

SELF FLATTERY.—It often amuses me to hear men impute all their misfortunes to fate, luck, or destiny; while their successes or good fortune they ascribe to their own sagacity, cleverness, or penetration. It never occurs to such minds, that light and darkness are one and the same, emanating from, and being part of the same nature.

EARLY RISING.—Dean Swift says, he never knew a man to rise to eminence who lay in bed of a morning. and Dr. Franklin says, "he who rises late may trot all day, but never overtake his business."



THE CULTIVATOR.

"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practice, and every inquirer into nature improve"—Dr. Johnson.

Toronto, May, 1842.

"Let it be remembered, then, that agriculture is the immediate source of human provision, that trade conduces to the production of provisions only as it promotes agriculture; that the whole system of commerce, vast and various as it is, hath no other public importance than its subserviency to this end."

"Suppose a fertile, but empty island, to be within the reach of a country, in which arts and manufactures are already established; suppose a colony sent out from such a country, to take possession of such an island, and to live there under the protection and authority of their native government; the new settlers will naturally convert their labour to the cultivation of the vacant soil, and with the produce of that soil, will draw a supply of manufactures from their countrymen at home. Whilst the inhabitants continue few, the land's cheap and fresh, the colonists will find it easier and more profitable to raise corn, or rear cattle, and with corn and cattle to purchase woollen cloth, for instance, or linen, than to spin or weave these articles for themselves. The mother country, meanwhile, derives from this connection an increase both of provision and employment. It promotes at once the two great requisites upon which the facility of subsistence, and by consequence the state of population depends,—production and distribution; and this in a manner the most direct and beneficial. No situation can be imagined more favourable to population, than that of a country which works up goods for others, whilst those others are cultivating new tracts of land for them; for as, in a general climate, and from a fresh soil, the labour of one man will raise enough of provisions for ten, it is manifest that where all are employed in agriculture, much the greater part of the produce will be spared from the consumption, and that three out of four, at least, of those who are maintained by it, will reside in the country which receives the redundancy."—Paley.

Writers on Philosophy and Political Economy, though mistakers in many of their opinions, have nevertheless, conferred great benefits upon mankind. Their works, however valuable, it is true, are not so much read as they deserve to be, and, perhaps, were we to refer to the statistics of a public library, we should find that the lightest, and most worthless novel, would have a hundred readers, for one who would read a work on Philosophy or Political Economy. Mr. Alison, in his work on the "Principles of Population," says:

"No doubt among every thousand of mankind there may possibly be found forty or fifty, who would derive pleasure from the discoveries of science or the pursuits of literature and philosophy, but unquestionably there never will be found more than that number. The remaining nineteen-twentieths will be accessible only to

physical enjoyments, or excitation of the fancy. This is not peculiar to the lower orders, it pervades alike every walk of life—the Peers, the Commons, the Church, the Bar, the Army."

It is no wonder then, that the great mass of mankind, and even those who pass for the best educated portion of them, should be ignorant of many subjects which they ought to be thoroughly acquainted with, and we cannot help attributing to this circumstance, many of the evils which mankind have to endure. We conceive it to be absolutely necessary, that those who take an active and leading part in legislation, or in the direction of any department of public affairs, should be men of extensive reading, and that this reading should not be confined to works connected with the particular professions to which individuals may belong. Without this general knowledge, we cannot see how men would be qualified to act in those capacities, with credit to themselves, or advantage to the community. But we must return to our subject.

We may now be permitted to enquire, how far the principal trade and commerce, at present carried on between Great Britain and the Canada's, "conduces to the production of provisions, and promotes agriculture." Also, why it is that, in a general climate, and from a fresh and fertile soil, the labour of one man does not raise provisions enough for ten?

