

certainly of success with a less capital than £10,000. If established upon a Joint Stock principle, it would require at least one thousand shares, at £10 each. As the benefits to be derived from an Institution of this character are, to the minds of many of our very best farmers, more imaginary than real, it would require a very considerable effort, on the part of the friends of such a movement, to get as much stock subscribed as would be required to establish one Educational Institution of this kind; and, therefore, if the attempt should be made at all, it should decidedly be a movement on the part of the Western Canadian farmers, from Sandwich to the extreme Eastern portion of the Upper Province. If the first experiment proved successful, other Companies would spring into being, and in a few years they would become abundant, and would, in process of time, be instrumental in changing the entire physical condition of the country. A thorough knowledge of the quality of different soils, and their adaptation to the numerous crops grown, would be in the possession of hundreds of our brightest farmers' youths; and at those Institutions the cultivation of new and untried plants would become a matter of careful experiment, from year to year, by which means the most enlightened system of the management of those, as well as all the other crops grown from the soil, would become familiar to hundreds of those who, in a few years, will hold the destinies of this fine country in their hands. We strenuously urge upon the friends of Agricultural Improvement the adoption of such measures as they, in their judgment, may deem expedient, for the successful establishment of Educational Institutions, such as would be calculated to develop the productive resources of the country.

Cultivation of the Artichoke.

The following Communication, from a respectable farmer, in the Western District, affords another proof of the value of the Artichoke, as a substitute for the Potatoe. It may be grown quite as easily, and upon as great a variety of soil, and will give as large

an acreable return as the potatoe. But it cannot be considered as valuable a plant as the potatoe, first, because it is neither as nutritious nor as palatable as the potatoe, and, besides, it is very difficult to extirpate from the land. It is, however, a valuable vegetable, and it is one, too, that will become very generally cultivated, if the potatoe should go out of cultivation for a few years, or until disease in that plant is removed. A number of respectable farmers in the Home District have grown the Artichoke for the three past years, and they have then served on the table as a culinary vegetable, instead of the potatoe, and who have, in our presence, frequently pronounced them to be quite equal to the potatoe. Be that as it may, we are quite convinced that they will prove a profitable crop, under good cultivation; and we are rejoiced to hear so good an account of this long neglected vegetable, from our Correspondent:—

Harwich, Western District,
25th November, 1847.

Sir,—Being fully impressed with the value of many of the practical observations in your paper, and having, among other things, tried the cultivation of the Artichoke, from your recommendation, I will give you the result of my experiment. In the middle of May last, I cut one peck and a half into rather smaller sets than potatoes are cut into, and planted them in hills, four feet apart (which was too far apart), and three sets in a hill. I went through them only once with the hoe, and cut the weeds out. It was new land—first crop. The soil is clay loam, covered with vegetable soil. The return was far beyond what I expected. On the 1st November I dug up sixty bushels, and I am perfectly satisfied there are as many in the ground as will do for seed another year. The tops grew to the height of from eight to ten feet; and I fed my working cattle for three weeks on the green tops alone: they eat them greedily, and in preference to corn-stalks, and did well upon them. I tried the cattle with the tops early on, before they flowered, but they would not eat them until after the first frost. I think they are a more profitable crop than turnips or potatoes, and answer for feeding stock in the same way. Where the vegetable mould was deep, the tops were longer, and the roots less; where the roots got to the clay, they were much better, and the tops shorter.

Yours, &c.,

A SUB CULTOR.