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THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,
AND PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, N. S. AUGUST, 1841.

NO. 2.

THE COLONIAL FARMER.

HALIFAX, N. S., AUGUST, 1841.

TO THE READER.

From the liberal support extended to us by the Central Board of Agriculture, and warm assurances of assistance from various country friends having a deep interest in the Agricultural prosperity of these Provinces, we have decided on continuing the 'Colonial Farmer.' We feel that the farmers of Nova Scotia will support us, and our confidence in their intelligence and patriotism strengthens with our intercourse with them.

The 'Colonial Farmer' is the cheapest Agricultural periodical in the Province, and, if the opinion of those competent to judge, in such matters, is worth any thing, it loses nothing in its literary character by a comparison with the best. No pains or expense will be spared to make it the first periodical of its kind in British North America.

The second number of our paper is now before you. Is it worthy of your support? If it is, lend your influence to extend its circulation. There is no farmer too poor to pay for it, and few so wise, that they may not yet learn something from its pages.

R. N.

TO AGENTS AND OTHERS.

Six copies of the 'Colonial Farmer' will be sent to one address for five dollars, twelve copies for ten dollars, and twenty-five copies for twenty dollars. The money, in all cases, must be sent with the order.

BUTTER.

The Low Dutch inhabitants of Long Island were accustomed to churn their milk instead of the cream, as habit had taught them to prefer buttermilk to sweet skimmed milk. They consequently churned every day; the morning and evening's milk was put into a very large and very clean churn which was placed near the fire, and securely covered, always putting to it a small quantity of coagulated milk. As soon as the milk was all coagulated, which it generally was by nine o'clock the next morning, it was carried to the milk-room and emptied into the churning churn, adding one-third the quantity of warm water. The woman churned with her foot; as she was accustomed to turn her flax-wheel, the dasher being lifted by a spring-pole, such as is affixed to the most simple kind of turning lathe. While churning, she was always knitting, for a Dutch woman will never lose any of her time. The churning was generally completed in half an hour, the buttermilk was then strained off, and the butter turned into a tray; then taking a large wooden ladle with a handle about half a yard long in each hand, she took up in the ladle in her right hand about a pound of butter which she tossed up five or six feet high, catching it with her ladle, as it fell, two or three times; and then with a smart stroke at arms length, struck it into the ladle in her left hand, when, after changing hands, and tossing and catching it again, she deposited it in a tray previously rubbed with fine salt, and commenced with another lump. This work is performed with remarkable agility even by old women. I think that I have seen

a woman of sixty work the buttermilk out of ten pounds of butter in this way in less than five minutes. The butter is then cut to pieces with the edge of the ladle, the proper quantity of salt taken up in a horn spoon and sprinkled over it, and worked into it by chopping, tossing and catching, and striking it from ladle to ladle, (for a Dutch woman never touches butter with her fingers.) She then with the ladle places in a balanced plate in her scales the quantity she means to have in a print, and when it is weighed, gives it a neat figure by tossing and catching it, and then with a smart stroke of her ladle brings it upon the print which is held in the left hand, having a long handle like the ladle.

As we have some of the descendants of the Low Dutch in the County of Annapolis it is to be hoped that they retain the ancient practices of their mothers, who were well qualified to give useful lessons to many of our countrywomen upon other parts of house-wifery as well as upon managing the dairy.

Many women who make good butter have the custom of skimming their milk the same morning that they churn, and mixing the cream with that which they are about to churn. This cream is left in the buttermilk, for it will not make butter till it becomes sour. Of this any persons who follow this practice may convince themselves by allowing their buttermilk to stand twenty-four hours and then churning it again.

When the strippings (the last milk taken, after three-fourths or more have been milked) are mixed with the cream, it should be allowed to coagulate before it is churned, or else a part of the Butter will be left in the buttermilk. The strippings, or last milk, and the first cream that rises make the best Butter. The salt used for butter should be of the best quality. That which turns damp in wet weather is not fit to salt either butter or pork. This dampness is caused by muriate of lime, a salt of which there is a small quantity in sea-water; it will attract an extraordinary quantity of water from the atmosphere, and always weaken the brine in which it is mixed. When good salt cannot be procured, the damp salt may be freed from the muriate by the following process: make a strong brine with some of the salt, let the salt that is to be refined be put into this brine for a day, stirring it occasionally; then pour off the brine, put clean water to the salt, stir it for a few seconds, pour it off and dry the salt in the sun. To make this process intelligible, it should be observed that brine so strong that it can dissolve no more common salt, is still capable of dissolving a considerable quantity of muriate of lime.

