

## To the Farmers of Canada.

Agricultural Improvement, by the Encouragement of which we are engaged in it as a profession.

No. V.

I stated in the last letter the difficulty that existed to obtain full and correct statistical information of the state of the rural population of any country separately from the other classes, as far as their education, the number of poor and destitute, and the amount of crime. While is the only class of which I have any information, in respect to these questions, and no its population in ten out of her twelve counties were almost exclusively employed in agriculture, I thought it might with propriety introduce the information I have given; and I will now add a few words to other. A general agricultural system of course is well known in every country, with the exception perhaps of France, and none of the German States, but of these I have not any statistical returns. In consequence of these circumstances, I am unable to submit much practical proof of the beneficial effects of a rural population, by a general and comprehensive view of the state of the government. It will follow of course that those who are not so educated must be subjected to many disadvantages in their progress through life, — that they are in the end cut off from attaining any high position or eminence in society, however great their natural facilities might be, — that, unacquainted in their industry and resources, and in their business or employment. This is a truth that can be clearly proved by many examples in common life. Hence the want of general education may be considered, not only as injurious to individuals, but the community, which this person exhibited at Tuam, caused a popular outbreak in that town, which was with difficulty suppressed by the Magistrate. Under these circumstances, the Archdeacon, finding the reverend and most learned Mr. Nolan had taken up his residence in the parish of Limerick and St. John, without influence or authority, and contrary to the laws and canons of the Church of Ireland, did presents to "inhibit preposterously the mid-Nolan from holding forth, and, perhaps, from causing scenes of violence, and bloodshed in the town capital." These are examples of the conduct of the Archdeacon. He is accused in the Orange prints of Dublin, and the congressional Conservative papers of England, of favoring the Catholics; of mass insubordination to O'Connell and his Priests, and of favoring the designs of the latter to the Protestant Church. The Protestant clergy of Ireland, however, consider him to be a man of talents, and who, though an honest and upright man, is not qualified to fit stations of responsibility, — or, perhaps much more, to hold such a position as that of rector. This is inexpressibly disgusting. Let us not our fellow citizens of London whether they would or could submit to have one religion and our Ministers assisted in language of bitter sarcasm in the Catholic Chapels of London, and throughout the British Isles, — or, if we could not do so, we must call upon the superior Catholic Church to interfere and suppress the insolent nuisance; and, if they did not interfere, would not popular indignation be loud against them? Religious disputes, fermentated by priestly rivalry, have made Europe one wide chancery house; and yet, if a Bishop — one worthy man among a set of interested pampered ecclesiastics, who have been the instruments of the destruction of a potential dictator, he is excommunicated and denounced as unworthy to hold authority in the Church of Christ who preached peace and goodwill to all men.

I take the following extract from the "Companion of the British Almanac, for 1835," on "Statistics of Crime in France." Though it does not refer particularly to the agricultural classes in that country, it will, however, show the favorable influence of a good education: — "It is now seen that, not only is the proportion of criminals to the total population less in the best than in the worst districts, but the class of the crimes committed is less serious. This result cannot fail to prove satisfactory to those who look to the cultivation of the minds of their fellow-servants; as to the sweet means of redeeming them from vicious habits. We have yet another evidence of the same tendency to offer. This is a table showing the comparative statistics of the criminal offences which are repeated at the bar of justice. Such a description of description of it is at least which shows it worthy of the name, cannot be visited with reproach of dispensing man to the commission of crimes against society, when we find that on an average of four years the whole population of France has annually furnished, no less than thirteen thousand offenders, while only about three thousand offenders, or rather criminals, being in the small proportion of one criminal in more than two millions and a half of inhabitants." This information would be more interesting, were we acquainted with the proportion which the well-educated bear to the whole population of France. The French Minister of War, found in 1829, of the young men drawn from all classes without distinction, a proportion of only thirty-eight, in one hundred could read and write, but this report do not state how many of the thirty-eight had received more than the mere rudiments of school learning. We cannot, therefore, form a correct opinion of the general state of education in France from these figures. The statistics of crime in France, which we have, include only those persons who are brought personally before the Court of Assize, and not those who are brought before the "Correctional Tribunals," consequently they do not show the exact state and amount of crime in that country.

I would mind the reader while the population of any country is only partially educated, that the instruction cannot be so much applied to it, as if the whole population were to be judicially educated. This more particularly applies to the agricultural classes.

There are various causes, as well as the bad example of the administrators, that must always be more or less in operation. The incapacity of the management for the promotion and due development of their business, cannot fail to be prejudicial to the better qualified farmers. When farmers, who are proprietors of the soil, will generally become morally educated, they will understand and practice their profession in a manner that will yield them abundant produce, and they will know how to apply that produce to the best advantage.

Unworthy and miserable as long as common to disengaged and ill-educated minds, would no longer exist among them — they would, like other classes, unite and act in concert in all matters that would interest them as a body — the well would be taken away from their minds, and the weak would be left to do things that are, and would be left to do them all. I expect the next letter will conclude the first part.

WILLIAM EVANS.

Cate St. Paul, Jan. 20, 1837.

## SUMMARY.

From the London Weekly Dispatch.

The Tory journals during the past week have been endeavouring to raise a violent outcry against the liberal Archibishop of Dublin, because he has prohibited the Reverend Mr. Nolan from preaching in one of the parish churches in the Incorporated. Dr. Whately, the Archdeacon of Armagh, has written to the Bishop of Derry, to give great attention to all but the highest and best Church and Tory party. His Grace is an advocate of that national education which the Irish Protestant parsons oppose both and null. His indiscriminate blood-stained Orangemen, and his attempts to be favourable to the cause of God's children in Ireland, and the want of this education may have influenced a great many people to give their support to him.

What should be considered of higher value to a man, than to be able to think and act correctly, and to the best advantage for himself, in all matters that concern him in this life, and a proper education will enable him to do this, if he is not greatly deluded by natural instincts, and the want of this education may have influenced a great many people to give their support to him.

I hope I may be pardoned for using strong language, but I cannot help saying that in any country that is Christian, it is not very creditable to governments who have neglected to provide for the religious education of the people, up to this period, the middle of the nineteenth century; and, in my humble judgment, the want of this education may have influenced a great many people to give their support to him.

Nevertheless, that I am anxious to see the class to which I am proud to belong, rise to their proper station in society, I would not wish they should possess any undue influence. I feel convinced that they are, and must be, the producers of almost all that can impede the progress of every class in Canada; and, therefore, they are destined to have a great influence over the country, and the classes which their situation and circumstances could affect them without this influence. I would willingly go into a full explanation of the grounds on which I have formed this opinion, but it would occupy too much space here to enter into particulars. I hope those whom I address will give me credit for acting my young friends, who are destined to have a great influence over the country, and the classes which their situation and circumstances could affect them without this influence.

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