We reply, that the most valuable part of the trade and commerce carried on between the British Isles, and our only sea-port at Quebec, consists in the produce of a foreign country, transported through Canada, and in which the Canadian farmers have scarcely any part or interest whatever! We see our fine lands lying waste, or badly cultivated, and we become the carriers of the agricultural produce of a foreign state, upon the navigable waters that intersect our own neglected lands! And so far is it from one man being able to raise food for ten, the agricultural population of Canada East and West, scarcely raise food sufficient for themselves, notwithstanding that they possess a most fertile soil, and general climate! If the causes which have produced these results, is not an important subject of inquiry for our legislature, we confess we know not what would be worthy their attention. We can safely say, that trade and commerce does not promote agriculture with us, and that our vast tracts of fertile land, does not enable us to raise a produce that we could exchange for the manufactures of the mother country; and hence the greater part of the advantage which our connection with Britain, and our situation and circumstances, every way, ought to afford us, are lost to us, and obtained by a rival and foreign nation.

No doubt can exist, that the only true basis of wealth in British America, is the abundance of her fertile land. To make this wealth available, however, we must expend capital and labour upon these lands to bring them into profitable production. Every hindrance that exists to the accomplishment of this good, it is our duty to remove, or provide against if possible, without any regard to sectional or temporary advantages.—The increase of our population and the improvement of our lands, ought to be the grand object to be aimed at in preference to every other purpose whatever. Connected as we are with the richest country on earth, "whose capital has been liberally given in loan to foreigners, both in Europe and on this Continent, we might reasonably

expect we would not want for capital, if we could only offer security and profit. We might also hope for abundant supply of labour, of our countrymen, who are idle at home. How do wise men expect this country to improve and prosper, unless by successful agriculture, supported by capital, labour, abundant produce, and remunerating prices? We take leave to tell them plainly, it cannot improve and prosper by any other means. Carrying the produce of the United States, (when they have any to spare that they can dispose of), upon the Western lakes, the canals, and River St. Lawrence, to Quebec, will never cultivate the millions of acres of forest land we possess in Canada, or give us a full population, and the means of supporting them. We may well apply the words of Dr. Paley to this country, when he says:—

"The importance of population, and the superiority of it to every other national advantage, are points necessary to be inculcated, and to be well understood; in as much as false estimates, or fantastic notions of national grandeur, are perpetually drawing the attention of statesmen and legislators from the care of this, which is at all times, the true and absolute interests of a country."

Again he says:—

"Whatever be the native advantages of the soil, or even the skill or industry of the occupier, the want of a sufficient capital confines every plan, as well as cripples and weakens every operation of husbandry. This evil is felt where agriculture is accounted a servile, or mean employment."

Truly agriculture will be felt a mean and servile employment in Canada, where there is not sufficient capital to carry it on properly, and where the returns from it are so unprofitable as to discourage the investment of capital in agriculture. And if we consider, as we justly might, we presume, that population would be the true and absolute interest of this country, how do we act with respect to the adoption of measures to increase our population? Are we not conscious that hundreds of thousands of our fellow-countrymen, have emigrated from the British Isles within the last few years, not to people the vast and fertile forests of British America, but to add to the population, and people the "Far West" country of a foreign and rival nation. We do not even offer sufficient encouragement to emigrants who land on our shores at Quebec and Montreal, to remain with us, and settle in Canada, because thousands of those who do land here, only make Canada the high-way to the United States. This is passing strange, and we decidedly attribute it to the depressed state of our agriculture, arising from various causes, that are capable of remedy.

We have seen by some late reports, that the probable average number of emigrants, that annually leave the British Isles for the United States, are from thirty to forty thousand, besides those who come to Quebec, and go through Canada to the same country. The whole, we believe, would not be less than fifty thousand British born subjects, who annually leave their father-land, and settle in a foreign country. Of these, there would be fifteen thousand able-bodied men capable of work, and able to create much over their consumption, besides women, who would be employed in the fields, houses, and manufactures. The advantages, or we should more correctly say, the actual gain, to the United States, circumstanced as she is, of such a valuable accession of working population, could not be estimated at less value than one million