

FARMING—GOOD ADVICE.

It is thought by many, that farming is a menial calling or an uphill business, and that very little money can be made by cultivating "old mother earth," from this opinion we beg to dissent, and feel warranted in asserting that the prime cause of the poverty, which is too apparent among persons, who style themselves tillers of the soil, may be traced to the want of skill, and not to the demerits of their calling. As a proof of this, just look about and examine the condition of the rural population of this country, who emigrated from England and Scotland ten or twelve years since, who landed on our shores penniless, and are now in possession of large cultivated farms, houses and out-houses, and may be considered independent in their circumstances, and to what may this success be mainly attributed? most certainly to the superior agricultural skill which was every where manifested, and taught them in the mother country.

Instances without number have come under our notice, where the hired labourers of the above class, have been enabled from the savings of four or five years industry and frugality, to rent a farm, on which the real owner or landlord could scarcely make out to live; whereas the tenant, by close attention and thorough knowledge of business, could afford to pay from ten to twelve shillings per acre of annual rent, and in a few years save money sufficient to purchase and stock a farm, as valuable as the one which he formerly rented. In a country where thousands of instances of this sort could be enumerated, certainly no one at all acquainted with the subject, could have the boldness to condemn it as a suitable country for agricultural purposes, and this may of a truth be said of Canada.

The parties who assert that the British American Provinces are unadapted for the introduction of an improved system of husbandry, are such, as are either too idle to work themselves, or have not sufficient calculating powers, or thinking faculties, to make the two ends meet. Many have no idea of changing from the "good old way," which their forefathers taught them, and so long as this is the case, but little advantage can be gained, from the mighty efforts which during the last few years, have been made to concentrate the skill and experience of the wisest and most experienced, that have written upon the subject of agriculture, through the public press; neither can they appreciate the exertions which are made by Agricultural Societies in elevating the character of the agriculture of the Province; nor will they read and inform their minds on the most essential topics, which are immediately and directly connected with their respectable profession. All this, and much more, we fear, is lamentably true; and to convince the intelligent part of the community, that we are willing to do our part, in our humble capacity to change the order of things, we are determined, in future, to lay before our readers facts—plain and practical; which, we trust, will have a tendency to cause men to reflect, before they act, and to study the various influences which effect every department of agricultural improvement.

The great fault which the farmers in Canada are too apt to engender, is the ambitious desire for lands. Experience has taught us that it is far more profitable to cultivate fifty acres well,

than to poorly and negligently cultivate double that number of acres. Many farmers actually raise more produce from fifty acres, than others do from two hundred, the land being composed of like soil and other advantages equal, when their soils possessed their virgin qualities. Why this vast difference? Because one informs his mind on the improvements of the day, and studies to renovate his soil by manuring—top dressing with mineral substances, draining his land, and changing his crops alternately, and depends alone upon his superior skill and management for large crops and good profits; while the other studies to drain every thing from the soil, and returns nothing to it, to keep it from deteriorating and becoming barred.

We have elsewhere remarked, that the most profitable business for the Canadian farmers, is the manufactory of butter and cheese. But little has been done in the production of these articles, and consequently, there will be much room for improvement in that department. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the proceeds from the small surplus which the Canadian farmers have to sell of the above article, goes as a perquisite to the farmer's wife. It is not our business to find fault with such an arrangement, but we would just remind our brother farmers of a fact which came under our notice a few weeks since. A Yorkshire farmer who rents a farm seven miles north of this city, and pays an annual rent of fifty pounds, informed us that he only keeps ten cows, and the profits from which together with the sale of calves, pays the whole of his rent and leaves a balance in the bargain. We examined his stock and found them in comfortable winter-quarters, with an abundance of good hay, and cut oats, sheaf and bran before them, and a good supply of clean straw under their feet for bedding. This farmer comes to town once per week regularly, with butter and other produce from his well cultivated farm, he also supplies a number of families with butter, cheese, &c., and sends in his bill once in a twelve month—and by furnishing a good article and observing strict punctuality, he always obtains the top price. This same individual came to this country twelve years since, without any means, and by dint of perseverance and superior skill, he can now boast of having thousands of dollars out on interest, and by most of his neighbours is considered independent. The circumstance is fresh in our recollection when the same individual astonished the natives, about ten years since, in the astonishing yield of 40 bushels of wheat per acre on a field of 12 acres, which field was thought incapable of producing 10 bushels per acre. If circumstances admitted, we would enter into the details of the superior farming which we noticed carried out in all its bearings on the above premises, but as it would be taking a greater latitude than we are warranted in doing, we will defer it for the present. Suffice it to say, that the farmer in question has kindly promised to become a contributor to our Journal—and the public no doubt will be much edified from the practical advice which he is capable of affording from his long experience and close observation of men and things.

