

But we should like the advice to go a little further, and to extend to those who are capable of seeing in thanksgiving something more than worldly advantage, to the end that our farmers might not only fatten turkeys, but might likewise allow their own hearts to swell with gratitude to the Giver of all Good, for the blessings we so abundantly enjoy; and might further join their prayers in sympathy with, and in behalf of, those of other lands, whose herds are being cut off in the stall, and amid whom the plague is stalking. Unworthy and impotent as we may feel our prayers to be, it becometh us at least in a prayerful spirit to prepare for the calamities that we see around us, and from which we are still enjoying immunity through the goodness of a merciful providence. As a farmer remarked to us, in reference to the small attendance at church on thanksgiving day, "The farmers might surely spare one day, it would not make so much difference at the end of the year."

Let us hope that when thanksgiving comes round another season, (if we are spared to see it,) the echoes of the Nova Scotian hills will not be awakened so loudly as they were this year with the stroke of the ear, the crack of the whip, the splash of the mill-wheel, the blast of the quarry, and the axe of the woodman. If the "Zendavesta" prescribed to the Persian saint the sowing of the ground with superior care and diligence, as a means of attaining greater religious merit than the repetition of ten thousand prayers, and if the Chinese still preserve the religious observance of laying aside their grandeur once a month to eat with husbandmen, surely the Nova Scotian husbandman, (if inspired by no worthier motive) should not so far forget his own dignity as to omit the observance of the day of thanksgiving, whose observance, (apart from higher considerations,) is a national tribute of honor to his calling.

CROPS OF THE PAST SEASON IN THE UNITED STATES.

REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON.

Wheat.—In nearly all the States the representations are, that the wheat proved better on the threshing than anticipated; and the estimates based on the last returns show that the deficit in quantity, compared with the crop of 1864, is 12,172,994 bushels. The quantity and quality in the eastern States and in New York are slightly above those of the crop of 1864, but in all the other States, except Wisconsin and Minnesota, the quality is below that of 1864, and in nearly all of them the quality is below the yield. Hence the deficit in quality is greater than in quantity, making the total deficit

greater than given in the August report.

Old Wheat.—The return of this gives a comparison of the amount on hand in September, 1865, compared with the amount on hand in September, 1864. It is less this year than last; but many correspondents state that it was purchased up in August. As complaints are made at the seaboard that the wheat is not coming forward, it is to be presumed that the old wheat, on account of its superior quality, is held back. How much there is of it cannot be determined, for the great scarcity of corn last year caused an unusual consumption of wheat.

Rye.—The decrease of this product is 329,070 bushels.

Barley.—The gain of this crop is 759,108 bushels.

Oats.—There is a great increase in this crop. It is much the largest ever produced, the tables showing a gain of 48,562,321 bushels.

The amount of these four crops for the last three years is as follows:

	1865.	1864.	1863.
Wheat, bush.,	118,522,329	160,635,833	169,404,036
Rye, "	19,543,905	19,372,575	20,782,782
Barley, "	11,391,238	10,632,168	11,368,155
Oats, "	225,252,295	176,630,064	173,800,575
Total bushels,	404,710,315	367,891,040	385,355,548

The increase in bushels for 1865 is 36,819,275 over the yield of 1864.

Hay.—This crop is large, being 5,421,989 tons greater than in 1864. The quality is good in those States in which the wheat was good, and in the other States it is not as much injured as at first supposed.

The fall crops.—It is unnecessary to dwell upon the condition of these; it is good. The corn crop throughout the entire country, north and south, has never before been equalled. The monthly report for November will contain the estimates of these in bushels, &c.

Cotton.—This crop has improved much in the northern States, but reports from the south indicate that it is much injured by the rains and worms. The price of cotton has advanced materially in consequence; and what effect this fact will have on the price of wool cannot be certainly known at this time; it cannot but be favorable to the wool-grower.

Fattening Cattle.—There is a very material decrease of these in nearly all the States, but as the census never took an account of their numbers in 1860, there is no basis by which this department can calculate the actual decrease in numbers.

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.—This plant seldom flowers in England. On this continent it flowers abundantly every year, so that seedlings might readily be raised, and improved races obtained. Some one with the time and turn for experiment could not undertake a better service in plant improvement.

ADVANTAGE OF AGRICULTURE IN A NEW COUNTRY—FUNCTIONS OF AN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY —HOW THE FARMER IS TO SUCCEED.

[Extract from Report of Carleton, New Brunswick Agricultural Society. Re-printed at the request of George I. Ince, Esq., Niagara, Am.]

The business of farming in our country rests in the hands of the people, and it is for them to say whether it shall be well done or ill.

Let us consider what an advantage agriculture has here, over the same pursuit under that state of society in which large landed estates are cultivated by tenantry. In one case all the strongest impulses of man's nature are appealed to, and his call to duty comes from the most powerful force within himself; whilst in the other the stimulus of ownership is wanting.

An agricultural society is, in the highest sense, an agricultural school in which all are teachers and all are pupils; and in this lies its most important duty. The best professor of agricultural chemistry is he who comes from the manure heap, which, by judicious application, has forced a larger yield from each of his well cultivated acres. The best teacher of the art of tilling the soil is he who has, by long experience become acquainted with the habits of plants from their infancy to their ripened harvest. The best farmer is he who, while he becomes intimate with the laws of nature and learns her mysteries, so far as she will reveal them, has a quick eye for those useful discoveries and inventions, which the ingenuity of man is constantly laying at the feet of agriculture.

To be successful the farmer must think and work; he must observe and obey nature's laws; he must, by practical study, become a living barometer,—a patent wind and weather gauge,—such an instrument can be made only of mind, strong mind, and when it is made it is worth the cost. Such men are walking folios, and exhaustless volumes of available information; they are practically, and thus really, the graduates of, and the professors in, the great university of natural science, and have the honorary degree, L. L. D., Lord of Land and Digging; the college they enter and honor is one in which problems are solved by a personal use of the axe, the hoe, the plough, the scythe, and the flail, and they are unsurpassed in reach of influence and importance of effect on mankind.

PITMASTON DUCHESSE D'ANGOULEME PEAR.—This variety is very favorably reported upon in the Gardeners' Chronicle. Some samples are described 21 ounces in weight, the quality excellent, flesh-melting, juicy and high flavored.