To make good butter from milk of thin ridged-backed cows in hot weather, the milk should be scalded as soon as it is strained; the cream will then rise as thick as that of muscular broad-backed cattle, and make nearly as good butter, and the churning may be performed in less than half an hour. Care should be used that the milk is neither burnt or smoked; for this reason the pot should be set on coals, and not allowed to boil.

One part sugar, one nitre, and two good salt, will preserve butter, almost unchanged, for a long time; but the butter must not have been washed with water, and when packed it must be secured from the air by covering it with a cloth dipped in melted butter, the edge of which must be soldered to the tub or crock with melted butter.

Charcoal, if it could be used without difficulty has a more pow-

eful effect in preserving butter than any kind of salt. When a boy I had occasion to see many firkins of Irish butter opened which had been long kept in stores. A part of the casks were burnt to a coal on the inside. In all these the butter was perfectly sweet; in all those that were not burnt, it was very much damaged.

T. S.

COWS.

The best Cows for the Countryman are generally those that make the most butter, and if a person here were to raise no calves except those of cows that made more than the average quantity of butter, and at the same time carried flesh well; and when those calves were grown, continued his selection of breeding cattle, he would undoubtedly improve his stock. By selecting by hand yearly the best and largest grain to raise seed from, the quality of the different kinds of grain may be improved also; but the same care must always be continued. And it is necessary to keep in mind the cautions given to the Farmer by Virgil, (from whom the substance of the above directions are borrowed,) "That every thing naturally degenerates, and that he who does not continue his care to keep up the improved quality of his stock and seeds, will fare like the man who having slowly pushed a little boat up a rapid stream, stopped to rest; when the current rapidly carried him down again." In attempting to improve a breed of cattle size should not be regarded; that will be properly regulated by the quality of the pasture and feeding. We should aim only at procuring a given quantity of beef or butter; of mutton or wool, at the least expense.

Throughout the province Cows are with few exceptions turned out to range over the waste lands and woods in the vicinity of the farm till the hay season is over. Then milk cows and cattle that are designed to be fattened are turned into the mowing ground to eat off the after grass. It is very rarely that we see cattle pastured through the summer upon land that has been formerly ploughed and manured, except in cases where, from neglect of manuring, the grass had become so poor that it was not worth mowing. Early in the season cattle feed in the woods very much upon plants akin to the lily of the valley, upon the leaves of beech, maple, and blackberry, and upon the tender leaves of the Prenanthes, a plant somewhat resembling Lettuce, which is found in almost all woods.

This kind of feed keeps them in tolerable flesh, but they do not give more than two-thirds the milk they would if kept in a good grass field. After the middle of August the feed in the woods grows worse; yet dry cows and young cattle still can support themselves feeding upon violets, woodsorrel, French willow, with the young shoots of white maple and blackberry. In many places cattle have a scanty allowance of hay in winter and support themselves partly by browsing upon the tops of the hardwood trees which are cut for cordwood. I have seen at Margaret's Bay 14 head of small sized cattle in the month of April who could not have consumed more than five hundred of hay each during the winter, as I judged by the space which the haymow had occupied; they were poor, but the owner said that he did not lose any, they having been brought up from calves upon brouse, that they did not give half the milk that was given by cattle which were well fed, but that he gave to five only the quantity of hay that others gave to one, and that they would make as much butter as two cows that were well fed, and that they would fatten earlier than the cows that were well wintered, and make as much beef as any other five.

When there is no land producing hardwood in reach, these cows generally learn to eat the Carriboo moss upon the barrens.

There are in the Eastern part of the Province large tracts of a

better description for pasturage, but much of this land is still in a state of nature, without settlers.

As there are contiguous to most of our settlements large tracts so poor that they will not be cultivated, yet capable of supporting cattle in summer, we should take advantage of this pasture which costs nothing, and for that purpose, a small rather than a large breed is the most suitable. The size of the animal is not of importance. We want those which will furnish a given quantity of beef or butter at the least expense.

