

NEW-BRUNSWICK AGRICULTURIST.

SAINT JOHN, JUNE, 1841.

Vol. I.

No. II.

Introductory Observations.

(Continued from page 4.)

Do the objections, which have been urged against the agricultural capabilities of these Provinces, originate in the errors of the objectors? Some of them do not; but the return of many intelligent farmers, after an absence sufficiently long to form an estimate of the superiorities of other countries, is a convincing proof that many of the objections are unjust: and we may support this reply to the question by a reference to the prosperity of those Farmers, who have devoted themselves with economy and industry to the cultivation of their farms. Few countries enjoy advantages, without some concomitant disadvantage—vivid descriptions are apt to produce impressions upon the imagination, similar to the pleasing landscape which the artist sketches upon paper; all that is attractive is presented to the eye, while the disagreeable realities are only known by actual experience. The bright colourings of other countries have been contrasted with our long winters; but the many blessings and advantages of our colonies are too seldom and not fairly reviewed, when opposed to the objectionable circumstances of other, and apparently more favoured climates. Ample experience has established undeniable evidence, that the hardy settler who entered the forest, with no other aids than his axe, his hands, and a determined heart, has converted the

soil of the wilderness into a productive farm, and that many such individuals are now in the possession and enjoyment of comfortable competencies. There are few countries, in which Farmers live more comfortably, than in New-Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It is true, the winters are long, and the springs are late; but vegetation is exceedingly rapid, and many very abundant harvests have followed the most unpromising seed-times. Legislative enactments and protecting duties may assist our agricultural interests, but the Farmers must put their own shoulders to the wheel of improvement. The acquirement of scientific knowledge and the diffusion of it, is the groundwork of that improvement—it cannot take place without it. The apathy which has prevailed too generally in both Provinces, amounting to the actual rejection of information, is one of the greatest hindrances with which our colonial agriculture has to contend. It disheartens those who associate themselves, with the laudable desire of ameliorating the condition of it, and it perpetuates the errors of prejudice and usage. If our farmers desire to learn, they must incline to read. They must not meet the suggestions of science and the experience of other countries with the reply—"that such practices may do elsewhere—but we cut down the forest—we cleared away the stumps, and we know best what will answer in new countries." For with all this Provincial sufficiency, how many of