

was comparatively unknown; but now that these lands have for a series of years been subjected to a pernicious system of culture, their energies are so completely exhausted that their returns will hardly repay the mere labour of their cultivators, or afford to them a scanty subsistence. Their owners are thus forced into the market for a supply of food for themselves, and their families; and thus have the foundations of embarrassments been laid, that have at length led to the removal of many from the lands that their industry reclaimed from the forest. I mean not in thus stating known facts, to insinuate that these ruinous results have been entailed, by want of industry, but merely from the want of that knowledge that is required to insure an abundant return from the labour bestowed; and in illustration of this, I will just mention one fact, which is, that while our lands in general, after the stimulus derived from the removal of the forest by fire, has been exhausted, demand the fertilizing energies of lime towards restoring them, yet the use of this invaluable fossil as a manure, is as yet hardly known. Just let me ask what was Great Britain as an Agricultural country before the introduction of lime as a manure, when as I have already said only 16 bushels of grey oats could be obtained, where now nearly twice the quantity of good wheat is raised.

If our present defective system requires farther illustration, let us just take a peep at our manure heaps. How are these managed? Are they secured from the wasting influences of sun, rain, wind and snow, while accumulating, or are they exposed to the wasting effects of all these. It is indisputable that the fertilizing principle in the manure resides, not in that which constitutes its solid particles, but in its liquid and gaseous parts, which are only held by the other until extracted from them by the soil; and if previously washed out, bleached and exhaled, of what value as a manure can the dry remains be? Truly not equal in many instances to as much dried beech leaves or saw dust. And who, from carting out such materials only, could expect to reap bountiful crops? Or even any crops from lands previously exhausted by injudicious and excessive cropping. An old woman might as well spread her tea leaves to the influences of the sun, winds and rains for half a year before using them and then expect to enjoy from their infusion a cup of good strong tea; as a farmer from the injudicious management of his manure just described, to raise an abundant crop, or even any crop at all.

It is evident therefore that our soil in general, possesses very superior energies to enable us to exist under our present mode of cultivation; and he who has travelled over our Island in the spring, knows best how many he has seen, of snow washed, rain bleached, sun dried dunghills; the farmer's hope for the ensuing season, and the source from which he vainly expects to derive a bountiful return for his toil.

Well—perhaps some of my hearers think they will abandon their bleaching system of preparing manure; and will carefully roof it over, and defend it from the wasting influences of the elements. They do so; and still unacquainted with the process of preparing manure, they find their heaps in the spring to be what is technically styled *fire-fanged*, and equally useless as that prepared by their former mode. Fools that we were, they exclaim, to listen to this visionary innovator. His new fangled schemes are all folly. He has picked up a smattering of farming from books, and would persuade us to believe that he knows every thing about it, while his actual ignorance is greater than our own. He would induce us to form Farming Societies, just for the purpose of getting our half dollars. He got one from me for his new nonsense last year, but let him catch another for such folly when he can. I am done for

ever with him and his Societies; and shall in the good old way, throw the manure out of doors this season, the rain and snows will wash out the poison, and the sun beams and March winds will render it quite light and pleasant for my poor hungry oxen, when hauling it out in the spring. This easy method our forefathers found out and taught us, and they acquired their knowledge from experience; and not by droning over books. I am forever done with these ignorant bookish fellows, that never handled a spadeful of manure in their lives, and therefore know nothing about it, and out for ever goes my name from their books and their money catching Societies!

It is plain therefore that something more with respect to the proper mode of making good manure, remains to be learned than simply to house it from the weather; and to acquire this, as well as the knowledge that is indispensable towards ensuring success in Agriculture, is just one of the principal uses of Agricultural Societies. But it may be necessary, before the science and practice of Agriculture are viewed by our farmers in the highly respectable light in which they have been deservedly placed in Great Britain and in every enlightened country, to attempt to remove the prejudice that in this country seems to prevail against farmers. The cultivator of the soil here, is looked down on as a being of inferior grade. As a kind of Helot or Pariah, whose rank is contemptible, whose company is degrading; nay whose very touch is polluting. Would that I possessed the ability to combat this mistaken opinion, and successfully to place its fallacy in its true light. In the parent country, whose gradations of rank in the scale of society, may with great justice, form a rule for our guidance, the independent cultivator of his own freehold, holds a deservedly high and respected situation in society; and takes precedence of many, who in this country are pleased in their self-exaltation to look down on the independent farmer, and to consider him as a being far their inferior. This undue assumption of superiority ought to be treated by the farmer with the contempt it so richly merits. Its effects are injurious to his best temporal interests in no small degree; one of its most prominent and perhaps most injurious effects, is to impress on the minds of his offspring a fallacious idea that the labours of the farmer are mean and degrading: that to be seen following the plough or even engaged in any of the duties of a farmer, is almost ignominious. It may aid the farmer in checking this mistaken opinion, to be made fully aware of the respectability of his position in society, and of his undoubted right of precedence of all those, who in this country have arrogated to themselves a superiority over him. And I trust that the day may not be far distant when the sons of our independent yeomen will duly be able to discriminate between the respectability that attaches to their situation, when guiding their own plough, compared with what they now erroneously suppose to appertain to them, when stationed in some public office or behind a counter. But I must again repeat, that without associations for the advancement of our Agriculture it cannot possibly advance. Its success, and the consequent comfort, happiness and respectability of our farmers depend solely on the extent of scientific skill and manual dexterity brought into action.

Our Legislature, now aware of the importance of an improved system of Agriculture, and for the necessity of our adopting such as the true basis of the prosperity of our country, has, with that wisdom that distinguishes every enlightened government, voted, this last session, sums for the sole purpose of encouraging Agriculture. But while these sums have thus judiciously been appropriated, there has also an equally judicious condition been enacted,