

then be able to make a nearer estimate of the actual good, which has accrued from the expenditure of the £4690 distributed among the societies.

That such effects should have spring from so trivial a cause looks so strange and problematical, as to have formed a very plausible excuse with some men, to seek for other hypothesis, by which to account for the appearance. It is not my province in this annual Report, and standing in this place, to argue with such as are disposed to take this view of the subject. Allowing to them every possible concession which they may please to demand—from the necessity of the times—from the poverty of the people which urges them to greater exertion and to a cheaper and plainer food, still there is a curious problem, connected with their theory, which is not easy of solution. It is this why: have not the same poverty and the same necessity produced like effects in his Majesty's other possessions in North America? Whence comes it, for instance, that New Brunswick still needs such large and regular supplies; or that Nova Scotia is now able to spare them? Why has not the agriculture of Upper and Lower Canada made so great a start forward as our own, and what has kept the flame, which has been here kindled and has burned so intensely, from spreading all around? Those other colonies have been placed exactly in our circumstances—their trade has equally suffered—their property declined in value—their circulating medium drained for the United States—and yet we see not among them the excitement by which our husbandry has been distinguished. It will turn out in balancing on both sides the probabilities of the question, that our progress must be traced to the peculiar causes here operating, and which are,—the fostering care of our Legislature—the regular system of encouragement for raising bread-corn—and the existence and spread of the agricultural society. At all events, we know that these institutions and the commencement of our progress were the concomitant events; and if the one were not the cause of the other, they were so closely connected in point of time, and are by to many now believed to be connected in point of efficiency, that it would be extremely hazardous to disunite them.

The state of the fact then, as regards our agriculture, is simply this.

There is still needed for our internal consumption an annual supply in Halifax of 28,121 barrels of flour and of 23,548 bushels of Indian corn, besides several other articles as particularly specified in the Custom House return. The leading object, that ought to engross the care of this society, should be the consideration of the further measures which may reduce to nothing this heavy balance still subsisting against us; and which may accelerate our final and total emancipation from all need of foreign grain. These measures may be comprehended in the four following particulars, and in illustrating them, I shall take occasion to bring under review all such facts and circumstances as any way affect, or bear upon the present stage of our progress.

1st. The establishment of societies should still be encouraged in those populous parts of the province where none now exist.

This recommendation proceeds on the faith of their utility in generating and diffusing a spirit of enterprise—in begetting an emulation to excel in the operations of husbandry—in cherishing careful and industrious habits in the management of the farm—and in enlarging and correcting the views of cultivators, as to the value of manures, the benefits of improved machinery, and advantages of drilling, fallowing, draining and composting. Some of the official letters in answer to the Circular of the Board speak largely on these heads. They tell us, that these consequences are visible within the range of their influence and that too on the very lands of the men who refuse to join the societies, and are even a little noisy in vilifying and abusing them.—So strange are the caprices of the human heart, that such a statement ought not to be discredited, and should reconcile us to that contradiction at which all are too apt to be peevish. Let us give free indulgence to those who take pleasure in running down the usefulness of their local society, provided the copy the example of its more active and intelligent cultivators. Every association in the Province, which is animated with a suitable spirit, becomes a nucleus of improvement; and from it radiate those gleams of light which are illuminating the practices of the more ignorant. Its benefits are not confined to its own members; for if they carry into the fields the more