

THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,
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SMALL FARMS.

It appears to be generally acknowledged that the Flemish are the best farmers in Europe; their farms are small; they collect and preserve all the manure they can; keep all the stock they can feed well; and make their land resemble a garden, by their perfect cultivation; always keeping up a constant rotation of crops, and making so much manure that they do not find it necessary ever to employ a naked fallow, or to lay down their ground for pasture, their cattle being fed all the year in stables, which are kept so very clean that they appear to have surprised the Scotch farmers who have visited them. A Flemish family is often supported by the produce of six or eight acres, in a state of comfort much superior to that of Scotch or English farm labourers, thus giving a practical proof of the wisdom of working no more land than can be well cultivated. The following extracts of a letter from Mr. Gillet, Directeur des affaires publiques a Bouzelles, to Sir John Sinclair, deserve attention. "I have examined with attention the situation of agriculture in most countries in Europe, and do not hesitate to affirm that it is no where so well understood and practised as in the Low Countries. I do not except my native country, England, though I am ready to admit that she is as much advanced in the important science beyond France, as the Low Countries are beyond England. This will not surprise you, Sir, when you consider that while the fortunes of England and France were divided between agriculture, industry, colonization, and external commerce, those in the Low Countries were principally employed in the advancement of agriculture alone, by establishing *small farms*. This system has succeeded admirably well in Flanders and Brabant, where land is every where in the highest state of cultivation, and offers a wonderful contrast with its situation in the Liege country, County of Namur, and in the Province of Hainault, which bounds Flanders and Brabant. There the system of large farms is still the common practice, and very little progress has been made within fifty years. The vast disproportion of the product of those Provinces, when compared with that of Flanders and Brabant, offers a very strong argument against the system of large farms." "It is an error into which many have fallen, for want of observation, and a knowledge of the interior of the country, to believe that the soil of the Low Countries was originally good. It is the almost incredible industry of the peasantry in Flanders and a part of Brabant which has rendered the soil so productive. The Pays de Waes a prodigy of art, was forty years ago a bruyere, a heath or waste. It is now perhaps the richest province in the world."

RUBINA JELLY.

This is very much used in Russia being constantly eaten with roasted Hare, Grouse, and other game; to prepare it the berries of the Mountain Ash or Roan tree, ripe and cleanly picked, are put in a pot of boiling water till the juice parts from them, when it is strained through a fine sieve, but the berries must not be pressed—Weigh the juice, add to it an equal weight of loaf sugar, and boil it to a jelly.

SAVE THE SUGAR MAPLES.

The State of Vermont made, in the year 1842, 6,147,211 lbs of Sugar, and the State of New York, in the same year, made 13,353,109 lbs.

If the Sugar maples that spring up with the second growth of hard wood, were preserved, and allowed to grow, a great proportion of the sugar used in this Province might be manufactured in it, for there is no tree that thrives better than this on a large proportion of the land formerly occupied by hardwood. When the farmer's surplus produce sells at a low price he should buy nothing that he can make or raise on his own land. Were the same attention paid to the cultivation of the sugar maple here that there is in Vermont, a large sum would be retained in the Province which is now expended in the purchase of Sugar.

SWINE.

From Coleman's fourth Report of the Agriculture of Massachusetts.

"Until within a few years a breed known as the Grassfed hogs constituted the principal stock. This was a hog, raised with little other food than Clover pasturage for the first six months, of a white colour with black patches sprinkled over him, long and well formed, of good thrift, and who, with good keeping at eighteen months old, was easily brought to 400 and 500 pounds weight. Within the last few years the Berkshire hog has been introduced. His symmetry, thrift, cleanliness, fineness of bone, his excellent shoulders and hams, and above all, his good humour and his marked deficiency in the organ of taste, secured universal favour. In my visits among the farmers since the introduction of this race, I have been amused with their enthusiasm for their swine, resembling that of Parson Trulliber in Fielding's history of Joseph Andrews; and in finding them, I had almost said, more proud of their Berkshire pigs at their troughs, than of their chubby and rosy-checked children round their supper-tables. I am a great admirer of the Berkshire swine, but I could never sympathise in those preferences; and my respect for human nature has considerably increased since the progress of the blessed Temperance reformation, and since men are now seldom seen as formerly with all rationality extinguished, and even their animal nature outraged and degraded. We have been compelled, however, in this as in many other cases, to witness the capriciousness of public favour; and to adopt with the variation of only a letter, the familiar proverb, and say in this case that "every hog must have his day." The popularity of the Berkshire swine is on the wane. It is objected to them by many farmers that they are not large enough, though they are easily made to reach at fourteen months to 300 or 350 lbs.; and further, that they do not cut up well, and that the fat on their backs