

prevented the planting of maples or other useful trees. I assure you from long experience founded on sound principles, that so long as there is an *abandon* of Cattle there will exist an *abandon* of morals, and of every idea of Justice, of peace, property, and amelioration. I cannot conceive why the most essential matters of Rural economy, that is the preservation and improvement of lands and the nourishment of Cattle, are thus overlooked,

That necessary science, that honorable profession has, however, been at all times, an object of the attention of the wisest governments. Without seeking instances of it in ancient history, let us cast our eyes on our mother country, and we will find perfect models for Agriculture. Why should we be indifferent about a matter of so much importance? Why should we consent to live ignorant and poor? Let us then avail ourselves of all the advantages which England procures us; Let us improve the treasures which the author of Nature has bestowed upon us, with the sacred gifts of property which we hold either by succession or lawful purchase. It is the execution of the law that will protect that property which is encroached upon every day, though sacred. We stand in need of that rural policy in order to form a true idea of Agriculture, and quietly cultivate our forlorn fields. You will become, gentlemen, the restorers of our Agriculture, which is falling into decay, of our lands which tumble down. Those fine and verdant meadows of rush which are destroyed by the *abandon*, without procuring any relief to the cattle, nay to their great detriment, and still more to that of the owners, those tall herbs, I say, will take root again, propagate and multiply infinitely, and will soon serve as quays and strong bulwarks against the destructive tides. The waves impelled by the impetuous winds, no longer finding holes and hollows, as heretofore, will beat against those thick and bushy rushes; and there break without doing any damage. All the low land and hollows will be filled up, and far from losing lands, we will gain some and improve our fields. We do not despair of seeing that golden age in which the rush was thick enough, tall enough and strong enough to form at one's will jails for fish, which now the cattle frightens away from our fisheries. What a relief for every one! It offered shelter to the hunter who brought from those valuable shores as much game as he chose to kill. What a manna! In fine, Gentlemen, who is the man that does conceive the infinite benefits to be derived from the suppression of the unwarrantable practice of suffering the cattle to roam at large on the shores? I conclude by announcing with the firmest assurance harvests of twice as much grain as now, with abundance of fish and game, an astonishing stock of winter forrage, which in a short time will afford a better food for, and increase the number cattle. I request you to observe that the preventing of the tumbling down of the lands, nineteen twentieth of which, on account of their clayish quality, are easily washed away when deprived of the defence which they formerly derived, and will in future derive, through your medium, from those rushes above mentioned, that every precaution, I say, tending to prevent such damage is an object of sufficient importance to induce you to make application to the Legislature, in order that they may take it into consideration.

I have the honor to be with the most perfect consideration,

GENTLEMEN, Your most devoted servant,

*A Member of the Quebec branch of the Agriculture Society,*  
 QUEBEC, 25th February, 1793.