

If other parties take as much trouble in answering the questions, as we have done to make out those we conceived necessary, much good will result from our united labours. No true patriot will decline to reply, if they are capable of doing so. It is not right to shift our duty to our country upon other parties, rather than perform it ourselves, and this is constantly done in Canada, particularly in everything connected with our Agriculture. We trust it will be no longer the case, but that every true friend to the country will unite in doing all in their power to promote the improvement and prosperity of Agriculture.

THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN EUROPE.

By James F. W. Johnston, F. R. S., &c.

ITALY.—From Holland turn for a moment to Italy, in which country drainage works somewhat akin to those of the Dutch, form the proudest monuments of which even that famed land can boast, of the victory which persevering intelligence can achieve over the difficulties and seeming hostilities of nature. Did time permit, I might present to you a most interesting historical sketch of the changes in Agricultural condition and capability which that country has undergone from the period of the ancient Etrurians to the present day. And to the man of science, such a sketch would be the more interesting, from the circumstance that in all the changes which have taken place, the physical and geological structure of the country, has exercised a far more prominent influence than either the remarkable industry and constructive skill of the Etruscan inhabitants, or the hostile incursions of its foreign invaders. To the rich alluvial plains of Lombardy, of which rice and Indian corn and wheat, and abundant milk are the natural productions; and to Tuscany, in which something of the ancient industry and persevering practical skill of the old Etrurians still survives, the agricultural enquirer must proceed, to see the bright side of Italian cultivation. But it is in Tuscany chiefly that he will find the most interesting evidence of the conquering power of the living mind over the obstacles of physical nature. The Maremme of Tuscany and the marshes of the Val di Chiama, like the Campagna and Pontine marshes of the Roman dominions, have long breathed forth that pestilential malaria which, like the Summer exhalations of the sea islands and river mouths of your southern states, carries on its wings fever, and lingering ague, and fre-

quent death. It is one of the great modern triumphs of engineering skill, applied to the promotion of rural industry—second only to the gigantic labours of the Dutch, of which I have spoken, and to the artificial drainage of our English fens—that the terrors of the Maremme have in a measure been bridled in—that the Val di Chiama, in so far as it lies within the borders of Tuscany, has been drained and dried—and that cheerful health and rich crops prevail over large tracts of country, in which it used to be almost certain death to linger.

FLANDERS AND BELGIUM.—In Flanders both Belgian and French, you are probably prepared for an admission on my part, of great agricultural skill and success. I am compelled, however, to confess my own impression to be, that a great proportion of what has been written upon Flemish husbandry partakes of the character of a romance. The cultivators of Belgian Flanders have the merit of raising fair crops from certain tracts of poor and sandy soils, of husbanding and applying manures so as to keep such land in culture, and of skillfully varying their crops so as to prevent a premature exhaustion. But no knowledge of the general principles of Agriculture is widely diffused among them. The improvement of wet and heavy clay soils, except by open ditches is almost unknown. Improving implements and thorough drainage, and modern modes of manuring and some small instruction at least in the elements of science as applied to agriculture, have still to be introduced among them, before they can rank in general knowledge or in skilful practice with the farmers in Scotland or England. And indeed, in Belgium as in France, the progressive subdivision of property opposes a growing obstacle to that general amelioration of agricultural practice which the wants of a numerous people and the progress of knowledge demand. Where the average extent of properties and farms over a whole province is already reduced to about an English acre, we cannot look for the introduction of any of those improvements which demand the purchase of new or comparatively costly implements, and rearing and feeding of multitudes of stock, the employment of hired labour, or generally the application of capital to the land. As in Ireland, the subdivision or morselling of the tillage farms, has already, in whole districts, been carried to the starva-limit. As into Ireland, the potato failure brought with it into Belgian Flanders, famine and disease, and large emigration—and notwithstanding all that wise governments can do, it is to be feared that on the recurrence of similar visitations, similar social evils will in both countries again re-appear.

FRANCE.—In France I need hardly inform you that practical agriculture is far in arrear. In Normandy the mixture of Teutonic blood has probably some connection with the super-