

ny a year, is adhered to with an obstinacy which no reason can induce him to give up, or to change.

To break through these prejudices, by stimulating the Farmer to enquiry and investigation—to set before them the improvements of other Countries—and to introduce to their notice the variety of examples in which the Farmer has been enriched, by procuring the most from the soil, at the least possible expence, should be the object of all persons desirous to see a Country advance by the increased wealth of the Farmer, arising from an improvement in its Agriculture.

It is a science more advantageous to a Country than any other, inasmuch as it is more certain and lasting, and forms the basis and support of all others;—"the productions of Nature being the materials of Art."

Many causes have occurred to retard the progress of Agriculture in this Country; among them stand prominent—the high price of labor, the limited capital of the Farmer, and the deficiency in the means of agricultural research.

Few, if any, have the means or can venture an experimental Agriculture; and therefore the system, however erroneous, is continued; and, whilst the science is advancing in other Countries, in this, it remains nearly as in the earliest state of the Province.

To obviate these difficulties, should be the study and aim of every Farmer; and it may not be unprofitable to consider how far we have it in our power to accomplish so desirable an object.

A knowledge of the science of Agriculture must be sought after, through the medium of works on Agriculture; a diligent and attentive perusal of these, will enable us to discriminate between cause and effect, and to increase our product, at the same time we diminish our labor.—We should become more intimately acquainted with the science of Agriculture,—obtain a knowledge of the result of experiments in other Countries,—and be able to apply such of them as we may deem suited to this Country to our own Agriculture, and ultimately arriving at perfection in our system, obviate all the difficulties which at present apparently impede our progress in advancing in so noble a science.—By knowing the most efficient mode of accomplishing our work, and avoiding all useless labor, the productions of our soil would be increased at the least possible expence.

Such are the means by which, to a very great extent, our system of Agriculture will be improved. The increased production enriching the Farmers, and the evil in the high price of labor met by the diminished quantity required.

Other advantages would arise from a reference to Agricultural Works. We should thereby be enabled to form opinions on the experiments of other Countries,—acquire a knowledge of the variety and utility of Grass and other Seeds, and determine which of them would best suit our climate; and obtain information on the several varieties of Stock which could be most advantageously introduced into this Country.

To obtain these results, we require a well selected Agricultural Library, as well as the means of obtaining from other Countries such Seeds as may be considered worthy of trial in ours; and for procuring such Stock as we deem best adapted for improving the breed of our own.

If such, then, be the requisites to enable us to obtain the advantages open to us, and to bring this County to that condition in which it should be, as an Agricultural County, permit me to enquire where is the Farmer by whose means alone these requisites can be supplied? Such a Man is not to be found among us! Must we then abandon the hope of obtaining them? Is there a Man among you who will not, with me, say decidedly, no? The

way, Gentlemen, is open to us, the means are in our own hands,—by union,—by an Agricultural Society.

Such a Society has been established among us, and we are met this day, for the second year, to give our assent to its continuance for another; and to testify our conviction of its benefits, by enrolling our names among its supporters; and thereby afford evidence of our desire for improvement in a science so well calculated to enrich ourselves, and give a character and standing to the County in which we live.

Let me, therefore, invite you, Gentlemen, to give efficacy to these objects, and to aid in rendering this Society conducive to the end contemplated, by uniting in the common cause, and by contributing but a tithe in value of the product of the soil, establish an Institution, which will not only enable us to obtain riches, but the only riches which we can call our own,—by living by the product of our own hand, improved by our own labor.

Let all petty jealousies in such a cause be buried—suffer no local feelings to deter you—abandon your prejudices,—and being actuated by the one great and worthy motive for the general good, unite yourselves in a band of union for the promotion of a science which, enriching and fertilizing as it advances, will ensure for you the enviable distinction of being truly good, practical British Farmers.

My labors are at your service; I wish for no reward, other than the satisfaction I shall ever feel in seeing the County of Annapolis advancing, as it should, in wealth and independence, and taking its station as one of the first Agricultural Counties in the Province of Nova-Scotia.

#### LEGISLATIVE REPORT.

*The Committee to whom were referred the matters connected with Agriculture beg leave to Report,*

That they have examined the Report and Accounts of the Central Board referred to them, and find the accounts correctly stated, and the Committee are satisfied that the Central Board have conducted the business entrusted to them upon a system calculated to insure the most favorable results to the Province, and although the Board have had many difficulties to encounter at the commencement in arranging their plans for the importation of stock, seeds, and improved implements of husbandry from Great Britain and the United States, the committee are persuaded that by the arrangements made by the Board, much inconvenience which attended the importations made last year will in future be avoided.

Some of the most approved breeds of Cattle, Sheep and Swine, together with some Seeds and Implements for Agricultural purposes, have, during the last year, been imported by the Board and distributed into almost every County of the Province. Local Societies have been formed in every County of the Province except the County of Yarmouth, which Societies are in correspondence with the Central Board, and have been aided by the Board in making such importations as their several circumstances required. And a spirit of enquiry and emulation has been diffused throughout the Country which cannot fail of having a beneficial influence upon the minds of that part of our population engaged in Agricultural pursuits, many experiments that have proved beneficial in other Countries have been commenced which the Committee feel persuaded will have a tendency to introduce a better system of cultivating the soil, and of producing a more abundant supply of the necessary articles of food.

With regard to the plan suggested by the Central Board in their report of holding public annual shows in some of the most populous districts for encouraging the best productions of Stock, Grain, and other Agricultural improvements, the Committee are of opinion that such plan, if carried into operation, would have a very beneficial effect in raising a laudable competition among the farming classes, but whether part of the funds at the disposal of the Board could under the present circumstances of the Country be thus more advantageously employed than upon those objects in which the Board have hitherto been engaged, the Committee forbear to make any recommendation.