To the Farmers of Canada.

AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT, by the EDUCATION of those that are engaged in it as in a profession.

No. VII.

What should we understand to be a useful education, suited to the situation and circumstances of the agricultural class in Canada? I have seen in PLAYFAIR'S "Causes of the Decline and Fall of Nations," what I think is a very good reply to this question, it is the following:—"Education, on the general principle, consists in giving what makes a man useful, respectable, and happy, in the line for which he is destined." And this, I believe, should be the object of all education, whether public or private. It is a question of some difficulty, and on which a considerable difference of opinion exists, as to the best mode of administering education, and to what extent it should be carried at public schools, in order to make it useful. On a matter of so much importance, I would, with great deference, simply submit my views, supported by the best authorities I can bring to my aid. It will be for those better qualified to consider of what I may advance. If I am only able to excite others to take up the subject seriously, and make a beginning in the good work, I shall be perfectly contented that they should obtain all the honor of providing for the instruction of the rising gene at o.

In discussing this subject, I shall endeavour first to ascertain the number of persons who require to be receiving education,—the number of schools necessary for their accommodation,—how many school-masters and mistresses would be wanted,—the qualifications they should possess to fit them for their duties,—the probable expense of a general education,—and from what funds this expense might be paid, and permanently provided for.

First. What are the probable number of the agricultural class who should now be receiving education in Lower Canada?

By the statistical returns of 1831, the number of persons over five and under fourteen years of age was 93,000 of all classes. At the present, I suppose we may conclude that they amount to at least 100,000, and that the whole population is fully 600,000 souls, of whom 500,000 may belong to the agricultural class. In England they compute that near one-third of the population are over two and under fifteen years of age. If the same rule would apply here, we would have 166,000 of that age who belong to the agricultural class; and if so, there should be near 100,000 whose education should be provided for. Indeed I would suppose that this number of the rural population would be the least that should be receiving instruction at schools constantly, including both sexes—I would not include in this number children under seven years of age. I think that in the country parts children require to be under the mother's care until that age, and that they will be better and safer there than elsewhere. Infant schools may be very good in cities and towns for those who approve of them, and who may wish to have their children out of their way. But I think if children be kept regularly to school from seven to fourteen years of age, they will be able to obtain a respectable education, if it is possible to teach them, and the schoolmasters and mistresses competent to their duties. Children may be receiving some instruction at home before they are sent to schools. There are few families, I would hope, in which there is not to be found some person who is capable of teaching young children what they ought to learn. I know, from experience, that there are not many children of tender age that will receive great benefit from attempting to educate them at schools before they are six or seven years old; and the only way to try the experiment fairly, would be to see what would result from commencing the education of some children from early infancy, and of others from six or seven years of age, and give each equal opportunities until fourteen. I will take upon me to say that if the children are endowed with equal natural faculties, those that commenced their education at six or seven will have attained as much useful instruction as those who commenced at a more early age. I should be very sorry to send my children to a public school, while they would require all the tender care of their mother.

According to WISTEL, all the parts of the human brain have not attained their full size till the age of seven years; and he found that those parts of the human brain, which are formed subsequently to birth, are entirely wanting in all other animals which he had examined. He also found that during the evolution of the parts peculiar to the human brain, the peculiar faculties of the human intellect are proportionably developed; and, finally, that, till those parts are developed, those faculties are not clearly perceptible. But at the age of seven years the human brain essentially possesses, although not yet matured by exercise and education, all those intellectual faculties which are thenceforward observable; and at that age the brain is perfect in all its parts. And from that age to eighty, the changes in the human brain, with respect to size, either collectively or in its several parts, are very trifling. I do not pretend to be qualified to give any opinion on the truth of the above remarks, though they appear to be perfectly just to me, comparing them with what I have known of the progress of infancy. I have in idea, divided the first twenty-one years of man's life into three periods, of seven years each. The first of which he should be under the care of his mother, the second under that of the tutor or schoolmaster, and the third under practical instruction for the profession which he intends to follow in life. I think this a very *natural* division of a young man's time until at majority.

