

rabbi, turnip-rooted cabbage, purple top turnip, beet-root, carrot, parsnip, onion, and lettuces. These seeds to be given to the parishes entitled to them, on application by the clergyman to the seedsman of the Society, and we shall give the names of the several parishes in the March number of the Journal. If the parishes obtaining these seeds were to offer a few small premiums to those poor persons who might receive them, for the best produce raised from the seed, we think it would have a very beneficial effect, and encourage industry amongst the poorest classes, and where it is most required. If the successful competitors' names should be reported to us, we shall give them in the Journal. With such a favourable climate and soil as we have for gardening, a family might, by industry, raise a quantity of vegetables in even a small garden, that would greatly assist them, and the necessary work need not interfere much with their occupations. Manure might also be found very readily, by making a compost of all the wastes of the house and family, ashes, &c., mixed up with road scrapings and other waste earth. Liquid manure applied during the summer would also have an excellent effect, and could be easily collected. We strongly recommend this matter to consideration. The cause of offering the distribution of these seeds gratuitously to parishes, where there are twenty-five subscribers to the Society or their Journal, is, that in such parishes there is an evident interest felt in the object which the Society are so anxious to promote, namely, the improvement of agriculture in Lower Canada.

We are obliged to Mr. William Boa for his communication over his own signature respecting his system of farming. We know Mr. Boa to be an excellent practical farmer, and have seen his farm constantly from his first purchase of it. We shall be glad to hear from him whenever he is disposed to write upon subjects connected with agriculture. He has, we conceive, much to his credit, come boldly forward

to assist us to make this Journal useful. There are many other farmers might follow this good example, if they were so disposed, but they do not appear inclined to inform others of the good systems they practice, or the results of any particular cultivation or management they may have adopted in their practice. Others may be able to account for this, but we cannot.

*To the Editor of the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.*

VIRTUE ROADHEAD, January 22nd, 1850.

SIR,—I have been a practical farmer in Lower Canada for more than a quarter of a century; I am sorry to observe that although this is certainly an age of improvement, the Agriculture of this Province, during the last thirty years, has not advanced, but rather gone backwards; at least in that part of the country I am acquainted with, and in my own locality, which, as regards situation and soil, is not surpassed by any in the province, except the immediate precincts of a city, where manure can be had. Thirty years ago the pecuniary circumstances of the farmers were better, though farms produced more grain and kept more cattle than they have at present, except those farms that have come into the hands of British farmers, and perhaps some of their immediate neighbours. The French Canadian farmers at one time almost universally followed the same routine; this was alternate grain and pasture. The ravages of the wheat fly and the introduction of distilleries amongst us, had the effect of making them give up their old plan, and few of them have as yet found out or adopted any better plan, but have gone from bad to worse; the want of wheat for several years, and the high prices given by the distillers for other grain, induced them to put away most of their horned cattle, and plough with horses, that they might put more of their land under crops every year, thinking that by encouraging the manufacture of intoxicating drinks, they were filling their pockets by selling everything from the farm that it produced. Now, after many years trial, the balance side of the sheet turns out entirely in favour of the distillers. It was of no consequence to them, what price they paid for grain, as long as the country took the whiskey at the distiller's own price, whereas the farmer, in