

them pay proper attention to the formation of composts, the use of lime, the possession of improved agricultural implements, and to those rural arrangements, which imply good husbandry and economy of time in all countries, and are essentially requisite in this. Farming hitherto has been a *hand-to-mouth* business in our Province. The necessities of the husbandman have operated against his prosperity, and compelled him to dispose of his produce, as soon as it was saleable, to meet the pecuniary demands upon him, or to supply some want in his establishment. This hurried sale prevents him from commanding a price. In the fall, and early part of the winter, there is a general rush to the market, which becomes glutted. The seller must sell: the purchaser knows it, and puts his value upon the article. The farmer is at his mercy, and must pocket the loss; whereas, if his circumstances were such as to enable him to keep his produce, and choose his time for sale, his annual profits would be much greater. The prices of meat, potatoes, and hay, in the fall and spring of the year, illustrate the truth of this assertion. This necessity and forced sale may be considered one of the greatest drawbacks to the profits of agriculture. It is not referrible to climate, season, or soil, but to the straitened circumstances of the settlers, many of whom buy their farms, stock, and implements of husbandry, upon credit, and must sacrifice their produce in the manner already mentioned, to liquidate such debts. When these difficulties have been surmounted, the farmer feels his independence, and makes that independence the promoter of its own increase. His business no longer drives him with loss, but he drives it with advantage: he may go to the market with his produce, and like the merchant with

his goods say, such is *my* price, and I must have it, or I will wait until I get it.

Some few years past, John Young, Esquire, the friend of agriculture in Nova Scotia, published his letters of *Agricola*, which were subsequently republished in a distinct volume. His praiseworthy exertions stimulated the farmers for a while, and although the excitement soon subsided, he nevertheless effected improvements, which continue as the memorials of his zeal. We have said that there was a prevailing indifference among too many of our farmers respecting *Book-knowledge*, and scientific agriculture. In justification of the remark we would ask, if our farmers, generally, possess Young's work, which was written for the Provinces, and how many copies of the excellent agricultural periodicals published in England and the United States are in circulation throughout the country. Young's work, although published in the Colonies, has been quoted by eminent agriculturists in Scotland, a country already rich in science, experience, and improvements. The diffusion of knowledge in its various departments for the instruction of all classes of people, constitutes an era of philanthropy in the literature of Great Britain. Books, magazines, pamphlets, and papers, suited to the general taste, comprehension, and pecuniary ability, have been published upon the principle of general improvement, and that knowledge is power. The agriculturist has not been forgotten, and the state of agriculture in Great Britain is a convincing proof that the seed has been sown upon a grateful soil—that the lesson has been received, and that information has given strength, which has been advantageously employed. In our Provinces we must adopt the same measures, if we wish to enjoy the same ad-