In addition to the production of butter and cheese, the article of hops, would amply remun-

erate the producer, and might in a few years form a profitable article for export. Clover and flax seeds, would also remunerate the farmer if entered into with spirit, the latter bears a much heavier price in the English market than wheat, and can be produced with one half of the cost.

Twenty bushels of flax seed can be grown from an acre of ground with much less tillage than the same field of wheat.

We would take this opportunity of reminding farmers, that if they want to graze stock for either beef or butter, that they would find it to their advantage to lay off their pasture grounds in small convenient fields and change the stock from one field to another every few days. Salt should also be provided bountifully, at least, twice per week for every description of stock.

A compost heap of refuse straw, peat, muck and a small proportion of lime, should be made in every barn yard, and should be used as a top-dressing for pasture and meadow grounds. Each load of vegetable deposit that is converted into the above composition, is worth at least one dollar, and where is there an individual, who is to careless about his temporal prosperity, as to allow such valuable mines of wealth to lay unexplored? No man would do so upon reflection. If a farmer aims at prosperity, he will find it to his advantage to make the most of his manure-heap. A farmer of our acquaintance last season, purchased upwards of 40 loads of manure at a dollar and a half per load; and he assured us that he considered that he would get his money back with good roand interest.

From the Connecticut Farmer's Gazette.

APPLE TREE INSECTS.

PLUM WEEVIL—RHYNCHENUS (CONOTRACHELUS) NENUPEAR.

This is about the worst insect in existence. It does not confine its mischief to apples; nectarines and cherries. It is found in the black knots on plum and cherry trees. That it causes these knots, cannot be positively proved, though there is much reason to suspect it. There is some reason also for the suspicion that it causes the yellows in peach trees. Whether guilty or not in this particular, it does so much other mischief, that all mankind ought to combine for its destruction. It is so shy and sneaking—it shuns so cautiously the eyes of man while perpetrating its evil deeds—that few ever see the insect till it appears in the fruit, in the form of a loathsome grub. But every body ought to see and know the bug itself. I presume therefore I shall be excused if I give a very particular description of it.

The bug is nearly two-tenths of an inch in length, besides its snout which is about one-tenth of an inch long. The snout does not project straight forward, but bends downwards. At first sight the colour of the bug appears to be a dark brown. On a closer view, it will be seen to be very rough with black ridges and knots, with two black humps side by side on its back, and a yellowish band behind the humps. It may generally be caught in May, by placing a cloth or holding an umbrella hollow upwards, under a plum tree, and giving the tree or a limb a sudden jar. The moment the jar is given, the bug drops as if it was dead, and will be some time without stirring. In this state, with its legs and snout pressed up close to its body, it looks so much like the dead buds that fall from the tree with it, that a person unacquainted with it, will hardly discover it. Therefore it is necessary to take a sharp look-

The bug begins to lay its eggs in the trunk while they are small and tender. It makes a hole in the side of the fruit with its snout, generally in the form of a new moon or half circle, and there deposits an egg, which soon hatches.