mother Country—the general impression that the Crop heretofore most relied upon—the Crop of Timber—had become worthless and unavailable in the market—the necessity thereby implied of making a transition from the business of lumbering to that of farming and manufacturing—the very serious consequences to individuals in such a change—the conviction that those who have been engaged in lumbering might be benefitted by some new notions of husbandry—that making up exhausted land was a very different thing from wearing out a fresh and teeming soil—that farming old land required much more skill and intelligence than merely clearing and cropping that which was new—that the settlers generally would have to give up Foreign for Domestic Manufactures—and the Foreign Market for a Home Market—these were some of the motives which led to the establishment and Incorporation of the Society* from which this publication has emanated.

* This Society was Incorporated by an Act of the General Assembly, 1850, with an annual allowance of £200, on £100 being raised by subscription throughout the Province in favour of the Funds of the Society.