

THE

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We have now brought our journal to the last number of the third volume through many discouragements certainly, and an almost total want of support from those from whom we might reasonably expect it. It is an extraordinary circumstance, that this journal, the only one in Eastern Canada published with the sole object of promoting the improvement and prosperity of Agriculture, that must produce the means of subsistence, directly and indirectly for the whole population of Canada, and, be the principal source of our revenue, should want due support, and that we should now have to complain that we have expended a very considerable amount, over the subscriptions we have received, or are likely to receive. We have addressed the journal to many individuals who are not farmers, but whom we supposed, nevertheless, would feel an interest in promoting the prosperity of Canadian Agriculture, as the first and principal interest in the country, and would be disposed to support by the trifling amount of one dollar annually, a publication that was likely to do good, and could not do harm. We have addressed it to farmers who we expected would be sure to support us, if upon no other principle, upon that of rendering them a service, fully equal to the amount of subscription. There are we suppose not less than forty or fifty journals devoted to mercantile interests, and to politics published in Eastern Canada, and only one Agricultural journal, for which the annual subscription is only five shillings, about one fourth the cost of any other journal, and though Agriculture is the basis which must give support to all other interests in Canada, yet we could not collect one third of the amount required to pay the printer. If this state of things does not show the estimation in which our Agriculture is held by the respectable classes in Canada, and by Agriculturists themselves, we do not know what can show it. It is all very plausible for farmers to say, "we require no book farming or instruction in our profession, which we already perfectly understand." If this reply be correct, and reasonable, then certainly Agricultural Societies are useless, and it is useless to publish any thing relating to the science, or art, of Agriculture, or the results of experiments in the practice of husbandry. Agricultural publications are useful, or

they are not, and if they are not useful, it would be better not to waste time and money in their publication. We do not pretend that our journal is the most useful that could be published on Agriculture, but we presume it contains no selections that are not calculated for instruction, and equal to any that are published with that object. The public money paid in premiums by Agricultural Societies generally goes to the best farmers, or those who have capital to pay for good stock, and crops, but it is of very little benefit in offering instruction and encouragement to farmers who require both. A very small portion of the funds of each County Society applied to the purchase of this, or some other foreign Agricultural publication, and circulated among the farmers generally, we presume would not be a waste of public money granted expressly for the improvement of Agriculture, not with those who are already so improved as to require no more, but amongst those who have no such pretensions, to be so perfect in their profession, that it would be impossible for them to receive any more profitable instruction: A few Agricultural Societies, in Western Canada, do take our journal for distribution, at a low price certainly, but not one such Society in Eastern Canada, takes a copy from us. Our friends have often recommended us to discontinue our publications, that have been so heavy a drain upon our time and money, but we have persevered hitherto, in the expectation that some time or other, we would obtain support and countenance from the Government, as this was all that would be required to insure us the support that has been withheld from us, from other quarters. We now submit the matter to those who may be better capable of estimating the probable amount of benefit which this journal would be likely to produce in Eastern Canada, published in the English and French languages. If it is considered that it would not be useful, it would of course be folly to continue it. But on the contrary, should it appear that it would be expedient to publish it, in both languages, and circulate it generally, through every parish in Lower Canada, we promise to make the journal as useful as we possibly can. For the time past we have not had the encouragement of support, but on the contrary the very great discouragement of knowing