

# AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL,

AND

## TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

### Lower Canada Agricultural Society.

VOL. 1.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1848.

NO. 2.

In our last number, we gave the estimated amount of the deficiency of the crops in the British Isles, in the year 1846, or rather what amount would be required to make up the deficiency, and this was considered to be £48,000,000. To this deficiency, of the usual annual produce created, may be fairly attributed the money difficulties that have lately occurred in the British Isles, and generally throughout the commercial world. This is another proof how much the prosperity of all classes, of all communities, is interested in the prosperous state of Agriculture. It is the products of Agriculture that alone can keep the whole machinery of trade, manufactures, commerce, and banking, in healthy activity. The funds required to make up the deficiency of a country's produce must be withdrawn, from other channels of employment, to purchase foreign food for the people, and hence the derangement in every branch of trade. The population of the earth is now so great, and every year increasing, that it becomes the *first* duty of every country to provide for the proper cultivation of the soil. Whatever may be considered the best means to accomplish this, it is our duty to adopt without hesitation; it is not a matter that should be put off to a more convenient season. The very existence, as well as the prosperity of the people, may depend upon adopting an improved and judicious system of Agriculture. This duty is not secondary to any other duty that we owe to society, and the time is arrived for the exertion of every man who is a friend to his country, to aid in promoting Agricultural improvement.

From recent accounts it appears to be confidently expected, that the scheme of Agricultural instruction by means of travelling Lecturers, which has been propounded by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, will be crowned with success. The Duke of Leinster, President of the Royal Irish Agricultural Improvement Society, is represented as unceasing in his endeavours to carry out the plan suggested by Lord Clarendon, and the unbounded respect and confidence, which are generally entertained in the judgment and integrity of the Duke of Leinster, will ensure success, if anything can. There is scarcely a doubt, that most beneficial results will be the consequence of practical instruction to the people, offered to them by those in whom they have confidence. Why should not similar modes of instruction succeed in Canada, as well as in Ireland? We are not aware of any cause to prevent it. Improvement is necessary on almost every farm, and the adoption of measures to produce this improvement, is a duty this Society have taken upon themselves to perform, if in their power.—General instruction, however, cannot be communicated without adequate funds. To diffuse useful and practical instruction on the art of Agriculture throughout the country, would be an employment of funds, that could not fail to be productive of a vast amount of general prosperity. We believe the Lower Canada Agricultural Society enjoy the confidence of the Agricultural classes, but to enable them to execute the plans of improvement, for which they have associated, they require funds to be placed at their disposal, without which it will be impossible for them to accomplish their object.