T. S.

THE DAIRY AND ITS MANAGEMENT.

In our last number, we gave several extracts from a work by Mr. Evans, Secretary of the Montreal Agricultural Society. The work is an excellent one, and should be in the hands of every Farmer in British North America; but as that cannot be, we are certain our readers will not find fault with us, if we draw largely from its pages. Much that applies to Canada applies also to Nova Scotia—and our farmers should endeavour to profit by every successful experiment made for their advantage—and adopt every good rule or practice tending to promote their wealth or increase their happiness.

"The Dairy and its Management" follows next in order to the article on the "Management of Cows kept for the Dairy," which appeared in our first number:

The manufacture of butter and cheese is of necessity carried on where the milk, or raw material, is at hand. The subject therefore forms part of farm management more or less on every farm; and the principal one on dairy farms. In most of those counties where the profit of the cow arises chiefly from the subsequent manufacture of the milk, the whole care and management of the article rests with the house-wife, so that the farmer has little else to do but to superintend the depasturing of his cattle; the milking, churning, and in short the whole internal regulation of the dairy, together with the care of marketing the butter, when the same is made up wholly for home consumption, falling alone upon the wife. In this department of rural economy, so large a portion of skill, of frugality, cleanliness, industry, and good management, is required in the wife, that without them the farmer may be materially injured. This observation will, indeed, hold good in many other parts of business which pass through the hands of the mistress in a farm house; but there is none in which he may be so greatly assisted, or so materially injured, by the good conduct or want of care in his wife, as in the dairy.

Experienced dairy-men admit that the quality of their cheeses differs materially in the same season, and without being able to assign a reason. The cheese of Gloucester differs much from the cheese of Cheshire, though both are made from fresh milk, the produce of cows of the same breed, or rather in both counties, of almost every breed, and fed on pastures that do not exhibit any remarkable difference in soil, climate, or herbage. Even in the same district, some of what must appear the most important points are far from being settled in practice. One would think the process of salting the cheeses the most simple of all, and yet it is sometimes, (indeed generally in Canada,) mixed with curd; in other instances poured into the milk, in a liquid state, before being coagulated; and still more in England, never applied at all till the cheeses are formed in the press, and then only externally.

The dairy house for general purposes should consist of three separate apartments, the milk room, the dairy or working room, and the cheese or store room. The properties requisite in a good milk house are, that it be cool in summer, and moderately warm in winter, so as to preserve if possible a temperature nearly the same throughout the year, or about 50 degrees; and that it be dry so as to admit of being kept clean and sweet at all times. This can only be obtained in Canada by having the milk house partly under ground, or well banked with earth on the outside of the walls, and if possible, under the shade of trees, so that the sun can have no influence on the roof or walls in summer, and the frost must be entirely excluded in winter; the latter, however, cannot be done effectually unless by keeping a stove and fire in the milk house, or changing it into the dwelling house at that season.

CHEESE-MAKING.—The production of cheese includes the making of rennet, the selection of a colouring matter, the setting of the curd, and the management of the cheese in the press.

The application of any kind of acid will cause milk to coagulate, as well as the infusion of several plants. The maw, or stomach of a young calf that has been killed before the digestion is perfected, is almost universally preferred as rennet. The bag or maw is cleaned and salted in different ways in different districts; but the following method described by Marshall, is considered the best:

"Take a calf's bag, maw, or stomach, and having taken out the curd contained therein, wash it clean, and salt it thoroughly inside and out, leaving a white coat of salt over every part of it; put it into an earthen jar, or other vessel, and let it stand three or four days, in which time it will have formed the salt and its own natural juice into a pickle. Take it out of the jar, and hang it up for three or four days, to let the pickle drain from it; re-salt it, and put it again in the jar, cover it tight down with a paper pierced with a large pin, and in this state let it remain until wanted for use. In this state it ought to be kept for twelve months; it may, however, in case of necessity, be used in a few days after it has received a second salting; but it will not be so strong as if kept a longer time. In order to prepare the rennet for use, take a handful of the leaves of sweet-brier, the same quantity of the leaves of the dog-rose, and the like quantity of bramble-leaves, boil them in a gallon of water, with three or four handfuls of salt, about a quarter of an hour; strain off the liquor, and, having let it stand until perfectly cool, put it into an earthen cessel, and add to it the maw, prepared as above. To this add a good sound lemon, stuck round with about a quarter of an ounce of cloves, which gives the rennet an agreeable flavour."

