

which I have formed, I will enter into those considerations of rural economy which will reveal my most intimate convictions—which will decide my course of action, and, if properly based the, success of the institution, or, if erroneous, its ruin; in the latter case you will do justly in condemning the false theories advanced; on the contrary, however, if they prove to be founded on truth, the public will then know that the prospectus of my labours has received the formal approbation of the most distinguished agriculturists of the country, which would be a sufficient guarantee for all the confidence which might be placed upon it.

In the organization of a farm, two things are chiefly to be regarded, viz., the general system of improvement and the plan of cultivation; but, before commencing operations, it is indispensably necessary to examine whether the soil which is to be cultivated be capable of rendering, without previous improvements, the seed and expense of cultivation required to be expended upon it.

From thence three questions arise.—

1st The improvements to be made upon the farm of la Tortue.

2nd The choice of a system of improvement.

3rd The adoption of a system of cultivation.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Of improvements to be made upon land there are two kinds; thorough improvements, properly so called, or those which improve the soil for a great number of years, such are for example pulverising the land, the admixture of lime, and other mineral substances, in large quantities, trenching, ditching, thorough draining, cleaning the land, &c.; and those improvements in cultivation which are simply the result of the care and intelligence of the farmer, and which are but of short duration, such as enriching the soil by a wise rotation of fertilising crops, the application of lime or other minerals in small quanti-

ties, irrigation, &c, and, in a word, all the improvements resulting from good cultivation, and which are in the power of all—the poor as well as the rich.

As to these last mentioned improvements, it is understood that the model farm should give the example; and, for this purpose, we shall seek to draw information from every available source that may apply to our operation, this it must be confessed will be a general benefit. The old world, and England in particular, will furnish us with good models; and we shall strive to profit by them, and introduce into our plans those improvements which are more the effect of talent than of capital.

But, for thorough improvements, properly so called, which require considerable capital, shall we carry them out, without, at first, considering the means at our disposal, and the consequences likely to result from such undertaking? And here the question naturally arises, should we lead the farmers of Canada to expect that we may realise similar results in our agriculture to those which are to be found in England, France, or Belgium? I think this would be unreasonable. To be convinced of the truth of this, it will be only necessary to examine a statement of the comparative results, to be met with, in the old and new worlds.

England, France, Germany, Lombardy, and generally all those countries where good cultivation prevails, have employed ages, hundreds of generations, and an incalculable amount of capital, in raising their agriculture to the point at which it is to be found to day. The agriculturists of our time profit by the labours of the generations who have gone before; and the improvements which they undertake seldom wear out, because the ground has for many years before been prepared to receive them.

It is however far otherwise in Canada. Hardly two centuries have elapsed since cultivation was first introduced; and, even to our day, what kind of cultivation has in general prevailed? The first colonists found