



"Agriculture not only gives Riches to a Nation, but the only Riches she can call her own."

New Series.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1847.

Vol. III. No. 4.

Management of Land for Spring Crops.

THIS of all other operations on the farm is of the most importance to the practical agriculturist at this season of the year. At a period like the present, when millions of human beings are in actual danger of starvation—it certainly behoves every farmer, both in Canada and other Agricultural countries, to make use of every proper means to increase the productions of the soil to the greatest possible degree. Although it would be extremely difficult to devise any mode of managing land that could be profitably practiced on *all* soils, still the importance of the subject forbids silence when we feel confident that the suggestions we have to offer, if honestly put in practice by the Farmers of Canada, will be productive of an almost incalculable amount of good.

SPRING WHEAT.—The land intended for this crop should have been prepared late in last autumn, so that the seed could have been sown by the middle of this month, or as soon as the ground becomes sufficiently dry to harrow properly. Where this arrangement has been made, the very earliest opportunity should be embraced to put in the seed. As an evidence that spring wheat cannot be sown

too soon, we may refer to the fact that in the Townships bordering on Lake Simcoe, it has become a very prevalent practice, to sow it late in the autumn, just before the ground closes up with frost, by which means ten bushels per acre have been added; and indeed we have repeatedly tested early sowing on our own farm, and have become convinced that the earlier the seed is sown the better, provided that the land be in good order for harrowing at the time of sowing.—If the land has to be ploughed in the spring the sooner it can be done the better, for as it has been already stated, it is of the greatest consequence to get in the seed early. In some sections of the country it is becoming a very popular method to plough in the autumn, harrow in the spring, and rib the land with a one horse plough, so that the seed, when sown broadcast, falls in the bottom of the furrows, by which means the plants come up in rows from ten to twelve inches asunder, as regularly as if the seed was drilled with a machine. This system has been found to increase the average yield on deep rich soils, and if practiced on light soils—such as produce short crops of straw—and the land cleaned twice in the early part of the season with a horse hoe, which might