

# THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR.

"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—Dr. Johnson.

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## THE CULTIVATOR.

Toronto, February 1, 1842.

Solicitous to render our Publication worthy of the extensive patronage we hope to see it speedily acquire, and to make it equal (not to say surpass), any of a similar character published in the adjoining States, the great circulation of which throughout the Canadas, proves the expediency of some exertions being made towards the "manufacture" of one at home. We have this day, the satisfaction of announcing the gratifying intelligence of the acquisition of an Assistant to our labours, in the person of an individual with whose name the public have been long familiar, and whose works on Agriculture fairly entitle him to rank among the foremost of those authors who have written on this particular branch of science. When we announce that Mr. WILLIAM EVANS, of Cote St Paul, near Montreal, has kindly consented to undertake the arduous and responsible task of editing THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR, we trust the public will receive the announcement as the surest Guarantee of our determination to leave nothing undone which labour and talent can command to make our Paper, what it is our ardent desire to see it become, the very best medium of information on the several subjects it embraces, to be obtained on this side the Atlantic.

Mr. Evans is himself practically conversant with Farming in all its branches, and his long experience of what is most expedient for the proper cultivation of the soil, and the management of Stock cannot fail to render his statements well worthy the attention of the Farmer.

Add to this practical experience, his perfect familiarity with the theory of Agriculture; his extensive knowledge of the best modern works, and of the most recent improvements on the science, together with his acknowledged talent as an agreeable and erudite writer: and we flatter ourselves our readers will be as much gratified with such an accession to our cause as we are ourselves. Our readers will peruse with pleasure, his Introductory Address to the Yeomen of these Provinces, which is to be found on Page 20.

We shall ourselves continue to receive Communications as usual, from our friends and supporters; to answer inquiries; and to intersperse remarks throughout the columns of THE CULTIVATOR: as well as to select from Standard Works and Contemporary Papers, such pieces as we shall deem worthy of insertion for their general utility, but in all cases Mr. Evans will contribute the leading Editorial articles.

We take this opportunity of expressing ourselves decidedly on a matter of importance to the welfare and existence of our work, viz: the necessity of receiving in advance, the small sum we have charged for our Paper, and our resolution to insert no names on our List of Subscribers, but

those who shall have actually paid their Subscriptions. This is a "*sine qua non*"—a stern necessity in fact which we wish once for all to impress upon our readers: and on which we have been induced to remark, in consequence of the receipt of numerous orders from various parts of the country, unaccompanied however, we regret to say, by the only key which can open our distribution chest—the money. It is our purpose to circulate, as widely as possible, the first number of our issue, as a sample of what we propose to produce, and we have accordingly never failed to address one to every person from whom, we have received the sort of order above specified. To such we shall be happy the remittance of our future numbers, as soon as their subscriptions are received.

We have at considerable expence, engaged two suitable persons, as our travelling Agents, to make a Tour through the Province, to procure Subscribers. We hope the Farmers generally, will give them a hearty welcome, and assist them, as far as practicable, in their laudable undertaking.

We promised in our last, that the public should hear from us again on the subject of the "Unburnt Brick House." We give below a Communication on the subject, and we feel satisfied it will be perused with pleasure by our readers. The article alluded to came in at such a late hour, that it could not be placed under the head of "Communications", and in order to give it to our readers without delay, we have excluded much interesting selected matter and Engravings.

### [COMMUNICATION].

To the Editor of the British American Cultivator.

Sir:

As you have requested me to furnish you with such information as I possess, respecting the new style of building alluded to in your last, and as I should be truly glad to aid you, in the smallest degree, in your laudable undertaking, especially in attempting to extend the knowledge of an invention in which I have always been deeply interested. I shall not scruple to lay before your readers a plain statement of what I know about it. Perhaps I shall be pardoned for stating, at the outset, that if I am not the person who introduced the fashion into this country, at least I am not aware of any individual attempt of the kind, on this side of the Atlantic, until I erected my driving-house in 1835. Indeed I am a little ambitious on this point; for it would give me the highest gratification to be considered the originator of an invention so useful as this is, and so particularly adapted to the wants of the climate. Nothing, it is said, contributes so much to stamp the character of a people, in the estimation of strangers, as the style of the dwellings they inhabit. Whether, sir, I shall get the credit of a successful projector or not, I can assure you I had my share of the obloquy which projectors have to put up with at the beginning. You would have been amused to have heard the thousand reflections cast upon my judgment by passers-by, when they found me

occupied in "building with mud." Some said that of course the first rains would wash it all level, and that there would be no passing along the turnpike road for the dirt which would inundate it. Others did not go that length, but were nevertheless quite positive that it would never stand the intense frosts of this country, which, they said, would crumble it into dust in a single season. Taken as a body, the only gentlemen who gave me an encouraging word, were those of Dutch descent, who frequently said, "let it go on, that will do, that is a good invention." With the generality of people my poor hand-work was as much an object of ridicule as ever the palace which the Russian Empress built of ice could be to the beholders. You will not therefore think it strange that I should wish to get the credit of it, now the thing has succeeded. Great improvements have been effected, by myself and others, in the details, since that my first effort. And, proceeding from this, as the head quarters of the system, this style of building has been more and more adopted, in many instances by gentlemen of the first consequence, without my having yet heard of a case where any one is dissatisfied with it on trial. Since finding that it so fully answered my expectations, I have lost no opportunity of recommending it to others on every occasion, and I know that you will be doing a great public good, and gain applause for yourself by widely extending, as you sir will have the power of doing, the knowledge of this method through the province. That I consider the material quite good enough for the construction of a handsome house, is proved by the attempt which my friends and neighbours know I have been engaged this last summer in making, to produce a dwelling which shall not do discredit to the township. I have been also repeatedly applied to for instructions by gentlemen anxious to adopt this plan, and have sent workmen in consequence into various districts, and in two or three instances into the States.

You call this style, as many others do, "the unburnt brick house," and we frequently also hear it called "mud-building." I would not quarrel with the name of anything, if it was not calculated to mislead.—And as I think it of consequence to give this art a correct appellation, I will venture to suggest the name of "clay-building."—The first thought which "unburnt-brick" conveys, is of the very thing which the brick-maker produces, except that it is not burnt. This is by no means the case, and persons unacquainted with the matter, excepting by the name, might dismiss it, as being an absurd thing to save the expence of burning where fuel is so cheap. On the other hand, persons hearing it called "mud-building," might hastily suppose that any soil in the state commonly called mud would serve the purpose, and this might lead to lamentable failures. If you call it "clay-building," you name it after an ingredient which it must possess in order to succeed, and possessing which in any considerable proportion, it can hardly fail. The Devou-

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