

bad effect; it is, indeed, the grand specific. At the time I was on the island the measles made their appearance. Rum was liberally administered in spite of every caution that I gave them, and uniformly with success; out of at least a hundred people young and old, who had the measles in the neighbourhood where I was, not one died, nor did any of them seem to suffer any bad effects from the disease, or this extraordinary treatment. Though the weather is severe, it is by no means such as to "put a period to out-door labour;" winter is the season in which the inhabitants employ themselves in cutting down timber. While the snow is on the ground is the most eligible time for drawing it out of the woods to the sides of navigable rivers, where it is, in the spring, put into the water to be rafted to the depot of such merchants as are in the habit of taking it in payment from the settlers.

This is also the season in which the farmers get their timber for fencing their lands, and for repairing their farms. The severity of the winter generally commences about the 12th of December, and the rivers are in most years frozen over about Christmas, frequent snow-showers occur from December to March. When the first snow falls the roads are difficult to pass, but they shortly become beaten, and there is nearly as much travelling in the winter as in the summer; and though there are frequent thaws during this season till the latter part of March, there is very seldom any material breaking up of the ice till St. Patrick's day (the 17th of that month,) about which time the ice, in most years, begins to clear away at the entrances of the harbours, and in some seasons sowing of wheat commences the latter end of April, but more frequently in May.

Winter wheat has not yet had a fair trial; there is no doubt but if the snow falls in quantities to cover the ground before the severe frost sets in (which is most commonly the case,) it would answer well; but in the present infant state of agriculture, it is considered as too great a risk. When the country shall be better peopled, and more attention paid to cultivating the soil, I have no doubt but winter wheat would be found a more profitable and convenient crop.

I have seen crops of summer wheat equal to those of any part of the world; the barley is excellent, and oats much superior to any other of American growth; the potatoes and turnips cannot be exceeded any where; and peas and beans are quite as good as any I have ever seen. Cabbage, carrots, and parsnips, are produced as good as any in England; in fact all the produce of English gardens will thrive equally well.

Very seldom is manure made use of for raising corn, though many parts of the island abound with sea-weed, and in some parts it lies rotting in immense quantities.

In general, farming is carried on in a most slovenly manner; and it is not