What number of schools would be necessary for the accommodation of 100,000 scholars, of both sexes? I would say that 1000 schools, that would give separate accommodation to males and females, would be sufficient. This would give 100 scholars of both sexes for each. A good master or mistress will be competent to instruct 50 scholars, provided a proper system is adopted, the scholars formed into classes, and the best instructed appointed monitors in each class. I do not know the number of school-houses that are available at present, or whether they are properly constructed, or conveniently situated. It is most essential that they are properly constructed, for accommodating the males and females in separate apartments; and that the school-houses are situated in the most convenient situations. It is impossible for me to form any accurate estimate of the amount of funds that would be required to meet the expenses of erecting school-houses, as I cannot say how many more will be wanted, and perhaps it would be considered great presumption in me were I to offer any opinion as to where these funds should come from. I will, however, say, that school-house should be erected that would afford ample accommodation, from whatever sources the cost of building them may come. There is no possible improvement that can be introduced that will go further to promote the prosperity of this Province, than the erection of handsome school-houses—the providing of properly qualified male and female teachers for them—and that they shall be constantly attended by the youth of both sexes to receive instruction. It will be for the government and the legislature to determine how this plan should be put into operation. Of the necessity and utility of the measure, there can be no doubt. It will be necessary, of course, that a master and mistress be provided for each school, and that the education of the boys and girls be carried on in separate apartments.

It is of the greatest importance to attend to female education; and in the appointment of female teachers, the strictest attention should be given to have people of irreproachable conduct in every respect, and none other. We should recollect that the girls who may now attend the schools, will be mothers of a future generation—that they will be capable of giving some instruction to their children—and that the education of the mother will have an influence on the education of her children, as her conduct in life must have on that of her husband.

PLAYFAIR has made some excellent observations on this subject, which I think may be interesting. "Writers on political economy have, in general, considered female education as making no part of the system; but surely, if the wealth and happiness of mankind in the end in view, there can scarcely be a greater object, for none is more nearly connected with it. Let it be granted that, in the first instance, women are not educated with any view to carry on those labours, on which wealth is considered as depending. Yet, surely, when they become wives and mothers, when the economy of the family, and the education of the younger children depend chiefly on them, they are then of very great importance to society. Their conduct, in that important situation, must be greatly influenced by their education. Female education ought then to be considered as one of the things, on the conducting of which well, the prosperity of a state does in a great measure depend; it ought, therefore, to be attended to in the same manner as the education of the youth of the other sex." * * * "If the women of a nation are badly educated, it must have a great effect on the education of their sons, and on the conduct of their husbands." * * * "The great general error consists in considering the woman in her identical self, without thinking of her influence on others; but we find no state in which the virtue of men has been preserved where the women had none; though there are examples of women preserving their virtue, notwithstanding the torrent of corruption by which that of men has been swept away."

I am perfectly convinced that in any general system of education, it is fully as necessary the females should receive proper instruction as the males. I do not say that they should learn all that it would be proper for males to be instructed in at schools, but they should know all that was calculated to produce pleasure and satisfaction to themselves and those with whom they may be associated. The knowledge that is good for human nature is good for them, and they ought to have it in their power to be effective contributors to the welfare and intelligence of the human family. In intellectual as well as in other affairs, they ought to be fit helps to man, and if they receive a *suitable* education, they will be so. "Women should be so instructed, that in every thing, social, intellectual and religious, they would be fitted to co-operate with man, and to cheer and assist him in his endeavors to promote his own happiness and the happiness of his family, his country, and the world."

