

will be most profitable. This will depend upon the proper management of them, and the price that can be got for them in the market. I will only state what I know to be facts and let the farmers think for themselves. I have already stated that the society offered prizes for the best managed fields of flax: There were eight prizes awarded. The first prize field had half a minot of imported seed sown, and yielded six minots of seed; a portion of this field was pulled before it was ripe, and that of course yielded no seed. I have not the exact measurement of the land. The second prize had half a minot of imported seed sown; the exact measurement of the land was 33 perches, or one third of an arpent less one third of a perch. This field produced six minots of seed: five and a half was first rate quality and sold at 10 shillings per minot, the other half minot may be worth half that price. It would occupy too much of your space to go into further detail, suffice it to say that I saw all the fields that took prizes when the crop was on the ground; and from first to last I don't think there would be two minots difference of produce seed per arpent. As to the yield of fibre, I can say nothing positively, further than I have stated above. I think the yield may be between three and four hundred pounds per arpent. We may be able to give you something more positive by and by. For my own part I am convinced that the culture of both hemp and flax will prove beneficial to the Canadian farmer. There can be no doubt that the soil and climate is well adapted to the growth of either. There is no good reason why we should depend upon Abram Lincoln's rebels for material to make our bags and sheets, and many other articles of clothing when we can produce a much better article of our own. One bag made from Canadian flax or hemp will stand as much wear as two or three made of cotton. O but cotton used, to be so cheap, may be the reply; yes it has been cheap, assuredly cheap cheapened, by the unpaid labour of men and women stolen from Africa or bred in the border States and sold down South, to raise it; just as our good Queen Victoria's subjects breed and sell their sheep and kine. I trust cotton is now blessedly dear, should it open the eyes of mankind to the great danger of depending upon any single article of either food or clothing no matter how cheaply or easily it may be produced. I have lived to see three famines from this very cause,—two for food and one for clothing. When the wheat fly first devastated Lower Canada the farmers were depending almost entirely on the wheat crop. I don't think that many of us died from starvation; but we had to pay famine prices to our American and Upper Canadian neighbours for Indian Corn to keep our lives in. The Potatoe failure in Ireland was another case in which it is supposed one million of people died of starvation from the circumstance that they depended almost entirely on potatoes as food. Let us then take warning from what we have seen and heard, and endeavour to prevent the recurrence of such calamities, by cultivating a fair proportion of all the different articles of food and clothing with which a beneficent Providence has supplied us, and for which our soil and

climate is found to be adapted. Now, sir, should you condescend to give this paper a place in the columns of your journal, and the samples I send you a place in the Provincial Agricultural Depot, although of very little value in themselves, it may induce others who are much better informed than I am on the subject of which it treats, to compare notes through the columns of the Agriculturist. This would tend to the diffusion of knowledge, and render the Agriculturist more interesting to your readers.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM BOA.

St. Laurent, County of Jacques Cartier.

SOME SORGHUM ITEMS.

It is difficult to give a Down-Easter who has never visited the West an adequate idea of the revolution the Sorghum product is working and is likely to work in the husbandry of Western farmers. And this leads me to say here, that I never before saw such an opening for the profitable employment of unemployed capital as is apparent now. Land may be purchased cheap, the tools are at hand with which to work it economically, and without the aid of much manual labor; and the crops that may be grown have no uncertain value and yield a large profit. Witness what I shall write below.

The crop of 1862.

It is large in the aggregate, but it is doubted if the yield of sirup is so large per acre as that of some former seasons. It has been an unfavorable season for the production of the cane in most localities. The spring was late and the seed was not planted early; then it became wet and cold, and the plant did not begin to grow much until after the 1st or 17th of July; and then it grew too rapidly. The weeds meantime advanced faster than the plant,—the ground being so wet this could not be prevented. In some instances it was so wet that no team could travel in it. Hundreds of acres, therefore, were left to themselves, and the weeds overtopped the Sorghum. This, of course, diminished the crop, and prevented many fields being harvested at all.

Good crops follow good culture.

This is an invariable rule, no matter what the character of the product. But it has been strikingly established by the Sorghum crops of the present year. Good culture has doubled and in some instances tripled the product. One gentleman told me he knew of an instance where two fields, adjoining each other, were planted in Sorghum at the same time. The seed germinated equally well in each case. One field received thorough culture; the other was neglected, comparatively. The result was, 300 gallons of sirup to the acre from the cultivated field, and only 80 gallons per acre from the neglected one—a difference of \$55 per acre in favor of the cultivated field, reckoning the sirup at the lowest price paid for the crude article at the farm of the producer.

This is not an exceptionable case by any means. I have listened to just such scathing criticisms upon the kind of husbandry pursued by many farmers, at almost every manufactory I have visited in the West this fall. Good culture pays. Poor culture, or no culture, does not pay.