

books, in which he records the details of his business; he learns the mercantile customs of the country in which he lives, as well as those of other countries; he also learns the nature of the agricultural operations of his own, as well as other countries with which he trades, in order to understand how the whole may be turned to profit. The miner, at least those who direct mining operations, before descending into the bowels of the earth, first learns geology and mineralogy. The mechanic, before commencing the construction of edifices, ships or any piece of mechanism first examines the materials out of which he is to construct, as to their fitness, and then proceeds to act thereon by plan, model and design. The lawyer, before entering upon the duties of his profession, first learns the principles and application of law. And so it is with those who follow the multitudinous pursuits of life,—knowledge is considered absolutely necessary. But it is far otherwise with the generality of those who till the soil, especially those who follow this pursuit in the lower colonies of British North America. Any one may do for a tiller of the soil, no matter how ignorant of organic nature—how ignorant of the elements composing the soil, and how those elements may be managed so as to produce, and continue the production of the best individual and general results. The soil is prepared without system, and the seed is, in hundreds of instances, put into the soil in the most sluggish manner. If it was not that nature does not forget to be bountiful—producing great results with but little aid from man—we should under such a system of farming,—farming without education,—be placed in the most deplorable situation.

Experienced travellers, through these provinces, have repeatedly expressed astonishment, on learning the quantity of agricultural stuff produced, compared with the inadequacy of the means employed in its production.

*Farmers' families should be educated.* They should understand the climate, its effects on the agricultural interests of the country,—how its favourable characteristics may be availed of, and its injurious tendencies, if any, obviated, so as to produce the best results. Farmers' sons should understand geology and agricultural chemistry; they should know how to use the soil, so as to make it pro-

duce, and continue the production of better and more abundant crops,—how to produce and continue the production of good farm stock, good seed, good dairy results, and the hundred and one other things incident to a farmer's calling.

Our farmers, in many localities, are too tenacious of old, and, in enlightened communities, obsolete customs and habits. With many, the acquisition of knowledge and the application of right principles, such as guide the enlightened agriculturist of other countries, are mere innovations—forgetting, or not learning that progression is the order of the day in all civilized countries, and that change is written upon every thing in nature. The developments continually going on in the arts and sciences are being applied to every department connected with man's movements in society; and why, above all, should the agriculturist refuse to educate his children—for it is certainly necessary education—and so call in these invaluable aids to the advancement of this important profession.

The traveller in the lower colonies will not unfrequently meet with communities of agriculturists, so called, the chief part of whom are not able to read or write, of which fact the farming in such communities fully testifies. Such a state of things is not allowed to exist with regard to the mechanical operations of the country—intelligence marks every step—then why should such be the case with farming pursuits,—pursuits, if there are grades in callings more honorable than others, the most honorable of all. Still we are proud to be able to testify and record the fact that there are not only individual cases, but almost entire communities in these provinces, where well directed intelligence marks every step the agriculturist takes. Still, even in such communities, are to be found some of those old fashioned persons who believe it is enough for farmers' sons to be able to read "easy lessons," and "chalk down" the price of the produce sold on credit and to whom sold; and as for the daughters, they are better without education altogether. These are fatal errors, and must lead to a low state of agriculture, as well as social existence. There is not a more honorable and healthy occupation on the face of the globe, than that of tilling the soil,—none better calculated to lead the