

These efforts making in the British Isles at the present time for the improvement of agriculture are very great; and we perceive that the principal improvement recommended as necessary before all others, is thorough draining. No land can be fit for cultivation that is wet, nor will manure be beneficial to such land, therefore sufficient draining must be essential. From the very depressed state of our agriculture at present, in consequence of the low prices of produce, we know that farmers have not the means generally to expend much labour in draining or improvements. It would, however, be more profitable not to cultivate any land that cannot be thoroughly drained, because labour and seed is only thrown away on land that is not sufficiently dry. In Yorkshire, England, they have proposed a "Land-Draining Association," to have a capital of £500,000, in 20,000 shares of £25 each. The authority under which the association is proposed to be established, is based upon an Act passed in the Session of 1839-40. The principal object of the association, as set forth in the prospectus, is:—"To provide the requisite amount for either owner or occupier, or the two conjointly, to thoroughly drain their land, repaying the same with interest, by half yearly instalments, during a series of years to be fixed, either by an agreed rate per cent., or by a certain charge per acre to be determined by competent parties, in proportion to the benefit the land has derived from the work; and which work shall in all cases be done under the direction of the association." In reference to this association, the *Lords Intelligencer*, observes:—"The adoption of the joint stock principle of raising capital for agricultural purposes may be, we conceive, one of the most beneficial applications of that principle that has ever been proposed; there being some known methods of improving the land, and making it permanently more productive than it now is, which are manifestly impracticable to most agriculturists, simply from the great outlay required in the first instance, and the comparatively slow returns of the benefits. These, however, though more tardy than the profits of trade and manufactures, are more certain. And while they must eventually repay the cost to the adventurer, with interest, they will become a national boon, by increasing the productiveness of the soil. This applies especially to the question of thorough draining." The great want of capital that is generally felt in this country, will be sure to retard the progress of the most necessary improvements in agriculture, and we fear there is not any good prospect of a change for the better immediately.

In a paper submitted to the Royal English Agricultural Society, the 9th of November last, by an English farmer, on the "Criteria of Breeds in Prize Animals," the author observes:—"That if the society wish to encourage the improvement of distinct breeds of neat cattle, and sheep, no animal that does not clearly and purely belong to the distinct breed in which it is entered, should be allowed to compete." The gentleman appears to be of opinion, that most of the stock exhibited at cattle shows, are not of pure blood of distinct breeds. He recommends the society to establish a committee of competent individuals to erect a standard of character for every class of cattle and sheep which they intend to encourage, and who should exclude from the show yard all animals that do not show the breed intended. He further suggests that they should establish a standard of form, and every point ne-

cessary to constitute a perfect animal. The paper concludes in these words:—"I would also mention the necessity of confining prize animals to a system of feeding, for how frequently, after the natural appetite is appeased, are they literally crammed with stimulating drugs, to increase the desire for food, with which they are most extravagantly supplied, by which means many defects are concealed, and the natural size, form, and fattening qualities, unfairly presented." We do not think it would be expedient to be so particular with regard to pure blood, and distinct breeds, in Canada at present; but nevertheless, it would be proper, that all cattle exhibited at Cattle Shows, should have the breeds accurately described, whether pure or mixed, otherwise, how are we to judge of the merit of distinct breeds, or the true benefit obtained by crossing. We may know a perfect and profitable animal when we see it, but how are we to produce another like it, if we do not know the particular breed from which it has been raised, whether from pure blood, or by crossing.