The strength of the rennet thus prepared will increase in proportion to the length of time during which the bag remains in the liquor; the quantity to be used for the purpose of coagulating the milk, can therefore be ascertained only by daily use and occupation. In general, however, it may be stated, upon the average, that somewhat less than a half pint of wine measure will suffice for 50 gallons of milk, for which quantity in Gloucestershire, the practice is to employ about one-third of a pint. Throughout the whole process of preparing rennet, too much attention cannot be given to cleanliness, and sweetness; for if it be kept too long, so as to become foul or tainted, the cheese will invariably become affected by it.

Spanish annatto, is unquestionably the best ingredient of the kind for colouring cheese. The usual mode of applying it is to dip a piece of the requisite size in a bowl of milk, and rub it on a smooth stone until the milk assumes a deep red colour. This infusion is to be added to the milk of which the cheese is intended to be made, in such a quantity as will impart to the whole a bright orange colour, which will become the deeper in proportion to the age of the cheese.

Setting the curd.—The proper season for making cheese is from the beginning of May till the close of September, or in favourable seasons till the middle of October. A certain elevation of temperature is requisite to the coagulation of milk, and it may naturally be supposed to be nearly that of the stomach of milk-taking animals. Marshall is of opinion that from 85 to 90 degrees of heat, and two hours of time, are the fittest for coagulation.

Climate, season, weather, and pasture, may require that these limits should sometimes be violated. Milk produced from poor clays will require to be coagulated at a higher temperature than that which is procured from rich pastures. In some dairies the milk is heated to the proper temperature; but the most approved practice is to mix boiling water in such a proportion as shall render the milk of a proper degree of heat to receive the rennet; for this the thermometer should be used to determine. In hot weather the milk in the cow's udder is liable to become agitated by their running about, or being driven too great a distance; so that if rennet be put to it in this state, the curd, instead of coming in one or two hours, will require three, four, or five hours, and will be so spongy, tough, and in every respect so imperfect, as to be scarcely capable of being confined in the press or vat; and when released from the press, it will heave or split, and be good for little. Whenever, therefore, cows are discovered to be in this state, which perhaps can scarcely be avoided during very hot weather, where cows are pastured abroad in unsheltered grounds, or where water is not within their reach, it will be advisable to add some cold fresh spring water to the milk as soon as it is brought into the dairy. The quantity to be mixed, in order to impart the proper degree of

heat, can in this case only be regulated by experience and the use of the thermometer. The effect of the water thus added will, in both cases, be to make the rennet take effect much sooner, and consequently to accelerate the coagulation of the milk.

The proportion of rennet and time requisite for coagulation have been already mentioned; too much rennet ought not to be put in, otherwise the cheese will be ready to heave, as well as become rank and strong; the same effect will also be produced if the rennet be made with bad or foul materials, or if it be too strong to operate in the given time, (two hours.) During the process, the milk ought to be covered so as not to lose more than five or seven degrees of its original heat. One or two handfuls of salt added previously to mixing the rennet, will promote coagulation. Some put in a bowl, which is an absurd, ancient custom, and injurious rather than useful.

When the coagulation has taken place, the curd is broken or cut with a cheese knife, which causes the whey to rise through the incisions; and the curd sinks with the more ease. After a short time the cutting is repeated, still more freely than before, and is continued until the curd is reduced to small uniform particles. This operation will require three quarters of an hour; the cheese tub is again covered with a cloth, and is allowed to remain for the same time. When the curd has sunk to the bottom of the vessel, the whey is taken off by the hand, or by means of a skimming dish; another quarter of an hour should now be allowed for the curd to settle, drain, and become solid, before it is broken in the vat, as it prevents the fat from being squeezed out through the fingers, and of course contributes to improve the quality of the cheese. Sometimes, in addition to the skimming dish, a semicircular board and weight, adapted to the size of the tub, are employed.

