Agriculturist and Canadian Journal.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 15, 1848.

☞ Several subscribers appear not to have observed our statement, that the *Agriculturist* is now published but *once* a month. There was no paper issued for July, the interest of Mr. Edmundson therein being then in the hands of the Sheriff. The reader will know by the *numbers*, whether any paper is wanting, this being the 13th number published. All paid subscribers will get a portion of the next volume to make up the deficiency in this.

NEW ARRANGEMENT.

We are happy in being able to announce to our friends and subscribers, and to the friends of agriculture generally, that we have succeeded in making arrangements by which the *Agriculturist* for 1849, (referred to by mistake in the last number as 1850,) will be published *regularly, once a month*, on superior paper, and with *new* type, each number containing 32 pages. The size will be as large, and the general appearance, as good as the *American Agriculturist*, or *Genesee Farmer*, and the quality and interest of the matter will be equal, if not in some respects superior, to that of any other paper of a similar kind on this continent.

Mr. G. Buckland, of whom mention has been several times made in our columns, and who has also contributed two or three articles to the present volume, has agreed to take a share in the paper, commencing with the volume for 1849, and to assume the duties of chief editor of the Agricultural Department. This is precisely what was needed, (and what we have long desired,) to make the *Agriculturist worthy* of the support of every farmer in Canada. Mr. Buckland, though not long resident in the country, has, during the last year, visited nearly every part of it, as well as some of the best agricultural districts in the United States, with the view of making himself acquainted with the nature of the soil, modes of cultivation, and generally with the agricultural features and capabilities of this new country. This gentleman's high standing in England, as a practical and scientific agriculturist, is a sufficient guarrantee that he has the knowledge and the ability to impart instruction which may prove of the utmost value to us. The want of a longer and better acquaintance with the country, and with the peculiarities of its soil, climate, and *people*, we shall *ourself* endeavor to supply.

There will be a Horticultural, Scientific, and Ladies' Department, in the new volume. It is not intended to preserve a distinct department for Literary matter, or news. Market prices, and such topics as are of general interest to farmers as a class, will be noticed. We shall publish a Prospectus in our next number, which will more fully explain the objects we aim at, and the means we possess to accomplish them. We make these statements thus early, in consequence of having been written to by the Secretaries of two or three Agricultural Societies, as to our terms and prospects for the next volume, in order to determine at their fall meetings, whether they can take the paper, and what number of copies. We have conferred with Mr. Buckland, and although from the difficulties into which the publication has got by bad management, and the necessity of sending to all *paid* subscribers a portion of the next volume, to make up for the deficiency of the present, a pecuniary loss will be entailed upon us, (unless a very large circulation is obtained,) we have determined to have but two prices for the forthcoming volume, and to fix them as low as can possibly be afforded. Single subscriptions, will in all cases, be *one dollar*, which must be paid at the time of subscribing. One cause of the difficulty this year, has been the allowing agents to give and take *credit*. Societies and Clubs taking 12 copies and upwards, will be charged *three shillings and nine pence* per copy.

As the cost of the work will be considerably increased, for the reason among others, that we shall be obliged to print it on *two* sheets instead of one, (making double press work,) there being no press in the city large enough to print it on one sheet, we shall expect the support of all true friends of improvement and of Agricultural Societies generally. The publication is freed from one great obstruction, and is now in the hands of parties who have the will, and we believe the means to make it all that can reasonably be expected or desired in this country. All that is now wanted, is the *substantial* support of the agricultural public.

ON THE CULTURE OF WHEAT.

Before the present number reaches our subscribers, the important operation of sowing wheat, in most parts of the Provinces, will have made considerable advancement. We shall therefore content ourselves with a few hints and observations, bearing on this interesting department of farm practice.

It is a fact, confirmed by every year's experience, that the wheat crop in this country is very uncertain, and its precariousness of late would appear to be increasing. Forming as wheat does our staple produce, and the chief source of monetary income, it behooves all cultivators of Canadian soil to make themselves acquainted with the nature of the casualities to which this valuable crop is subject. There cannot be a doubt in the minds of all intelligent persons, that the causes which produce these injuries are, or may be by patient investigation, understood, and the evils produced thereby, either mitigated or controlled.

There is but one way, and that so plain as to be apparent to the most superficial observer, to avoid smut, cockle, chess, rye, and indeed every kind of weed injurious to wheat,—thorough cultivation of the land, and a careful selection and preparation of the seed. While the latter should be *pure*, the former must be *clean*, or the crop will be sure to be deteriorated. What then is required of the cultivator, but simply a practical obedience to this great natural law. The steeping of the seed in a strong solution of salt and sulphate of copper, and afterwards drying it by the application of quick lime, has been extensively practised for many years, and proved successful as a preventative of smut.

The questions of the fly, rust, &c., are far more complicated and difficult. In their practical solution are involved some of the most difficult investigations of the naturalist. The period of sowing, the composition and preparation of the soil, the state and influence of the weather, and probably some other conditions as yet very imperfectly understood, have to be taken as the elements of consideration, before we shall be permitted to grapple successfully with these destructive enemies. It would be folly to attempt to fix limits to scientific investigation, and give up questions of this nature as being altogether beyond our power of solving. The multifarious discoveries which now adorn and bless society, have, in most instances, resulted from a long and patient interrogation of nature. And thus it is with the husbandman, by correct observation and persevering investigation, he has been enabled to advance progressively his most valuable art, and to control, or mitigate many evils once regarded as inevitable.

What is particularly needed in the present imperfect state of our knowledge in relation to these and other agricultural inquiries, is a careful collation of a sufficient number of well conducted experiments. In reference to wheat, suppose a number of the most intelligent farmers in each district would carefully note down the time of sowing, the variety and quantity of seed, whether sown broadcast or in rows, the state and nature of the soil, with subsequent observations on the character of the weather and appearance of the crop, up to the time of harvest. What an interesting light would thus be thrown on many doubtful points of practice, and by giving publicity to the results, the agriculture of the country must necessarily be improved.

We are strongly of opinion, that the employment of the drill in sowing fall wheat would be highly advantageous. The seed being deposited at a uniform depth is more certain to vegetate, and the plant not so liable to be thrown out by alternate freezing and thawing in spring. Beside, the plants being in rows can easily be kept free from weeds, while light and air find a more ready access, thereby diminishing the chances of rust