It is of great importance in any plan of general education, that schoolmasters, properly qualified, shall be provided, otherwise we must not expect that education will be productive of much usefulness to the individual or to the community. It may be well that schools would be under the superintendance of trustees, locally appointed; but these trustees may not be competent to form a correct judgment of the necessary qualifications of a schoolmaster. In my humble judgment, no teachers should have the charge of the rising generation committed to them until they had been examined before a properly qualified Board of Commissioners, instituted by legislative authority, whose duty it would be to ascertain whether they were sufficiently instructed in every way to take upon them to instruct others usefully. If education is partly, or altogether, supported from public funds, it is not unreasonable that the legislature should also provide, that this education was so administered that it produced the greatest possible benefit to the individual, and to society. It is in consequence of neglect in this respect hitherto, that *useful* education has made so little progress, and money has been expended without producing adequate benefit.

Mr. PLAYFAIR has an excellent article on this subject in his book, from which I have already given extracts. He says:—"The plans of education are everywhere bad, and the manner of executing still worse. Those to whom the education of youth, one of the most important offices in society, is entrusted, undergo no sort of examination to ascertain whether they are fit for the business. They, in general, depend upon their submissive conduct towards the parents and improper indulgence to the children for their success. It was found that the judges of criminal and civil law could not be entrusted with the administration of justice, while they depended on the pleasure of the crown. Can it then be expected that a much more numerous set of men, who are in every respect inferior in rank and education to judges, will maintain that upright and correct conduct that is necessary, when they are infinitely more dependent than the judges ever were at any period?" * * *

"As this is a case where individuals cannot serve themselves, nor provide the means of being properly served, it is one of those in which the government of every country ought to interfere. Not in giving salaries, at the public expense, to men who, perhaps, would do no duty; but, in seeing that the men who undertake the task of education are qualified, and that when they have undertaken it they do their duty, and follow a proper system. There should be proper examinations, from time to time, and registers should be kept of the number of scholars, and the satisfaction they have given to those who examined them." * * * "The business professed to be done, and undertaken, would then be performed. At present, at about three times the expense necessary, children learn about half what they are intended to be taught. Interfering in this manner would be no infringement of private liberty; nothing would be done that could hurt, in any way, the individuals, but what must greatly benefit them. The youth would be taught to know what it is that renders a man happy in himself, and respected and valued by society. * * * Youth, badly educated, make bad men, and bad men neglect the education of their children; they set them a wrong example; such is the case where a government does not interfere."

In Prussia, where the general education is provided for, and where the children are obliged to be kept at school from the age of eight to fourteen years, schoolmasters are regularly educated, and cannot be appointed to any school until they have been strictly examined as to their qualifications, and obtain a certificate of their competency to fill the situation of schoolmaster. And this is not a mere matter of form, they cannot pass the examination unless they are well instructed in every branch of education that is taught in the schools, and which include their moral, civil, and political duties. It is equally desirable that men whom we intrust with the instruction of our youth should be sensible, strictly moral, and well instructed in every respect, or how can we expect any favourable results to ensue? I have seen many boys, who after spending several years at school, were perfectly ignorant of all that was useful to them to know in after life. They had learned some things certainly, but did not understand much about them, more than a parrot would the meaning of words it had learned to articulate. I have known school-masters, who, when they failed in impressing upon their scholars' brains a conception of the lessons they attempted to teach them, adopted the method of whipping the meaning into their backs to save the trouble of proper explanation. There is no means which I am aware of, that will be more effectual in preventing any but properly qualified teachers male and female, from being appointed to schools, than by a general board of education, constituted under authority of an act of the Legislature, whose duty it would be to superintend schools throughout the Province, and to examine every candidate for teaching, and that none should be appointed who was not qualified in every respect, and had received a certificate of their capability from this board. The act would provide for, and point out, more particularly the duties of the members of this board. I am persuaded, however, that without a superintending board to manage education, under the controul of the Legislature, no benefit that will compensate for the expenditure, will be produced to the people. I have seen sufficiently into the system of schools supported by public funds here and elsewhere, to convince me that it is defective in the extreme, both in the appointment of teachers and in the conduct of schools and instruction. It is infinitely better to keep children at home than to send them to schools where they will learn little that is useful, from teachers that will not understand it themselves. The qualifications of teachers will be better explained when I come to speak of what they will have to teach.

