

because he has never been led into deep thought by extensive reading. As we read extensively, our ideas expand, and things are brought before our mind's eye we never before dreamed of. Our desire to know more becomes thus enlarged, and hence it is, that a reading man becomes more anxious to read every day of his life, not the reader of light works of fiction, (though there are some of these works which may be read occasionally) but readers of works of merit, written for the instruction and benefit of the human family. The ideas of the man who does not read are confined naturally to himself, and matters and things within the compass of his vision; they do not, and cannot extend any further. Extensive reading is actually required by Legislators and those who would be benefactors of mankind, or we shall have neither in any degree of perfection and usefulness. No doubt, in a Legislative body, some members of sound judgment, though not extensively read, might be very useful, but they never can take a *useful* leading part; they will not know how, however well disposed. These are simple truths that if not well understood by all who may read them, will be perfectly clear to some who may. The whole object of our Journal is to advance, if possible, the general prosperity and happiness of this fine country of our adoption. We trust there never will be found in its columns *one line* that would be calculated to produce a contrary effect. We may deliver our opinions with too great a degree of freedom, but if we were to conceal these opinions we would not perform our duty to those from whom we expect support, and whom we are anxious to benefit. Our opinions are not party ones. We give them only from a desire to excite in the whole of the Canadian community an interest in the improvement and prosperous condition of Canadian Agriculture, as the surest, and indeed, the only means of establishing, upon a firm basis, the general prosperity of this community. We propose no plan;—we only say, that whatever is possible, and most likely to produce the improvement required, it is the duty of all who possess the power and influence to adopt at once.

At a late meeting of the Farmer's Club-House, London, Mr. Smith of Cranston, Scotland, delivered a most interesting address on the subject of draining—which we copy. There is the same necessity for sufficient draining in Canada that there is in the British Isles, and it would be productive of the same good effects. We have never read an article on the subject, that is more correct and deserving the attention

of farmers, than Mr. Smith's address. He describes exactly the effects produced by sufficient draining and he want of it. If we were to take the trouble to explain these matters here, we should soon see the good effects of it. We endeavour to collect the newest and best information on these subjects for our subscribers but we find that all we can do in this way is regarded with a jealous eye, if not with indifference. In no other country on earth would these be grounds for making such a complaint.

MR. SMITH said he should have great pleasure in responding to the call that had been made upon him by the chairman, and would endeavour to illustrate the leading points of the subject of drainage to the best of his power. He could not enter into a discussion, on an occasion like the present, of the question in all its branches, but must confine himself to the leading points and such portions of it as were most essential to the subject, and should afterwards be glad to hear any observation and to meet any objection that gentlemen might raise from what he should say. He regretted being absent from their last meeting, which was owing to his being in Scotland at the time, but had written to their friend Mr. Shaw, explaining to him the cause of his absence. Mr. Smith commenced his remarks on drainage by observing that the importance of thorough-draining was a point on which they were all agreed, and upon which conviction was so general that it was unnecessary to dwell upon it. Unless land was rendered thoroughly dry, there was no hope for good cultivation. Now, there were two kinds of draining, which many persons were apt to confuse one with another: one of the kinds was to get rid of springs of water rising from the land itself, and the other for carrying off the water which fell upon its surface. These who were experienced in the matter knew that it was of very much more importance to carry off the water from the surface than catching any accidental springs that might occur below the surface; this latter draining might be of importance in some cases, but there was no portion of land for cultivation that would not be benefitted by the sinking of frequent drains so that the water which fell upon the surface might find its way to the proper channels and be carried off. The talented lecturer here directed attention to a colored diagram in the room, representing a section of soil under the operation of draining; its chief purpose was for explaining that, beneath the portion of soil that had been stirred by the subsoil plough, and which had received no mechanical aid, it was, nevertheless, full of cracks or fissures, open throughout, and admitting of the percolation of water and the admission of the atmospheric air. These fissures were explained to be of varying size, according to the nature of the subsoil, and were produced by the abstraction of the water from the soil through the action of the drains. He further observed on this head that it was a wise provision of nature that in proportion to the greater quantity of clay contained in soils, and which renders them more impervious to water in their original condition; they are by this very circumstance, when drained, more disposed to contract and form large fissures. Drift soil, he observed, which is full of sand and stones, and more open in its original state, contracts less when laid dry; still he had found from experience that the facility of soils for transmitting water when under the influence of thorough-draining was more uniform than might at first view be imagined; so that a distance of from 18 to 20 feet, from drain to drain, would be found to be a good practical distance for all