The curd is again cut as before, in order to promote the free separation of the whey, and pressure is again applied till it be wholly drawn off. Great attention is requisite in conducting this part of the business; and if any particles of slip curd should be seen floating in the whey, it might be carefully laded off with the whey, as it will not incorporate with the solid curd, but dissolving in the cheese, causes whey springs, as already mentioned, and materially impairs its soundness. If the whey be of a green colour, when loaded or pressed out, it is a certain criterion that the curd has been properly formed; but if it be of a white colour, it is equally certain that the coagulation is imperfect, the cheese will be sweet, and of little value, and much valuable caseous matter will be completely thrown away. In the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, the cheese manufacturers have recourse to a somewhat different method for extracting the whey, which is worthy of notice. When they think the milk sufficiently coagulated, they lay a strainer in a basket made for the purpose, in which they put the curd, and suffer it to remain there for some time to drain, before they break the curd; when the curd is sufficiently drained, it is put into two or three separate vessels, and is broken with the hand as small as possible. During this part of the process, salt is scattered over the curd, and intimately mixed with it; the proportion, however, has not been correctly ascertained, and is regulated by experience.

Management in the Press.—The breaking and salting completed, a cloth is spread over the cheese vat, and the broken curd being packed into it, and covered up with the cloth, a smooth round board is laid over the vat, which is usually filled to the height of one inch above the brim, to prevent the curd from shrinking below its sides, when the whey is squeezed out.

The whole is then put into a press for two hours; and as it is of the utmost importance that every drop of whey should be expressed, skewers are thrust into the cheese through the holes in the lower part of the vat, to facilitate its escape. The two hours expired, the cheese is taken out and put into a vessel of warm or hot whey for an hour or two, in order to harden its skin. On taking the cheese out of the whey, it is wiped dry, and when it has become cool, is wiped with a clean dry cloth, of a finer texture, and again submitted to the press for six or eight hours. The cheese is now turned a second time, and is taken to the salting room where it is rubbed on each side with salt; after which it is wrapped in another dry cloth, of a finer texture than either of the preceding cloths, and is again pressed for twelve or fourteen hours; if any edges, these are paired off, and the cheese being laid upon a dry board, is turned every day. In the salting room, cheese should be kept warm until it has had a sweat, or has become regularly dry and somewhat stiff; as it is warmth that ripens cheese, improves its colour, and causes it when cut to have a fleaky appearance, which is the surest sign of superior excellence.

Management in the Cheese-room.—After the process of salting and drying are completed, the cheeses are deposited in the cheese room or loft, which should be airy and dry; but on no account should hard and soft cheeses be placed in the same room, for the dampness or moisture arising from the latter will cause the hard cheese to chill, become thick coated and often spotted. Throughout the whole process of cheese-making, the minutest attention will be requisite, for if the whey be imperfectly expressed, or the tennet be impure, or the cheese be not sufficiently salted, it will become rank and pungent. For this defect there is no remedy; the imperfect separation of the whey will cause cheese to heave or swell, as well as run out at the sides.

In order to prevent as well as to stop this heaving, the cheese must be laid in a moderately cool and dry place, and be turned regularly every day. If the heaving be very considerable, the cheese must be pricked on both sides in several places, particularly where it is most elevated, by thrusting a skewer into it; by this pricking, though the heaving will not be altogether prevented, a passage will be given to the confined air; heaving, or swelling will consequently be considerably reduced, and the cavities in the cheese will be less offensive to the eye. Another remedy for heaving in cheese consists in applying a composition of nitre and bole armoniac, which is vended in the shops under the name of cheese-powder. It is prepared by mixing one pound of saltpetre with half an ounce of bole armoniac, thoroughly together, and reduce them to a very fine powder. About a quarter of an ounce of this is to be rubbed in a cheese when put a second and a third time into the press, half on each side of the cheese at two different meals, before salt is rubbed on, that the cheese may be penetrated with it. This preparation is very binding, and sometimes proves serviceable; but the nitre is apt to impart an acid taste; and if too much be applied, and the cheese be exposed to too great heat, the quantity of air already confined in it will be increased by fermentation, and the cheese will swell much more than if no powder had been rubbed in. The greatest care, therefore, will be necessary whenever this remedy is adopted.