The salaries of teachers will require to be sufficient to give encouragement to competent persons. Let no persons that are not competent be appointed, but they will have to be paid liberally. If the Normal Schools were in operation for some years, they might furnish suitable teachers; but wheresoever we are to find them, let them be competent, or let not our youth be committed to their charge. I ought not to attempt to estimate the probable expense of a general system of education least I should be inaccurate. Were such a system to be established as would be likely to produce all the benefit that a good education ought to do, the expense would not be less than from £75,000 to £100,000 annually; and we can scarcely expect that the education of a child could cost less than one pound or four dollars annually. It is a subject for Legislative consideration, whether the education of the rural population should be partly or altogether a national charge. In new countries like this, education will be neglected, unless it receives considerable aid from public funds. Capital is wanted, and the value of labour to the husbandman is great, and perhaps he will in consequence neglect the education of his children. He will be unwilling to loose the assistance of their labour, and pay a high charge to the schoolmaster or mistress. These considerations cannot fail to check the progress of education, if left depending entirely on the agricultural class. I do believe, however, that parents should contribute a proportion of the expense of education, unless in cases of extreme poverty. They would take a greater interest in the instruction of their children, and be more particular in keeping them regularly at school.

In all parts of the country where there are unconceded crown lands, there is means of providing amply the assistance that ought to be afforded for schools, out of those crown lands, by endowment, or assigning a portion of the funds derived from their sale; and I must say, that this would be a proper and a useful application of them. In the seignorial parts of the Province, I believe there are estates made over for the support of education, which ought to be available for the purpose, and whatever would be necessary to make up the deficiency, could be provided for from the crown lands, as in the other case. Until these funds could be made available, a grant from the general revenue might supply their place.

The following remarks from a respectable author on the subject of national education is very much to the purpose:—"The great danger in undertaking a national system of education is, that some peculiar notions will be instilled for political purposes, and that it will be converted into a source of patronage. A government, if it would rightly provide for the education of the community, must forget the peculiarities of creeds, political or religious. It must regard itself, not as the head of a party, but as the parent of the people. So far as it is practicable, a government ought to be to a people what a judicious parent is to a family—not merely the ruler, but the instructor and the guide."

My motives for proposing that education should rather be supported from a *fixed* revenue, than by annual grants from the general revenue, is, to prevent the possibility of any check to education, when once generally established, that might occur in consequence of the grant not being regularly made. There are ample funds, or sources of revenue, that might be permanently secured for the support of education, and that ought not to be subject to any chance or change. The mode of conducting education should properly be subject to legislative controul, but the funds for its support, in the present circumstances of the country, should be fixed and unalienable, and it should not be in the power of government or legislature to check it or impede its onward progress, by withholding these funds, or by any other means.

WILLIAM EVANS.

Cote St. Paul, Jan. 30, 1837.

LAW AND EQUITY.—"Pray my lord," said a gentleman to a late respected and rather whimsical judge, "What is the distinction between law and equity courts?"—"Very little in the end," replied his lordship; they only differ so far as *time* is concerned. At common law you are done for at once, in equity you are not so easily disposed of. The former is a bullet, which is instantaneously and most charitably effective; the latter is an angler's hook, which plays with its victim before it kills it. The one is prussic acid, and the other laudanum."

A "LIGHT" BUSINESS.—A bill exhibited at a shop-window in Drury-lane, near Princes-street, informs us that there is "a large workshop to let, admirably adapted for a printer, an undertaker, or any *other light business*."

SOMETHING LIKE A BULL.—Dean Swift says that "he never knew any man *rise* to eminence who *lay* in bed of a morning."

FIRE-PROOF!!—The *Red River* (not *Salt River*) *Gazette*, calls particular attention to the following mode of killing certain annoying "animals," described by Miss Fanny Kemble, in speaking of the quill-driving fraternity, (alias "bugs,") that the thing deserves to be chronicled in the *Spirit of the Times*:—"Place the animal on a smooth pine board, and hedge him with putty; then read him an account of all the railroad and steamboat accidents which have happened within the last twelve months. As soon as he becomes so frightened as not to be able to stir, draw out the teeth, and he will starve to death."

