

COURSE OF THE SEASONS.

The winter is fairly established at Christmas.—In January, as in the other North American Colonies, there is the usual thaw ; in February is the deepest snow, which seldom exceeds four feet on the average in the northern portion of the Province, and three feet in the southern portion. In March, the sun acquires much power, and the snows begin to melt. In the cleared country the snow disappears in April, and spring ploughing commences. Seed-time continues, according to the season, from the last week in April until the end of May. In June, the apple trees are in full blossom ; in July, wild strawberries of fine flavour are ripe and in abundance ; haying then begins. In August, early potatoes are brought to market, as also raspberries and other wild fruits. In September, oats, wheat, and other cereal grains are ready for the sickle ; these are generally secured before October. The autumn is long, and the weather is then delicious ; this is decidedly the most pleasant portion of the year. There are usually heavy rains in November ; but when not wet, the weather is fine and pleasant ; the rivers generally close during the latter part of this month, and in December winter fairly sets in.

From numerous returns which were furnished to Professor Johnston from all parts of the Province, the following facts were deduced. The average interval between the earliest sowing and latest ploughing,—or mean length of summer—is six months and twenty-two days. Of this period, the growth of wheat and crops of spring corn, requires an average of three months and seventeen days. After reaping the corn crops, there is generally about seven weeks clear for ploughing before winter sets in. Before the average sowing time in spring, there is usually about six weeks, during which ploughing and other preparatory treatment of the land can be carried on.

The number of days during which rain impedes the operations of the British farmer, is notoriously very great ; and in those parts of the United Kingdom where the soil is of a peculiarly tenacious character it not only shortens the period