

But as many young men are brought up farmers without any mechanical trade, and are unwilling, after arriving at mature years, to serve an apprenticeship, their attention is naturally called to the cultivation of the soil, the best method of acquiring a farm and a comfortable settlement, and the manner of cultivating it to the best possible advantage, and making it produce the most profitable crop with the least labor and expense.

In considering these important matters it is the intention of the writer to consider the capabilities of the soil and climate of New Brunswick as compared with that of neighbouring countries—the present imperfect method of cultivation, and some reasons why farmers may fail as well as other professions: together with the great necessity of studying Agriculture as a science, and advocating the profession of the farmer as one of the first respectability. If, in attempting to arrange these different subjects, he should fail in adopting a regular method, or for convenience happen to confound one with the other, and occasionally jumble them together like a hurried harvest season in New Brunswick, the writer claims the indulgence of a generous public. If he succeeds in effecting any improvement in his profession, and thereby serving his country, he will consider himself amply rewarded, and remain its devoted servant,

A FARMER.

Sunbury, April 15, 1844.

LETTER I.

The *Soil* of New Brunswick may well be considered superior to most other countries, and it has larger tracts of alluvial than any neighbouring country of its size. No River short of the great Mississippi abounds in such extensive and fertile intervals as the River St. John.

It is true there are some tracts of rocky or barren land, but they are generally of small extent, and not more than the neighbouring settlements may require for woodland, for which purpose they should always be left; and there are likewise a few tracts of turf bog, which may be necessary at some future day when fuel becomes scarce.

The numerous navigable Rivers, Lakes and Streams with which the country abounds cannot fail to afford encouragement to its cultivation, and give effect to enterprise. The immense Lime beds, extensive quarries of Gypsum, and abundance of Granite, so wisely distributed in different sections of the country, on the shores of navigable Rivers and Bays, may well be admired as a rich gift from an all-wise Creator, who has dispensed his favors on New Brunswick with great profusion.

The *Climate* of New Brunswick is allowed to be severe, and it is certain the extremes of heat and cold are very great. It is affirmed that in extreme cold the thermometer has been down to 23 degrees below zero, but this is an extreme, for at 12 degrees it is allowed to be very cold weather. In Summer the mercury has been known to rise to 91 degrees, but this is also considered extremely hot, and lasts but for a short time in the day.

In the interior snow generally comes in November and remains on the ground until April, and this is called a long Winter; but when the Spring arrives people are generally as much hurried to finish their sledging as they are to conclude their harvest in the Autumn—a plain proof that winter has its advantages as well as disadvantages.

All kinds of grain excepting Indian Corn grow well in every County in the Province. Indian Corn will not grow near the Seaboard or Bays, where fogs prevail. A man who has spent two or

three years in the State of New York (and on whose authority the greatest confidence may be placed,) affirms that near the western part of the State the snow came in October, 1842, and continued until January, when it was swept off for a short space with a great rain. He left that country on the 23d of October, 1843, and then the snow was five inches deep, and the Indian Corn, not having ripened, was still standing in many fields unharvested.

So it is evident that other countries are subject to adverse seasons as well as this. If our Seasons are shorter and climate colder than the far famed Western America, our produce is as certain and far more profitable, and our health much better.

Indian Corn planted about the last of May may do for green corn about the 24th of August, and be ripe about the middle of September; Wheat will grow from the seed to maturity in eighty-five days, and Buckwheat in seventy days. About 1816 there was the coldest summer ever known in this Province, but Wheat, Oats and Potatoes planted in due season came to maturity; likewise garden fruits and vegetables—a plain proof that a careful farmer is never entirely disappointed in his crop, or frustrated in his laudable designs.

But when the farmer allows himself to be led into the forest in search of wealth, to the neglect of his farm—when he is led to believe that Timber is obtained with little expense, and that it is much pleasanter gliding down the river with a fine raft than to be following the plough—alarmed at the amount of expense of his undertaking in lumber, and disappointed in his prospect he endeavours still to hold his farm from sinking—his business becomes divided, his interests separated, and he is fortunate indeed if he is not eventually ruined.

By such methods as farmers engrossing too many occupations, the business of the farmer is most grossly neglected, slighted, hurried, and wasted, ploughing and harrowing imperfectly performed on fields unprepared and injudiciously selected; manures wasted in the air for want of mixture and shelter, provender for stock nearly wasted by feeding it in such a manner as not to make the animals improve, fields ploughed for twenty years in succession and others mowed for forty, because “we can never get time to prepare them for the change.” Such is the manner and method of some who ought to be farmers in every section of this country, even in situations where they are surrounded by careful, industrious men, who manage better.

To recommend a better method, and excite to more enterprise in the profession, shall continue the object of

A FARMER.

LETTER II.

Having for more than thirty years past taken great interest in general improvement, having become generally acquainted with different sections of the Province—visited many harbors and islands on the sea-board as well as some neighboring countries: having carefully observed the different soils, modes of culture and productions, I have long witnessed with much regret the general apathy and want of enterprise among the Agriculturists of New Brunswick. I have endeavoured generally to ascertain the cause of this apathy, and have seldom failed of coming to a satisfactory conclusion.

Among the settlers arriving here in 1783, and previous to that time, there were some European Officers who preferred large claims on the Government, which were satisfied with large tracts of