Hard and spoiled cheese may be restored in the following manner:—Take four ounces of pearlsh, and pour sweet wine over it until the mixture ceases to effervesce; filter the solution, dip into it clean lincn cloths, cover the cheese with them, and put the whole into a cool place, or dry cellar. Repeat this process every day, at the same time turning the cheese, and if necessary, continue it for several weeks. Thus the hardest and most insipid cheese, it is affirmed, has frequently recovered its former flavour.

Cheese-making in Cheshire, is said to have remained stationary for many years. The best size is considered to be sixty pounds. The cows are milked during summer at six o'clock, morning and evening. The evening's milk, (of supposo twenty cows,) having stood all night in the coolers, or brass pan, the cheese-maker, about six o'clock in the morning, carefully skims off the cream from the whole of it, observing first to take off all the froth and bubbles, which may amount to about a pint; this not being thought proper to be put into the cheese, goes to the cream tub to be churned for butter, and the rest of the cream is put into a brass pan. While the dairy woman is thus employed, the servants are milking the cows, having previously lighted a fire under the furnace, which is half full of water. As soon as the night's milk is skimmed, it is all carried into the cheese tub, except about three or four gallons, which is put into the brass pan, and immediately placed in the furnace of hot water, and is made scalding hot: the half of the milk thus heated in the pan is poured into the cheese tub, and the other half is added to the cream, which, as before observed, was skimmed into another brass pan. By this means the cream is liquified and dissolved; so as apparently to form one homogenous or uniform fluid, and in that state it is poured into the cheese tub. But before this is done, several pails or vessels full of new milk will generally have been poured into the cheese tub, or perhaps the whole morning's milk. Care is taken to skim off all the air bubbles which may have formed in pouring the new milk into the cheese tub. The night and morning's milk, and melted cream, being thus all put into the cheese tub, it is then ready to receive the rennet and colouring, or, in the terms of the art, to be set together. The rennet and colouring being put into the tub, the whole is well stirred together, a wooden cover is put over the tub, and over that a lincn cloth. The usual time of coming is one hour and a half, during which time it is frequently to be examined; if the cream rises to the surface before the coming takes place, as it often does,

the whole must be stirred together so as to mix again the milk and cream, and this as often as it rises, until the coagulation commences. A few smart strokes on different sides of the tub, with the ladder, &c., will forward the coagulation, if it is found to be too long in forming.

The curd is in the next place broken by the knife and hands, and then left half an hour to subside; it is gently pressed, the curd broken by the hand, and the whey ladled out of the tub as it drains from the curd. Afterwards the curd is broken into a brass pan and salted, and next put into the cheese vat, and pressed with a 60-pound weight till all the whey is removed. It is then again broken, washed with warm whey, and finally put into the press under a weight or power of about 1400 pounds. After being 48 hours in the press, it is put into the salting tub, where it remains three days, covered with salt; it is then taken out and placed on the salting benches, where it is turned once a day; it is then washed in warm water with a brush, and wiped dry with a cloth; in two hours it is smeared over with whey butter, and then put to the warmest part of the cheese room. In the cheese room it is well rubbed, to take off the sweat or fermentation which takes place in cheeses for a certain time after they are made, and turned daily for several days, and smeared over with whey butter; afterwards it is turned daily, and rubbed three times a week in summer, and twice in winter. These cheeses require to be kept a long time; and if not forced by artificial means, will scarcely be sufficiently ripe, or in perfection, under two or three years. The quantity of Spanish arnatto necessary to colour a cheese of 60 lbs. is a quarter of an ounce. The Dutch make their cheese nearly in the same manner, excepting that they substitute the marine acid, or spirits of sea-salt, which imparts to Dutch cheese the peculiarly sharp and salt flavour for which it has long been remarked, and that they leave out the cream.

