



AUTHOR'S PREFACE TO THE
Canadian Farmer's Manual of Agriculture.

TO MY BROTHER FARMERS OF CANADA.

THE want of a Canadian agricultural standard work has long been felt by our class. I have endeavoured to step in and fill the breach by laying before you the accompanying work, entitled

"The Canadian Farmer's Manual of Agriculture."

We are all well aware that farming is no sinecure in the way of work in Canada. Stout hearts and willing hands must be employed to win a way to fortune on our farms. But these are not the only necessary qualifications,—wages are high and hands are scarce; to pay the one and create a substitute for the other, increased knowledge and intelligence must be the instruments. To make farming profitable we do not require larger holdings; but the one thing needful is larger yields per acre. To attain such a desirable increase of production, a more thorough knowledge of the laws of growth, and the requirements of plant-life becomes necessary. This knowledge, which is in itself indefinite, I have endeavoured partially to provide in the following pages. It cannot be that any single work, especially of the proportions of the present, can cover *all* the grounds necessary to be touched upon in a treatise on the Principles and Practice of Agriculture. This work is not and could not be exhaustive, but where it fails to give full information, I trust it may at least set the reader "upon the right track." The farmer in Canada must be essentially a practical man. The reader will find advanced no theories that have not stood the test of practice. It has been my constant aim to adapt every chapter to the present state of agriculture in Canada. Topics on which the opinion of eminent farmers are divided, are treated from every standpoint; where I have given a personal opinion upon these common subjects of debate, it has been based upon no hobby of my own, but upon a nature consideration of the several arguments advanced by eminent authorities, and governed by my own and my neighbours' practical experiences. For instance, in the chapter devoted to Barn-yard Manure, I have set down the arguments of the advocates of Raw or Rotten, Long or Short; and the subject being one on which I do not feel decided, I have refrained from the expression of any dogmatical opinion. Whilst this is not a work of compilation, the reader will find scattered through its pages many quotations, in the citation of which I have endeavoured to give due credit. These selections, appropriate to the several chapters, I have been careful to obtain, in the majority of cases, from such authorities as I am aware, are, or have been engaged in actual farming in Canada, or in those States of the Union in which the soils, climate and systems of husbandry are generally of a nature similar to those of our Dominion. The central object which this work is intended to keep in view, is the demonstration of how farming may be made to pay—by the general improvement of the soil, of seeds and of methods of cultivation. With these few prefatory remarks I leave "THE CANADIAN FARMER'S MANUAL" in the hands of my brethren of the plough. That it may prove useful to them and a welcome addition to the agriculturist's library, is the sincere wish of the Author.

C. E. W.