

to express the gratification I have derived from a perusal of the proceedings at the March meeting of the Farmer's Club of Hamilton Township, of which John Wade, Esq. is President. The merits and profits of the Durham breed are truthfully portrayed, and ably discussed, and I cannot but think would have proved quite edifying even to Messrs. Sotham and Tye had they favoured the meeting with their presence. I think great credit is due to Mr. Wade for the exertions he has made in introducing so useful a breed of cattle in this vicinity, and for bringing a subject of so much importance before the meeting. I hope that he will still follow up his exertions, and receive the merited re- to which ward he is entitled. And at a meeting of the Farmers of the United Counties of Frontenac, Lennox, and Addington, held subsequently at Kingston, I have still further pleasure in noticing the very able and business-like address of their much respected President (Angus Cameron, Esq.) whose allusion to the Durham breed, will not I fear, assist Mr. Sotham much in the war he has made with so little effect, against that splendid and highly popular herd.

What tack will Mr. S. get on now I wonder to evade such assaults and proof of the enemy. Who knows, but he will endeavour to find another Rev. Mr. Smythies, with the assistance of the partizan Mark Lane *Express* to aid him in his efforts.

The far-famed Durham Bulls "Belleville" and "Bamboo"! and the Short Horn Heifer "Buttercup" alluded to by Mr. Cameron must indeed have been *miserable animals* that they could not take *more premiums* against all other breeds. But perhaps they would, had there been more to take. Does not Mr. S. know, however, that innumerable instances of the kind could be produced, if hunted up. To the latter part of Mr. Tye's letter, I shall have a word in your next number, if time and circumstances will permit, relative to grade cattle and sheep, for I feel that I ought not to have infringed so much on your columns, but the extracts I have thought it necessary to make from my former letter, have lengthened this communication very materially.

I am Dear Sir,

Sincerely yours,

H. PARSONS.

Guelph, Aug. 25, 1852.

#### CULTIVATION OF FRUIT TREES.

MR. EDITOR,—I have read some very interesting essays in your useful paper on the culture of fruit, all of which I dare say are very good and very true, but I am still at a great loss to

know how to get at the best method of cultivating fruit trees so as to know how sufficient moisture is to be kept in a soil naturally dry during the extreme heat and drought of summer, especially if the ground is kept perfectly loose by frequent stirrings, and nothing allowed to grow on it to prevent the powerful rays of a midsummer sun from coming in immediate contact with naked and loose soil, and consequently heating and drying it to an indefinite extent. I have been very careful this year to stir the ground frequently under my trees and to allow nothing to grow on a space as large as the top of the tree. In the first part of the summer the trees grow very well, and so they do yet in moist ground, but in dry ground they seem to suffer much more from drought than they ever did before. The leaves on many of them are withering, and several of them appear to be dying, which I think they would not do if the grass or grain had been suffered to cover the ground. Most cultivators say that we would raise much better fruit if we would stir the ground thoroughly and frequently without raising any other crop on it, and some say it is the best way to have the ground under the tree covered with stones which would keep the ground cold and moist, and prevent weeds and grass from growing without having the roots cut and torn by the plough or spade which I should suppose would injure the tree. I see that in the *Agriculturist* page 215 Vol. III, an American gentleman has recommended mulching very highly which no doubt is very good if it can be properly done. He says not with straw or anything of the sort, but with ground if possible, as far as the roots extend. Now this gentleman is probably perfectly right, but I do not understand him. Does he draw fresh earth into his orchard and continue to fill it up year after year? Surely not. I have no opinions to offer upon those subjects myself, for I have not had sufficient experience. But perhaps you will condescend to enlighten my mind a little farther on the subject, through the medium of your paper, as it is a subject upon which the majority of Canadian farmers, as well as myself, are quite too ignorant and most of them more careless than ignorant.

A YOUNG FARMER.

#### ON THE GROWTH AND PROSPECTS OF FLAX IN THE COUNTY OF PORT NEUF LOWER CANADA.

To the Editor of the *Agriculturist*.

SIR,—On the river Port Neuf in the Parish of Cap-Sante there stands the largest paper-mill in Canada. A stranger to the manufacture views with wondering gaze the various stages