

## NEWMARKET FARMERS' CLUB.

The fifth meeting of this Club took place on Saturday, 20th Jan., and was pretty numerous attended by the farmers of the surrounding neighbourhood. The meetings will continue regularly on Saturday evenings during the remainder of the season at the Newmarket School House, and will most probably be kept up through the summer months at the same place. The few discussions which have taken place have had the very desirable effect of bringing the institution into pretty general favour. The best recommendation that can be given to induce others to adopt the same patriotic measures in improving the agriculture of this colony, would be to report the proceedings of the Newmarket Farmers' Club. We shall therefore feel much pleasure in laying before the public the substance of the discussions, and also such remarks as we may from time to time consider it judicious to make upon the opinions advanced by the several speakers who may address the meetings of the Club.

Subject for discussion:—"What is the most approved method of cultivating land, and preparing the seed for the fall wheat crop?" Mr. Peter Pearson in the chair.

Mr. Samuel Pearson remarked, that between 20 and 30 years ago it was a common practice with him to harvest from 36 to 40 bushels of fall wheat per acre, but within the past few years his average products of wheat had not equalled 20 bushels per acre. He considered this by far the most valuable crop grown in this country, and therefore any light that could be thrown out upon the cause of the falling off in the average produce which he as well as the great bulk of the farmers had experienced, would at all times be most acceptable. For his part he was not prepared to give a cause, although he had thought much upon the subject. His usual practice in making summer fallows, is to plough in the fall, cross some times in the following June, and plough for seed

the latter part of August, and sow the first of September. He had found from experience that his chance for a rusty crop of wheat was generally in proportion to the amount of barn-yard manure applied to the soil—he was therefore of opinion that the wheat crop did not require a very rich soil or one that was deep with vegetable matter. From what he had observed of late, he was inclined to the opinion, that too much ploughing was equally as prejudicial to the fall wheat crop as too much barn-yard manure. He had met with a number of instances where land that was tolerably clean had been summer fallowed by breaking up the latter part of June, and subsequently harrowing a few times, and crossing the latter part of August for seed. Where this plan had been practiced, the straw was comparatively short, the sample bold, and the product a fair average paying crop. Although this method may be objectionable in some points of view, still he felt confident that it was a more profitable plan of management than the thorough system of cultivation which is generally practiced in this part of the country. The one producing a fair average crop of good wheat that covers the expense of production, and the other affording a small return of an inferior sample that in a majority of cases would scarcely cover costs. One of the greatest difficulties, with the successful wheat-grower, was to get his crop safely through the winter: he had found that ploughing in long manure with the seed furrow, and leaving the land rough after seeding, secured that object to a much greater degree when the winters were open, and the plants consequently greatly exposed to the changes of the weather, than any other mode that he was acquainted with, and it in a great measure prevented the strong clays running together, and thereby forming in the spring a hard and impenetrable crust. This, like all other systems with which he was acquainted, was not all times adapted to the seasons—when the snow falls very deep in the commencement of winter, and remains upon the ground without cessation until spring, without there being any frost in the ground, the long straw was apt to hurry the fermentation process, by which the entire crop is sometimes destroyed;—and it is also a doubtful practice upon strong rich lands, as it is apt to cause too great a growth of straw. He considered that rust was occasioned from the overflowing of the sap vessels of the plant, which is most generally promoted by too exuberant and rapid a growth. He was not pre-