

"Cone Revnt" or "German Thickset." If we should cultivate other varieties of wheat, we might be able to do so perhaps successfully by lining the soil—sowing in drills—and keeping down all weeds and grass in the crop by once hoeing. By this management wheat might be sown early in the fall, and we believe it would be in ear so early in June as to escape the fly, and be safe from rust and mildew by keeping it free from weeds and grass, and by the free circulation of air through the crop, which cultivating in drills would give it. If wheat is sown that resists the fly, we shall only have to fear the effects of rust upon the crop, and we think this might be remedied in a great degree by the application of lime, by drill sowing, and perfect weeding. As to sowing in the usual way our common varieties of wheat early in spring, we fear it will only produce certain loss to the farmer. The loss of a crop of wheat is a serious one, because the best soil is generally sown, and the farmer incurs not only the loss of his land, seed, and labour, but the profit he might reasonably expect from a crop that the land would have produced. Sowing in drills and hoeing may be considered too expensive, and this mode of cultivation can only be adopted on land that is well prepared.—We are aware of all this, and in reply say, that only on such lands should wheat be sown, and we state further, that we have no doubt that sowing in drills and keeping the crop free of all grass and weeds, would be amply compensated to the farmer, by an increased produce and better quality, than he would obtain from the common mode of cultivation. All the farmer's precaution may not be able to preserve his wheat from the disease of rust in some seasons, but if he do all that is in his power, his crop will be safe in ordinary seasons. We have said more on this subject than may be thought necessary, but we believe it so essential to the prosperity of this part of Canada, that it should produce wheat as heretofore, that we take every opportunity to recommend experiments being made on new modes of cultivation, and the introduction of new varieties of seed. Every reasonable experiment should certainly be tried, and if all shall fail, we must only strive to do the best we can with other crops.

Since our last Report the potatoe crop has sustained a check to their growth. On the night of the 9th of September, we had frost sufficient to destroy the vines or tops very generally throughout the country, except in the immediate neighbourhood of Montreal, and as much of the crop was planted late, the produce is not likely to be so large, or of so good quality, as if the tops had continued green to this time. On the night of the 23rd we had frost again, so severe as to form ice, and potatoes that were green previous to that night, were next day completely withered. We have heard unfavourable reports from many parts of the country, particularly where the soil was of strong quality, and on lands not sufficiently drained. From these circumstances we are led to suppose, that though the crop may be good in many fields the average return of potatoes will not be so abundant as we thought they would be the latter end of August. The season has been very favourable for other root crops.—The pastures are better than usual, and dairy produce abundant and at moderate prices.—Butchers' meat exceedingly low in price. Hay from 10s. to 20s. the hundred bundles; Barley, 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d.; Oats, 1s. to 1s. 3d.; Potatoes, 1s. to 1s. 3d. per minute. The orchards are very much short of the usual produce. Some have no apples—but we believe there is a large impor-

tation of foreign fruit. We do not report the price of wheat, as we have unfortunately none to dispose of.

We perceive by the prices of oatmeal in the markets of the British Isles, by the latest advices, that a profitable business might be done here in manufacturing oatmeal for exportation to England. We recommend this trade most particularly, and we would at the same time suggest that the oats be well kiln-dried from which meal is to be manufactured for exportation, as it will keep much better in the barrels from been previously well dried, and sell better when it arrives at its destination. In the commencement is the proper time to establish a good character for a new article of exportation.

On the whole, farmers have no reason to complain of the produce of crops as regards quantity, with the exception of wheat. Of course, it could not be expected that large crops would be produced where the land had not been properly cultivated for them, and where weeds were allowed to rob the useful plants of the greater portion of the nutriment that might have been in the soil.

We shall now, in conclusion, submit a few observations.