In a late number of *The London Morning Herald*, the editor of that paper, observes:—"It is because domestic agriculture is the sheet anchor of our national prosperity and tranquillity; it is because the agriculturists know that the cultivation of the soil is the foundation of our greatness; it is because that cultivation begets a continuous, regular, and permanent demand for the labour of man, and it is because the employment of such labour is favourable to deferential and sober habits, to humbleness of disposition, to simplicity of mind, to local and consequently national attachment, and to contentment, and thankfulness that the agriculturists do not exhibit the faction, the violence, and the agitation of the manufacturers." Here is a flattering, and we presume, a well merited compliment to agriculturists, and if it is so, their interests, in every country, deserves the first consideration of governments and legislatures. The article from which we have made the above selection, concludes in these words:—"Agricultural improvement, and increased production arising therefrom, are subjects of the highest national interest; there is a vast body of information afloat thereon, and many practical and useful suggestions are continually made: still agriculture in reference to the future, has been little discussed in Parliament, and much good might, we think, be accomplished by its submission to the consideration of parliamentary committees in the forthcoming Session, more particularly as to the best modes of establishing such a general system of drainage as shall promote cultivation, and, at the same time, improve the sanitary condition of the labouring classes." This is a suggestion that may be very properly offered to our Provincial Parliament previous to their forthcoming Session, and we trust that a committee will be appointed to inquire into the state of Canadian agriculture, and what means would be the most judicious to adopt, in order to promote its improvement, and secure its prosperity. No subject that will come under discussion in the approaching Session, is of any thing like the same importance to this country as that which we refer to.

There is nothing purer than honesty; nothing sweeter than piety; nothing warmer than love; nothing richer than wisdom; nothing brighter than virtue; and nothing more steadfast than faith. These united in one mind, form the purest, the sweetest, the warmest, the richest, the brightest, and the most steadfast happiness.

By the latest English papers, we perceive, that the price of neat cattle, sheep, and both fresh and salted meat, has fallen very greatly in the British Isles, and it is expected the fall in price will be still greater than it is at present. If the Tariff should continue unaltered, there is scarcely a doubt that prices will be low for agricultural produce, of every description, in the British Isles, unless in adverse seasons. If proper encouragement had been held out to the colonies of England, they would be able to supply her amply with all she might require of agricultural produce, and they would be in a condition to consume and pay for English manufactures in the same proportion. No reasonable prospect exists at present that foreign nations will increase their purchases of British manufactures. Every country are anxious to establish manufactures for themselves. They are forced to do this, because otherwise they could not maintain their constantly increasing population. It is impossible to prevent English skill and capital from being employed, where both will find most encouragement; and hence foreign nations can soon obtain all the advantages which they have in England, so far at least, as will enable them to commence manufactures, and acquire skill to work them. In our humble judgment, therefore, England will find in her own colonies, her best and most permanent customers, and it is her own subjects that should be encouraged. Every colony of Britain should be considered as provinces of the same Empire, and the inhabitants of these colonies be in the full enjoyment of all the privileges and protection that the inhabitants of the British Isles enjoy, both as regards agriculture and commerce.

#### AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR CANADA EAST.

This winter may be said to have commenced about the last week of November, and since that time considerable snow has fallen, more than usual at this season of the year. We have no doubt, that on an average, there is from eighteen to twenty-four inches of snow at present throughout Canada East, and in some sections of the country more than this. There is also passable ice bridges formed over the rivers and waters in many places, though the ice has not yet taken on the St. Lawrence near Montreal. Many are of opinion that we shall have a severe winter, and so far it has been severe; but whether it will continue so to the end, we do not pretend to conjecture. We would always prefer a good covering of snow upon the land, and a safe bridge of ice upon the waters, from the beginning of December to the beginning of April, or about four months. This, we conceive, would be most favourable for the country, and its inhabitants, for the farmer, and the merchant. Our forests of valuable timber would be useless to us here, unless we had snow and ice to enable us to carry them to the chipping places. Some may object to our severe winters, but without such winters Canada would not be so valuable a country for its present thin population. It is not the severity of our winters that will injure our agriculture. It certainly shortens the time for work in the fields, but there is, nevertheless, sufficient time to execute the work and raise good crops, by adopting a proper system, and executing the different work in the proper time, and not allow them to interfere with each other. The manure may be all brought to the fields in winter, when