

# THE BRITISH AMERICAN



# CULTIVATOR.

"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—Dr. Johnson.

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"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practice, and every inquirer into nature improve."—Dr. Johnson

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1843.

Now that labour is suspended in the fields, and will continue so for some months, the farmers will have an opportunity for reading and improvement of the mind. We suppose they will have no objection at this season, that we should occasionally give insertion to articles, that, strictly speaking, have no direct reference to agricultural improvement. For ourselves, we confess, we would consider it a very dry subject for constant reading and study. We do not think it necessary to remind Subscribers to this Periodical, how every, even the most simple works of agriculture, shall be executed. To do this would be ridiculous. We wish to submit for their consideration the latest improvements introduced in British agriculture, and selections from the newest works of men of science who have written on the same subject. We think it our duty to do this, and allow farmers to judge for themselves how far it would be expedient for them to act upon the suggestions of scientific men. We do not pretend to possess superior wisdom to men of the highest rank; and to farmers of the greatest talents and practical experience in the British Isles, who are now unanimously of opi-

nion, that the suggestions of men of science, on the subject of agriculture, are deserving the greatest respect and attention, and are well calculated to effect immense improvement in agriculture, by augmenting its produce, and diminishing the expense of arable culture. It would be wonderful indeed, if, in this age of new discoveries and improvements, the agricultural class alone should be incapable of introducing any improvement or deriving any benefit from science. We know perfectly well that we never can introduce machinery to execute much farm labour for us, nor do we think it desirable or necessary; but we are nevertheless convinced that vast benefit may be derived from science, well understood, and judiciously applied in practice. If we are so unfortunate as not to give satisfaction to our Subscribers we would regret it extremely, and would most willingly adopt any suggestions that would be likely to give more general satisfaction. So far as we had it in our power, we have invariably excluded from the columns of THE CULTIVATOR all wild theory and incredible reports of produce obtained from agriculture. Indeed we would consider it insulting to the understanding of our Subscribers were we to offer to copy for them the extraordinary articles we have seen published on these subjects. It is our constant desire to render THE CULTIVATOR useful and interesting to the Subscribers, and we think the most certain way for us to accomplish this will be, to submit what is new, for their consideration, and what is reasonable and expedient for their practice. We do not pretend to superior skill in agriculture, but from our long practical experience, we should be able to estimate the reasonableness and practicability of suggestions and proposed improvements, and we

shall to the best of our judgment only recommend what shall be reasonable and practicable.

**STEAMING POTATOES.** — The secret of steaming potatoes is very little understood, and rarely carried into full effect, although it is by many considered indispensable to the nutritious development of the vegetable. A late English paper describes the process as follows:—

"The whole mystery consists in suffering the steam to escape, and at the same time keeping the potatoes hot. When the cook throws off the water, under the jurisdiction of the cooking book, what is she to do next? The steam rushes out, and she places the vessel opposite the fire; but, fearful that the potatoes may cool in the meanwhile, she puts on the cover. Thus she undoes one process by the other, for the steam no sooner escapes from the potatoes, than being confined by the lid, it condenses rapidly, and falls back in water upon the vegetables. And thus, through the ignorance and obstinacy of our cooks, we are perpetually served with what are familiarly called wet potatoes—a sort of vague excuse, which helps to throw the fault upon the season or the gardener, or any thing or any body rather than the real culprit. The Irish peasant woman, wholly ignorant of science, but with instinctive sagacity, gets rid of the difficulty by the simplest process imaginable. Placing the vessel without the cover in a slanting direction opposite the fire, so as to hasten the process of steaming by the action of the external heat, she throws a napkin over the potatoes, which receives and retains so much of the steam as does not effect its escape, while it performs the equally essential office of preserving the heat to the vegetables below."

**REVENGE OR FORGIVENESS, WHICH IS MOST NOBLE!**—In taking revenge a man is but even with his enemy; in passing it over he is his superior.—Bacon.