At present the general mode of cultivation throughout a large proportion of Eastern Canada is so defective, and contrary to the most approved practice of husbandry introduced in the British Isles, that it would appear to a stranger as if the land was ploughed, sown, and planted, with a view to employ men and horses, rather than with any reasonable hope that a crop would be produced, that would remunerate for the land, labour, seed, and a profit. We have no desire to libel our brother-farmers. On the contrary, we would be disposed to give them all honours, and to wish them all possible happiness and prosperity. Any who differ with us in this opinion as to the general state of agriculture in Canada East, we invite to make a tour throughout that country in the spring season of sowing and planting. Let them examine well the state of drainage—the ploughing—the state of the soil as regards cleanliness and fertility, and whether the proper means are being adopted to clean it, or give it fertility, if either be required. Let them see if there is any rotation of crops observed—what proportion of meadow and pasture—the state of both—and the number of neat cattle and sheep kept in proportion to the farm. Let the same individuals visit again the same sections of country in summer and harvest, and observe, as we have often done, the state of the crops, &c., resulting from the system followed, and if they do not agree with us in opinion, that the present system is defective, unprofitable, and requires to be altered for a better, we shall, indeed, be much surprised. We admit there are very many farmers who follow the most approved system as nearly as the returns, which farming yields at present will warrant; but there are few who come fully up to the system practiced upon a first class farm in the British Isles.

Man, found Canada covered with a most luxuriant growth of majestic and beautiful trees, of all varieties that are common to these latitudes. He cut them down, carried them away, burned or otherwise destroyed them. Even their ashes he carried away. He done all this in order that the land should grow new plants, more suitable to his purpose of food and clothing. The forests were maintained in all their luxuriance of growth by the constant fall of leaves and the decay of old trees. Man cultivated the soil for his own use, and by constant and injudicious cropping,

without giving it what it ought to receive in return, exhausted it of all its fertility, and reduced it to that state that it is now more inclined to produce weeds than useful plants of man's cultivation. When we force land to produce a new variety of plants from those that were its natural production, it may reasonably be supposed that there is something for us to do to fit the soil for this change. Draining is the first requisite, and next it is necessary to keep the soil in a proper state of fertility, by returning to it some ingredient that will replace what we take from it. We may also naturally suppose that some parts of the soil may require mixture or dressing to make it suitable for the new species of plants we wish to cultivate upon it. Man should consider all these matters. It is perfectly clear that thistles and weeds of all descriptions, are the product of his injudicious cultivation and management.—They are not to be seen in the native forest, nor in land when first cultivated. If they subsequently appear, it is our duty to check their growth or remove them when they do grow.—The natural production of this country, when man first takes possession of it, proves beyond a doubt, the excellence and fertility of the soil.—There may be some parts of the country that is not deserving of this high character of soil, but it is only a small proportion that is so. The worst part is much better natural quality of soil than many parts of the British Isles, which produce excellent crops by proper cultivation and management. Our only motive in writing thus, is to induce our brother-farmers to examine fully the present state of Canadian agriculture. If they consider it in that improved and prosperous condition that ought to satisfy them, we should be sorry, by any thing we would say, to make them discontented. If, on the contrary, it is not in this improving and prosperous state, we would earnestly urge them to begin immediately to introduce such ameliorations, as their own convictions—their interests—and the example of other countries would point out as necessary and expedient. We remind them of the actual state of things—we endeavour to prove that they might be better—and we respectfully suggest the measures we conceive possible to adopt to make them better. We may be often in error, but we never shall propose any measure for the adoption of our agricultural friends, but such as we honestly believe will be for their benefit, as well as for the advantage of the whole community.

Cote St. Paul, 27th September, 1842.

FEMALE LABOUR IN ARABIA.—I saw several females here literally performing the labour of bullocks—in plain English, they were yoked to the plough. One was a very comely lass, and she answered my inquiries laughingly, that they hired themselves for the purpose, the remuneration being a small quantity of grain! The men at the same time were standing looking on, with spinnets in their hands. An odd transfer of duties this! The reader may recollect that Sir Thomas Munro relates, as a reason why an Indian should be exempted from paying his taxes, that he pleaded the late loss of his wife, who did as much work as two bullocks.—Selected.

He that does not know those things which are of use and necessity for him to know, is but an ignorant man, whatever he may know besides.—Tilolson.