

The Farmer's Journal

September 1857.

To our Readers.

The editing of a Journal is, always, a very hard duty, but when this paper has to discourse upon agricultural questions, often controvertible, when it has to blame practices which time and habit have made sacred, when it has to propagate new methods, which have not yet been acknowledged to be good by local experience, the duty of the Editor, is not only difficult, but too often beyond his skill.

But there is our agriculture, our principal industry, now abandoned to the errors of routine!... Our rural populations, justly accused of routines they ought not to be reproached with.... Our young proprietors, who, forgetful of the duties attached to rank and fortune, desert their colours and emigrate to towns, fascinated by the splendour of liberal professions and disdaining industry... Unhappily this sketch is true and too painful, we cannot hesitate... However heavy the burthen we accept it. May our humble efforts attain the result we desire.

If an aged gentleman, sustained by his zeal for our agriculture, has found vigor and energy enough to start this journal, in his adoptive country... would it not be a cowardice for the young Canadian to fall back before the breach so bravely opened? The work is commenced.... let us continue the publication of that paper, which, for all thorough agriculturists, will always be the finest monument raised in honour of the memory of its founder.

Agricultural industry, in order to attract intelligence and capital; must inform our farmers of all the improvements made every

day whether at home or in foreign countries, this is our understanding of what the journal should be. For that, until experience on the ground has given us the right of suggesting methods which we will be ready to certify good.... Our motto will be freely "*spargere, collecta.*" About four years of serious studies in the best schools of France and England, agricultural excursions in France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Switzerland and Italy, have too well proved to us all we had to learn, to disdain, *in all agricultural discussions...* to consult our best authors.—We will always receive with gratitude, all correspondences on questions of theoretical or practical agriculture.... We even confess we will not be able to give thorough practical information, unless our best farmers will favour us with the results of their experience.

Relying upon the benevolence of the reader we begin this first number: the number of our subscribers will tell us whether or not we have their approbation.

The editor,

J. PERBAULT.

Provincial Agricultural Show.

The Grand Annual Fair will now soon take place, and it promises to be in every respect worthy of Montreal and of the Province—A large field of 25 acres, at Pointe St. Charles, near the Grand Trunk Depot, is at the disposal of the Agricultural Association and the necessary sheds for Cattle and produce are already built up.

If we can judge by the programme of the Show, the farmer will see specimens of the best foreign and native breeds. There is then a study to be made and we will take the liberty of pointing out to the reader, the foreign breeds which we consider the best types for the production of beef, milk, labour and wool.