



"THE EARTH BEING MAN'S INHERITANCE, IT BEHOVETH HIM TO CULTIVATE IT PROPERLY."

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THE FARMER'S MANUAL,

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THE FARMER'S MANUAL.

WE have frequently been met by the remark that "this is not a farming country," and the prevalence of an impression of this kind is one of the greatest obstacles in the way of the Agricultural improvement of the Province.

Such is the effect of prejudice on the mind, that it almost always tends to produce the very state of things that fosters and confirms it. Great expectations are the strongest stimulants to great exertions; on the contrary, where little is hoped for but little will be done to secure it. The man whose mind is preoccupied with the idea that he will receive only a small return for his labor will bestow his labor with a grudging and reluctant hand that evinces the burden of his task;—while he who hopes for a large return will find his spirits buoyed and sustained by the anticipation, and will pursue his continuous toil with cheerful and unwearied devotion. "The hope of reward always sweetens labor."

The present condition of Agriculture amongst us is a striking exemplification of these remarks. Experiments have been made which have fully proved that neither our soil nor our climate are less propitious to the labors of the husbandman than those of the most favored lands. The secret of our failure lies in the prejudice which by distrusting the

capabilities of our country has neglected its proper cultivation, and has realized it ungenerous prepossessions by refusing to employ the only means by which a more abundant reward might be secured.

In looking to those countries, where farming has become a staple and profitable employment, what do we discover as the cause of their superiority to us. The difference will be found to consist far less in their natural advantages than in the attentive management and skilful industry of their inhabitants.—Holland and Belgium and Scotland are striking instances of the triumphs of perseverance and skill over far greater natural disadvantages, both of soil and climate than our husbandmen have to encounter.

We want, then, to have a new zeal awakened among us, which, while it appreciates the benefits we enjoy, shall infuse more life and spirit into our agricultural operations. If we cannot produce the enervating luxuries of the south, we can furnish the more substantial aliments of life in rich abundance. Potatoes—by no means an insignificant article—we can raise in quantity and quality equal if not superior to any part of the world. Turnips, Beets, Carrots, and almost all kinds of esculent roots grow to the greatest possible perfection. Oats and Barley are always sure and productive crops; Wheat where its nature has been understood, and the proper method of culture adopted, seldom if ever fails to fulfil the highest expectations of the sower; and there is little doubt if its cultivation was generally attended to, the necessity for importing a single barrel of foreign flour into the Province might be avoided. What then can justify the oft repeated slander that this is no farming country? Nothing but the prejudice before alluded to—the cherishing of which is no less ungrateful to Providence than unjust and injurious to ourselves.

In justice to our farmers, however, we must admit that the fault does not all rest with them—our merchants are fully entitled to a considerable portion of it. They give no encouragement to the