

pecuniary rewards as premiums, and be content with honorary rewards only, the Societies' Medals.

This was at one time a fundamental principle of the Montreal District Agricultural Society, and it is to be regretted that it is not so still, as that Society should show an example of disinterestedness to all others. The simple question is, whether the money voted from the public revenue, by the Legislature, for the encouragement of agriculture should be appropriated to the instruction and encouragement of the ignorant and unskilful farmer, or go directly into the pockets of our best and most skilful farmers, because they farm according to the rules they have been taught, and which they know by experience to be the most profitable for them to practice. If the latter plan be adopted, the law may as well say at once that a certain sum of money shall be appropriated from the public revenue to be given to our richest and most successful farmers annually, for doing what they have been taught to do from their childhood—what they have found most profitable, and which they would not change for any more defective system, were they to get a large premium for doing so. This would be acting candidly, and saying at once that the money was not given to instruct or encourage the unskilful farmer, but to reward those farmers who happen to understand their business and practice it successfully.

We object not to agricultural societies, but we conceive the public funds voted them for the improvement of agriculture, should be so applied as to produce the required improvement; and this can be best done by distributing a portion in every parish for well managed farms, good draining, good crops, good pastures, good and suitable stock, good dairies, and the produce from them. If this were done in each parish, we should soon see a general emulation amongst Canadian farmers, to improve and excel, which we never will see by the present mode of managing agricultural societies' funds. Those who may differ in opinion with us upon this subject, may show that the present mode of acting with agricultural societies, generally, is the most judicious that could be adopted, and that the funds granted them by the Legislature are appropriated in the best manner to produce the improvement of agriculture where it is most required to be improved. If this can be clearly established, we shall acknowledge we have been in error, and rejoice in the prospect of the improvement of agri-

culture amongst the Canadian farmers, where, it is admitted by all persons who know the country, that improvement is much required, and would vastly augment the amount and value of the productions of the land we live in.

There is a large portion of the land of Eastern Canada a strong clay, and as well adapted for the production of wheat as any soil we have ever seen. The very defective system of cultivation under which it has been so long managed has, however, rendered it unfit to produce good wheat, until the system is altogether changed. We have for many years recommended summer fallows, as the most easy and certain means of improving these lands, and there is no doubt that it is a necessary process to bring this strong soil into a proper tilth. The land in the hands of Canadian farmers is generally ploughed in the same direction, so that the sod or furrow slice is seldom cut across or broken. It is harrowed, also, in the same direction, and in a very imperfect manner. No wonder, therefore, that these lands should not now be in a state to produce good crops, and those crops be full of weeds. The strong clay lands require to be well drained, broken up thoroughly in every direction, and perfectly cleaned of all weeds, and this can only be done by a summer fallow well executed. The necessary improvement cannot be effected here, as it is occasionally in England, by a winter and spring fallow, and then a green crop of turnips, or some other roots; and even in England summer fallow has to be resorted to in order to clean and pulverise the soil. Here we cannot cultivate to profit large quantities of turnips, and we must resort to summer fallow to effect the improvement required, or it cannot be done otherwise. There is a possibility, by summer fallow, to improve every Canadian farm at once, if the owner can forego one year's crop, or wait for a triple crop the second year, which he will be sure to have in value. Any old country farmer purchasing a farm here, however worn out, foul, and exhausted it may be, can have it restored by this means, sooner than by any other. It is difficult to find manure for a worn out farm, but if at once improved by summer fallow it will produce crops that will manure itself, and keep it subsequently in good order.

We have already, in former numbers, suggested how assistance of manure might be procured,