

with clover and other grasses, and applies economically the manure which is made upon his farm, will never have to complain, as thousands now do, of a constantly diminishing scale of produce. But in order to have the full benefit of this useful plant a *larger quantity of seed* must be sown than as usually practised. The great object, with the clover plant in particular, should be to cover the ground entirely, thereby preventing the powerful action of the sun's rays on bare surfaces between the plants during the drought of spring and summer. The use of a heavy roller is recommended, and the application of manure, (plaster in most soils produces a powerful effect,) will generally be found successful in producing abundance both for hay and pasturage.

We earnestly entreat the attention of our readers, and of members of the legislature and the press in particular, to the subject matter of the following communication. As we have repeatedly expressed our opinions in this journal on the questions of Agricultural Education and the means of improving the farming practices of the country, we shall leave Mr Fergusson's letter to speak for itself. We fully concur with the views of the writer as to the great capabilities of this country, and the advantages which it offers to honest and persevering industry. We feel quite confident that if the plans proposed were judiciously and faithfully carried out, the Agriculture and other resources of the country would soon exhibit a marked improvement;—capital and a more desirable kind of emigration would be attracted to our shores; a spirit of enterprise and self-reliance would be more generally called forth, and we should thus become prepared for taking and sustaining as a people our proper position—which would be far from the lowest in the scale—in the general competition of the world. The time for earnest action has now arrived, and we trust that the subjoined appeal to the intelligence and patriotism of the country, from one whose experience and social position alike entitle his views to a respectful consideration, will be the means of directing the public mind to the best practicable methods of elevating the position of our farmers, and of advancing the oldest and most important of all arts,—the cultivation of the soil.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

To, the Editor of the Canadian Agriculturist.

DEAR SIR—

I make no apology for soliciting a corner of

your Journal for this communication, aware as I am that the subject has long engaged your attention, and however inadequate my attempt may be, when compared with the importance of the subject, it may serve perhaps to attract the attention of your readers.

The establishment of Agricultural Colleges and Schools has prevailed for many years both in Europe and in the United States, as you are well aware, with a varied measure of success. Such Institutions however, have so often proved failures, that I candidly avow, in times past a considerable portion of hesitation on my part in recommending their adoption in Canada. Of late, it has become known to me that opinions much at variance with my own, are entertained by various individuals, for whose judgment I feel the highest respect, and I therefore most willingly sacrifice my doubts to their more cheering anticipations. I think there can be no doubt upon this, that if an enlightened system of education, shall fall to the lot of the Agricultural class, in any part of the world, no men are either more likely to profit by and to appreciate the blessing than Canadian Yeoman, or are better entitled to enjoy every possible means, of qualifying them to fill respectably, the position which they are destined to occupy in this land. It may perhaps be said that it comes too late for the present generation; be it so; but sure I am, that the present generation, will for that very reason, estimate more highly the boon for their children. The independence and happiness of rural life, (as it may readily be found, if *honestly sought for*) by all who adopt it, in this noble Province, has been an assertion often enough sneered at, or denied; but I am free to declare, that after years of experience and enquiry, my conviction remains unaltered and undiminished, that in no portion of this world, has a kind Providence offered more substantial materials of rational enjoyment, than in cultivating and improving the forest reclaimed fields of Canada. That numbers undoubtedly have failed to realize such views, detracts little from their soundness and truth; for who that has given but a slight portion of attention to human nature, can remain blind to the wanton abuse of God's choicest gifts to His thankless creatures. I shall not, however, indulge in diffuse encomiums upon the lot of Canadian farmers, let it suffice, to press upon them the remembrance, that whether they may use it or abuse it, a most abundant portion of human happiness, has been placed within their reach. Let them be sober, industrious, and above all, religious, and they may rest assured, that the cares of life will lie comparatively light upon their homes.