

against the spirit of these, and similar suggestions, when *faithfully* applied, which we certainly do not believe would be generally the case, no other alternative seems to remain, *but the toto' abandonment of wheat growing for, at least, a few years.* This extreme expedient, to which farmers will always most reluctantly resort, was actually carried out some years since in the Lower Province, in the Eastern States, and more recently in some sections of the adjoining State of New York; and the ultimate results have unquestionably been beneficial. We are in a much better position now to forego,—if we should really come to that,—the raising of wheat, than we should have been only a few years since, when that article was almost the only one for which the farmer could readily obtain cash. It is not so now. Notwithstanding the serious loss and inconvenience which Canada would experience by being deprived of her usual wheat crop, for which hitherto our soil and climate have proved so highly favorable; still we must not despond, as the growing of wheat does not comprehend the whole of our agriculture. Spring grains, and especially the breeding, rearing and fattening of improved breeds of live stock, could be beneficially made to occupy a more prominent and profitable position, than has hitherto been the case; and in the course of a few years the soil would be refreshed for the growth of wheat, under new and more favorable circumstances.

But to this extreme alternative, we hope and believe that there is no necessity to go. A vigorous and systematic effort to avert the present threatening destruction of our hitherto staple crop, must be unitedly and immediately made. The evil is already in our midst, and is seriously impairing both the agricultural and commercial well being of the country. We earnestly entreat our farmers to confine their wheat culture to naturally suitable soils, and to increase that suitability by all the appliances of improved systems of husbandry they can command. Of wheat, and perhaps some other kinds of grain—for a while at least,—*cultivate less and cultivate better.* Land exhausted by too frequently recurring grain crops, when properly laid down to pasture, will become gradually enriched and restored by the grazing of cattle and sheep, which can now be made a profitable branch of husbandry. Hemp and flax, and probably some other crops, not yet tried, might be advantageously introduced. We earnestly invite communications from such of our readers, in different parts of the Province, as may have any information or suggestions to offer on this very important and engrossing subject. There never was a time in the history of our yet but incipient agriculture, when careful thought and observation, united with energetic and combined action, were more urgently required than at the present juncture.

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## THE DOMESTICATED ANIMALS.

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### THE SHORT-HORNED BREED.

[Continued from page 6.]

In the briefest and most rapid sketch of the history of the Shorthorn cattle, a respectful mention ought to be made of the valuable services of Mr. George Coates, to whom we are indebted for the origination of the well known "*Herd Book*," for recording the pedigrees of this widely renowned breed. Mr. Coates was the owner of a superior breed of Shorthorns, possessing great size and strong constitutions, but somewhat coarse, when compared with subsequent herds, more closely and finely bred. His bull *Patriot* was disposed of for four hundred guineas.

The great distinguishing characteristic of this breed of cattle is the astonish-