THE Subscriber received by late arrivals from London, and offers for sale a few THERMOMETERS, three MICROSCOPES, and two Three-Draw TELESCOPES.

JAMES ADAMS,
17, *St. Joseph Street, Recollet Suburbs.*
Nov. 21. 205

LITERARY UNION,
LADY'S BOOK
AND
LADIES AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

THE PROPRIETOR of the LADY'S BOOK grateful for the unceasing patronage which he has received, announces to the Ladies who have so generously sustained their own "*Book*," that he has made new arrangements for their gratification. Convinced that he could not in any way more effectually promote the interests, or realize the wishes of his numerous subscribers, he has secured the valuable aid of

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Under the judicious management of Mrs Hale, the Lady's Book will not only maintain the excellent character it has already acquired, but it is confidently expected that it will be rendered more eminently worthy of the support of those to whose interests and amusements it has been, and will continue to be, especially devoted. The superior talents and fine taste of the editor will give the work a new impulse; while her own contributions, and those received from her personal friends, and other correspondents, of whom a number have already promised, will render it almost entirely original. Amongst others who are expected to furnish matter for the Book may be mentioned,

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Mrs. L. H. Sigourney,	Robert T. Conrad,
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Mrs. Caroline Lee Hentz,	H. E. Hale,
Mrs. E. F. Ellett,	E. Burke Fisher,
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Miss H. F. Gould	Wm. E. Burton,
Miss C. E. Gooch,	Willis Gaylord Clark,
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The Proprietor of the Lady's Book is determined to use every means to maintain the superiority which his publication has obtained. For years he has gone steadily on in the course of improvement, and he flatters himself that his facilities are such as to give his work eminent advantages over his competitors. His very ample subscription list enables him to be liberal in his expenditures upon it, and whatever can be accomplished by enterprize and cost he is resolved to effect. Besides the persons above-mentioned as contributors, he has expectations of receiving original articles from several distinguished female writers in Europe; and as an inducement to writers of our own country, he is willing to pay for every article adopted by him as suitable to his publication, as high a rate of remuneration as will be given by the proprietors of any other periodical in the United States.

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JAMES DAVIES, *Proprietor.*
London, Sept. 1, 1836. 171

Property for Sale.

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JOHN JACKSON,
Rector of William Henry.
William Henry, April 19. 26

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WILLIAM LEISHMAN.
Nov. 8. 194

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P. B. MERRITT.
Montreal, June 14, 1836. 68

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WANTS A SITUATION as GARDENER, a middle aged man, who has been accustomed to the management of Gentlemen's Gardens in the Old Country, and understands the care of Shrubberies and Forcing. The advertiser has also had considerable experience in laying out Flower Gardens, and is a tolerable Florist, and has no objections to accept a situation where the duties of Gardener and Groom and Coachman are united. The advertiser can furnish the best certificates of character from gentlemen he has served in this country and at home. A line addressed to F. D., at the Courier Office, will meet with immediate attention.
February 1, 1837. 265

WANTED, TWO CHAIR MAKERS at the MONTREAL CHAIR MANUFACTORY
LEVI HODGKINSON
July 20. 99

WANTED, *from the 1st of May next*, PREMISES suitable for a PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT, upon an extensive scale. The situation must be in a central part of the business end of the city. Apply to Mr. Sayers, at the *Morning Courier* Office.
Jan. 21, 1837. 255

WANTED.—A TANNER and CURRIER, who is sufficiently qualified in all its branches to act as Foreman. None need apply but such as have unquestionable testimonials as to character and qualifications. Inquire at the office of the *Morning Courier*.
Oct. 3. 163

INFORMATION WANTED of JOHN HENDERSON, Clock and Watch Maker, a native of Scotland. He left Montreal in April 1834, and was last heard of, about two years since, when he was residing in the City of Toronto, U. C. Any information respecting him would be thankfully received by his Son—Address ANDREW HENDERSON, *Morning Courier* Office, Montreal.

