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THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE, &c.

For several years past the author has unceasingly endeavoured to attract the attention of the Canadian community to the importance of Agriculture. He has also attempted to prove that the profession of agriculture is not a less honorable and dignified one, than any other that a man can be employed in. With the same views, he now submits the following article, partly copied from the *Connecticut Observer*, making such omissions, alterations, and additions, as he thought was necessary to suit it to the circumstances of this community, as British subjects, and members of the great British family. The profession of agriculture, is justly entitled to stand in the highest grade of dignity in every country, and more particularly in British America. Agriculture must be the basis of all the industrial interests in these provinces. It is the only producer of the material of wealth. All others are but employed in working some change upon this material, in transforming and shaping it to the conveniences of civilized life. Enumerate these arts that are practiced here and elsewhere—the hatter, the

clothier, the manufacturer of woollens and of cottons, of iron, of leather in all its varieties, the tailor, the cordwainer, the miller, the paper-maker, the printer even, could not carry on the purposes of their respective callings a single day, were the materials which they derive from agriculture to be entirely withdrawn; while agriculture rude indeed, but still agriculture in some sort, could subsist with little aid from these or any arts. It is dependant indeed on other arts for its successful prosecution, but not for its very existence. Commerce is but an interchange of the produce of agriculture, wrought; it may be, into ten thousand forms, but still owing their original existence, and deriving their seminal principle from the soil. In the bosom of the earth they were nurtured, and by the ministering hand of agriculture they were fostered into maturity and perfection. Even the canvass which whitens the ocean, and the keel which ploughs its waves, owe their being to the same influences. The earth is the common mother of mankind—the greater nurturer of nations. The profession of agriculture is