

the day is not far distant when scientific farming will become general. Your Committee cannot allow the present opportunity to pass without endeavouring to impress upon your minds, the importance of obtaining some of the many valuable periodicals that are now being published; and among these may be noticed, *The Farmer's Manual* published at Fredericton by Mr. Phillips, at the low price of *Five Shillings* per annum, a work which promises to be servicable.

Colman, in speaking of the high degree of importance which attaches to agricultural pursuits, remarks,—“Agriculture is the art of all arts, the foundation of true wealth, a source of rational pleasure and useful occupation, and the great conservator of morals. Its indispensableness must be universally acknowledged. It is necessary to human subsistence. Gold and silver are the mere exponents of wealth; and a man might command the mines of Golconda and heap up his accumulations of money as high as the Andes, and yet starve in the midst of them. Agriculture is the source of many of the luxuries of life. It is favorable to morals.”

If the sentiments here advanced be warranted in truth, and they are evidently of more than doubtful correctness, how necessary that due attention be paid to that which is so highly conducive to human happiness.

In this province an argument is frequently drawn from the disadvantageous character of the soil and climate, as a reason for that apathy to which reference has been made. But who that properly acquaints himself with the properties of our soil will discover that the true cause of complaint, although carefully and studiously kept in the back ground, is referable more to an ardent thirst for engagement in other and apparently more lucrative pursuits than to the cause assigned. It has been asserted that no section of the country short of the Mississippi equals New Brunswick and the St. John river, especially for the extensive fertile Intervals; and few countries can present superior upland to that which may be found in all parts of the County of Carleton. The brief duration of summer, with the length and severity of winter, affords, in the opinion of some, a substantial reason for emigration to the south; but it must be conceded even by these, that if the season of vegetation be short, it progress is proportionally rapid. Look for instance at the present year, during which the extreme of heat to which we have been accustomed has been unfelt; the warm season of only ordinary length, and yet crops of all kinds have been abundant. Oats, Potatoes, and Buckwheat, are superior in quality, and exceedingly plentiful in quantity. The Wheat crop has been injured to some extent by the Weevil; but we have yet to learn that the ravages of this destructive insect are peculiar to this Province or to this country. It has migrated from the Southward; and it is highly probable that in a few years we shall be freed from its attacks. It is generally believed that a small fly deposits an egg while the head is forming, which in due time produces a very small worm known by the appellation of “the Weevil,” and of these a number have sometimes been found on one kernel. Notwithstanding the prevalence of the Weevil in this country, the wheat crop may be rated at two thirds of an average. The quantity sown far exceeded that of any former year, and the uninjured grain is of an excellent quality. Various means have been suggested as remedies, among which may be noticed the following: while the grain is heading and when it is in

milk, mix tar and brimstone together, and set the mixture on fire; then before sunrise pass along on the windward side of the grain, and allow the smoke to settle upon it, while wet with dew. The Editor of the New Brunswick *Farmer's Manual* says he has been credibly informed that this method has proved effectual. The proposed remedy is certainly a cheap one, and well worth a trial.

In view of the bounties of Providence which are showered around us, we, instead of repining at those apparently adverse circumstances under which we are sometimes called upon to suffer, ought to exhibit our sense of gratitude to Him who crowns the year with his goodness, and in humble reliance upon his protection, exercise a spirit of contentment with the lot assigned to us.

The present anniversary closes the fourth year of this Society's existence, and your Committee cannot allow themselves to doubt that, although its operations have been met with opposition, both of a direct and indirect character, it has in some degree, at least, succeeded in effecting improvements, the full value whereof, future years can alone determine. For the last two years especially, a degree of lassitude, in relation to the objects in view, seems to have been strikingly evinced, and although proper means have been employed to bring the claims of the Society beneath the notice of the public, these efforts have been in some instances treated with scorn, and in others with the utmost indifference. But those who are desirous of seeing the resources of the county fully developed, and endeavour to accomplish their purpose by the adoption of such means as have elsewhere proved successful, are not disposed easily to be deterred from the prosecution of their design, and they are well assured that the lapse of years will dissipate the prejudices of many who at present are unwilling to lend their aid.

To this Society the public are indebted for those facilities, which have been, and still are afforded, of obtaining Seeds, Implements, &c., of the most approved description, at such prices as place them within the reach of all. Sales of articles have been always made to members at prices, never exceeding the actual cost and charges of importation; and in some instances which might here be named, at a saving to the consumer of from thirty-three and one third to fifty per cent., and the only equivalent required is the annual payment of *Five Shillings*. In making purchases your Committee have ever sought to obtain such articles as appeared most useful; and have taken especial pains that their imported seed should be free from foul and noxious weeds. Some inconvenience may have been felt during the past year in consequence of this principle being firmly acted upon, but your Committee are well aware that of two evils the greater one has been avoided.

In the Report of last year, reference was made to the purchase and subsequent sale of an Entire Horse on the Society's account.—Your Committee are gratified to learn that, so far as time will admit of an opinion being formed, the Stock raised from this animal appears well calculated to answer the expectations previously entertained.

In order to carry more fully into effect, the Society's designs with reference to an improvement in the breed of cattle, your Committee in the month of December last ordered from England a Herefordshire Bull, which arrived safely in this Province in June last, in fine order, and in appearance such as to warrant the large outlay made in the purchase. The cost and expenses chargeable