

# Agricultural Journal

AND

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

LOWER CANADA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MONTREAL, MARCH, 1848.

It should not be any longer a matter of doubt that there is a moral obligation upon the inhabitants of every country to provide for the judicious cultivation of the land where the climate and soil are favourable for it. The Creator has placed the means of comfortable existence at the disposal of his creatures, and in proportion, as man improves these means, will be the amount of his comforts, and enjoyments. It is scarcely necessary to offer any arguments to prove that nearly the whole amount of the necessaries and comforts that can be possessed by the human family, are derived, directly and indirectly, from the land, and that they cannot exceed what the products of the land will furnish. The forests and mines of Canada may augment her products, but only in a very small proportion to what she *might* derive from her Agriculture under an improved system. Our manufactures, however extensive they may become, will depend for support upon Canadian customers, and this custom will be in proportion to the prosperous state of Agriculture. One depends upon the other, but Agriculture is the first and principal means that must set the whole machinery in active and prosperous motion, and hence how manifestly it becomes the duty and interest of *all* to give every possible support and encouragement to Agricultural improvement, as the only means that can give permanent support to commerce, manufactures, and all other business and professions, and for the payment of revenue. However unwilling to come to this conclusion, we may make up our minds that no interest in Canada can be permanently prosperous, if our Agriculture is not

in an improving and healthy condition. If these facts were to receive the consideration they deserve, this country would soon exhibit a decided change for the better, as all would find themselves interested in producing the change. It is in vain to expect any general union for advancing the improvement and prosperity of Agriculture, unless it can be made to appear beyond all doubt, that such improvement would be advantageous to the whole community. If to any country on earth Agriculture is all important, it must be so to Canada, and to all her inhabitants, in town and country, because its products must give the chief support to trade, commerce, manufactures, and the means for paying revenue and taxes. Some may dispute our propositions, but we do not imagine they can be disproved. Gold and silver would have no real value if the productions of land and Agriculture could not be had in exchange for them; neither could manufactured goods have any value, or indeed have existence. Those who desire to see this beautiful country furnishing ample means of comfortable living to all its inhabitants, should "begin at the beginning," remove every impediment that would check, or, in any way, obstruct the proper cultivation of the land, provide instruction and encouragement where necessary, and adopt, promptly, all such measures as would be best calculated to insure the improvement of our Agriculture, and the augmentation of its products, in quantity and value. We have already stated that the annual income and expenditure of the inhabitants of Canada (except those who have incomes from other countries) must be derived from the produce annually created, and cannot exceed this amount; and if this be admitted, it will certainly be of some importance, that our products should be as abundant and valuable as we can possibly make them. This is a matter that cannot be safely left in the hands of agriculturists, in their present circumstances, to improve their system of Agriculture, or let it alone, as they may feel disposed. The period