

tion of seed oats, and are collecting the genuine varieties of spring wheat—with a view to the general distribution of those articles in the country. They have also made provision for importing a few of the best Agricultural publications published in America, as being best suited to our general wants.

### PROGRESS OF IMPROVEMENT.

We adopt the following remarks of an Agricultural cotemporary; they will suit the latitude of Canada:—

What a mighty field is embraced in these two words! Who is so blind as not to feel their force—who that knows aught of the past or partakes willingly of the present state of society, but knows that in them lies the secret of all our superiority and advantages! Is it not, brother farmers, most true that “knowledge is power,” and in farming as in every other avocation? Look about and see who are our best farmers—if they are not the most intelligent ones—those who “take the papers,” who think and read the most—in short, those who know the most? To be sure knowledge is but a means, a sort of improved implement, which, unless applied, is inert and worthless. A dull tool with a vigorous arm will accomplish more than the keenest idle one. But give the proper weapon to the most active and expert and then see the effect! In this view of the case, it pains us exceedingly to see the indifference manifested by many of our farmers on this subject—refusing, as they do, the simplest, truest means of improvement when offered them in the shape of an Agricultural Periodical at only fifty cents or one dollar a year. And yet they can support every thing else, and most liberally too—Political newspapers, Fashionable Magazines, Publishers of trashy Novels, to say nothing of a host of bad habits, as tipping, the use of tobacco, tea and coffee, &c.; while often, too often, their stoutest advocates and truest friends are shamefully neglected! Now friends we protest against such a course. We want you to think more of your chosen avocation, and its reliance upon and use of the Press; so that it shall not thus be made the last and least object of your attention. Tell me if you can, why the Press should not and will not advance agriculture as well as Politics; and why, therefore, you, as farmers, should not take Agricultural rather than Political Periodicals, if you can have but the one class? The secret is too obvious. Such persons underrate the importance of Agriculture, and do not think it worth while to try and improve it: they don’t know the power and worth of the Agricultural Press, or they

are guilty of a glaring, suicidal inconsistency in thus neglecting it.

In regard to other matters pertaining to your Agricultural practice—how is it? You are not going to be satisfied with having and doing things this year just as you did last, are you? Let’s see. Wasn’t that a miserable breed of hogs you fattened last year, that took twice the grain that neighbour B’s did, and then didn’t weigh as much? And those sheep of yours—coarse-wooled, are they not, so much so that you got only two-thirds as much as neighbour C. did for his? Those colts you raised and sold—were they not rather scrubby—and your milch cows, do they go dry half the year? And that natural fruit your trees bore, better than nothing to be sure, but far from being the fruit which you might have had just as well perhaps, and may now soon, if you only bestir yourself a little. Thus with improved kinds of tools, grains, vegetables, and the whole round of domestic and farm appendages. *Make a beginning*—get yourselves in the way of improvement—get something to work from, to add to—to stimulate you! If you can’t get more than a single pig of neighbour B’s improved breed, or one fine woolled lamb of neighbour C., or a single choice calf, or colt, or tree, to start with, *get that one*, and with care your whole stock may be improved by it in a few years.

Not that we should run mad after every new thing, or wish to try every new notion, by any means; but there is a vast fund of real, actual, solid improvement, peculiar to our age and profession, to which every farmer should have recourse, and by which he may in every sense of the word be a gainer.

### A BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

How often has it been said “Canada is a purely Agricultural Country,” and yet how little has been done by the Legislature to forward its best interests! When we consider the importance of the profession of the hardy and sun-browned tiller of the soil we are surprised that he has never received that attention at the hands of Parliament which he had a right to look for.—And yet he has had the making of these Parliaments, has duly voted at the general election for his Representatives, and paid more than his share of the taxes, forming the oil which keeps the great palaverer Legislative machinery in motion. If the farmer has not been noticed by the “assembled wisdom,” as he ought to have been, he has himself nearly wholly to blame, in choosing some whipper-snapping lawyer with no feelings akin to his, instead of a business-like frieze-coated weather-beaten, plodding, industrious, and frugal