Newspapers in Upper Canada, will confer a favour, by giving the above a few insertions.
Montreal, January 23, 1837. 257

WANTED, by a steady, active, middle aged man, recently from England, a SITUATION in a Store, Warehouse, or on a Wharf—in any capacity where he can be actively engaged, and useful to his employer. No objection to any part of the Canadas. Satisfactory references and testimonials as to integrity and industry will be given. Apply at this office.
Nov. 1. 188-o

NOTICE.—WANTED, immediately, a SADDLER & HARNESS MAKER.—Enquire at the Office of the *Morning Courier*.
December 27. 235

HYDROMETER.

DISTILLERS, Brewers, and others are informed that HYDROMETERS (SIKES'S) and SACCHAROMETERS are made and repaired by JAMES ADAMS, 17, *St. Joseph Street, Recollet Suburbs*, near J. & J. DOUGALL.

The Hydrometer has been submitted to the Montreal Committee of Trade, and their letter to the maker may be seen as above.

ALSO, MAKES OR A

Letter COPYING MACHINE, which performs its work more effectually and with as little trouble as those at eight or ten times its price.—July 20. 99-mf

FOR SALE, at the HOUSE OF REFUGE, *St. Charles Barromee Street, St. Lawrence Suburbs*, a large quantity of BAGS of various sizes and qualities.

All kinds of PLAIN SEWING and KNITTING done, on most reasonable terms.
Dec. 5, 1836. 217

MAMMOTH SHEET.

THE very liberal patronage bestowed on the *Saturday News*, since its commencement in July last, and a desire to meet that patronage by corresponding exertion, have induced us this week to publish a *Double Number*—being the largest sheet ever printed in Philadelphia for any purpose, and the largest literary paper ever printed in the United States. To those of our friends who are practical printers, it need not be mentioned that this undertaking has involved not one mechanical difficulty. The largest—or one of the largest presses in Philadelphia is used for our ordinary impression—but this would accommodate only a single page of the mammoth sheet, and we were obliged, therefore, to work four forms at different periods. The care and in preparing the paper—in removing and folding the sheets, &c. can only be estimated by those who have seen the experiment made; and added to the necessarily increased amount of composition, presswork, &c., these supplementary expenses have made an aggregate sum which would have deterred many from engaging in the enterprise. A gain of two thousand new subscribers will not repay the actual cost of this single number.

We flatter ourselves that, besides its extraordinary size, this number presents attractions that entitle it to some attention. It contains the whole of *Friendship's Offering* for 1837, the London copy of which costs $4, and has 384 closely printed pages of letter press. Distinguished as the present age, and particularly our own country, has been for cheap reprints, we believe this surpasses any former instance. For *four cents* subscribers to the *Saturday News* receive, in addition to their ordinary supply of Miscellaneous matter, an English annual, the largest yet received for the coming season; and they receive it, moreover, in a form that, from its novelty, gives it additional value.

Of the general character of the *Saturday News* we need not speak. That has now become so well known as to require no comment. We may take occasion to say, however, that in enterprize and resources we yield to no other publisher in this city or elsewhere, and we are determined that our paper shall not be surpassed. We have entered the field prepared for zealous competition, and we stand ready in every way to realize our promise, that no similar publication shall excel that which we issue. Our articles, both original and selected, we are not ashamed to test by any comparison which can be adopted; and there is no periodical in the United States, monthly or weekly, which might not be proud of many of our contributors.

The issuing of this number may be regarded as an evidence of our intention and ability to merit success. Nor will it be the only effort. From time to time, as opportunity offers, we propose to adopt extraordinary means for the interest and gratification of our subscribers.

The Saturday News and *Literary Gazette* is published every Saturday, for the small sum of two dollars per annum, payable in advance. Subscriptions will be received at the *Morning Courier* Office, where a specimen may be seen.

L. A. GODEY & Co.
Philadelphia, Dec. 3, 1836.

Public Record Office Reference C.O. 47/42
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