

MAY.

The spring-time is the season when the advantages of thorough draining are especially manifest. At other seasons where the drainage is perfect, the Farmer is able to work upon the land a few hours after the heaviest rain ceases. Besides every kind of crop suitable may be cultivated at the proper time and in the best manner. You are assured of from double to four times the produce. We would beg to call the attention of our Readers to our article in this Number, page 200, and we shall continue from time to time to illustrate the advantages of this primary improvement—for we are convinced no enforcement of ours can be too strong—speaking as we do from a very large experience—for, wherever practicable, it should be the preliminary to all attempts at improved culture. We are convinced that thorough drainage and tillage—timely sowing, a judicious selection of seed, and its careful preparation before being committed to the soil—thus fostering its growth in the earlier stages, when it may be easily injured by unfriendly influences—will go far to ensure an unfailling and abundant return—unless in exceptional cases and seasons. The effects of insufficient drainage are preceptible at all seasons from the opening of spring to the conclusion of Fall-ploughing—in the sowing, ripening, and harvesting of crops, and our remarks especially apply to a very great proportion of the lands in Lower Canada.

During the cold weather of May, when no adequate provision is made, the stock suffer greatly. During the summer we find, in too many cases, the cattle running over the unseeded fallows—and they are fortunate if they have besides the privilege of a woodland tract. In winter they must live on dry and sapless fodder, in many cases only fit for the manure heaps, unless accompanied by roots, or artificial preparation, or feeding as condiment. While on this subject, we may strongly recommend to our Readers to seed a small portion of their ground with forage plants, for cutting and soiling when the pastures fail during the droughts of summer. By referring back to the past numbers of the Journal, they will find directions on this head. At present we would beg leave to recommend a trial of the *Alsyke Clover*—the seed to be had from the seedsman of the Board, Mr. Sheppherd, Notre Dame Street Montreal, which he has procured for the purpose of distribution amongst enterprising Agriculturists, with the view of encouraging a trial of seed growing of this valuable plant, besides his anxiety for their testing for themselves the value of its soiling properties. He would willingly repurchase the seed of their own growing—and he thinks that it might become—if the trial should prove successful—a valuable article of export. The *Alsyke Clover* possesses the combined properties of the Red and White Clovers—is a hybrid between them, a native of the south of Europe—was introduced by our friend, Mr. Lawson of Edinburgh, Scotland, Seedsman of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland. The great diffi-