Much of what passes as double Gloucester, is made in Somersetshire, by the following simple process:—When the milk is brought home, it is immediately strained into a tub, and the rennet added, in the proportion of about three table spoonful to a quantity sufficient for a cheese of 28 pounds, after which it remains undisturbed for two hours, when it becomes curd, and is broken. That done, three parts of the whey is warmed, and afterwards put into the tub for about twenty minutes; the whole whey is then again put over the fire, made nearly scalding hot, and returned into the tub, to scald the curd, for about half an hour, after which part of the whey is again taken out, and the remainder left with the curd until it is nearly cold. The whey is then poured off, the curd broken very small, put into the vat and pressed, remains there nearly an hour, and is then again taken out, turned, and put under the press until evening, when it is turned and put in again until next morning. It is then taken out of the vat, salted, put into it again with a clean dry cloth round it, and remains in the press till the following evening, when it is again taken out, salted, put into the vat without a cloth, and pressed till the next morning; it then finally leaves the press, and is salted once a day for twelve days.

HORSES

At this season, who run in pastures, are tormented with the Bot-flies, who are attempting to deposit their eggs or nits upon their legs, and other parts of their bodies. Although they do not appear to bite the Horse, yet he has more dread of them than of those kinds that do bite him. As the horses, when feeding upon the after-grass in the fall, are constantly shedding the short hairs from their legs, they swallow a great number of the yellow nits which are attached to the hairs. These are quickly hatched and imbed themselves at first completely in the coat of the stomach, but as they grow larger their hinder part becomes visible, and in the month of April they appear like very large maggots with about one-fourth of their length imbedded in the membrane of the stomach. As the eggs are swallowed at different times the Bots will be found of different sizes in the Spring, but most of them will have acquired their full size, quitted their hold of the stomach, and have been passed with dung early in June, and in July they may be found in the dry horse-dung which is scattered about the pastures covered with a brown skin, and apparently incapable of moving;

but if the skin is carefully taken off, it will be found that it enclosed a Bot-fly, much resembling the humble Bee. This insect may be prevented from depositing its eggs upon the horse by oiling his legs and all other parts of his body where it is observed to deposit its nits. Those that are already attached to the hair may be scraped off easily by a knife two or three days after they have been oiled. The oil will also prevent flies of any kind from biting the horse. It is very useful in the months of September and October, when the Indigo fly keeps the horses stamping so frequently in town. Fish oil is the best, but where it cannot be procured hog-lard will answer.

T. S.

TURNIPS.

For some years the Turnip crop has been greatly injured by worms resembling the common grub or cutworm: they are the offspring of a grey moth which flies by night. Perhaps their increase may be ascribed to the diminution of our usual number of small birds, by the cold summers between 1831 and 1840. The Robins always feed their young with different kinds of moths, or millers, as they are sometimes called, as also does the cat-bird, now very rare.

If the Kally Dutch, or the Nova-Scotia Redtop Turnips are sowed as late as the tenth of August they will generally have sufficient time to acquire their full growth, and will be less affected by the worms than those which were sown in July. They should be kept very thin, not less than six inches apart if sown in ridges. They should be carefully watched from the time that the rough leaves are an inch in breadth. The worms at their first appearance will be very small, and covered with a web, and may then be destroyed with lime, but if they are neglected for a few days, they will go into the ground by day, and devour the leaves in the night, in spite of lime, scot, tobacco water, or any other application commonly used. The lime should not be slacked more than a fortnight before it is thrown upon the turnips. About a quart may be taken at a time in a small bag and shaken over the turnips while covered with dew; it will fly through the bag like smoke, attaching itself to the lower as well as the upper surface of the leaves, and if the lime has not lost its strength, it will destroy the greater part of the worms. Still the turnips must be watched, for lately additional deposits of young worms have appeared, although it was not the case formerly, but should young broods appear, the lime must be applied again. Where lime cannot be had apply dry hardwood ashes, but the lime is much better; and remember that if you wait until the worms have left their web, neither the one nor the other will destroy them.

T. S.

MURRAIN.

As a number of Cattle have of late years died near Halifax of a sudden complaint resembling some of the forms of this fatal disease it may be of use to try the following preventive, which has been thought in some places to secure cattle against its attacks: give to a cow twice a week in the warm season a large spoonful of hardwood ashes mixed with a spoonful of fine salt. The cows who are accustomed to eat salt will readily eat this mixture, for others it may be mixed with bran.

If a cow ceases to chew her cud, look at the roof of her mouth; if it appears yellow, boil two quarts of wild red cherry bark half an hour, dissolve half an ounce of hard soap in the liquor and give it to her, (mixed with scalded bran if she has been accustomed to slops.) Repeat the dose every twelve hours till she begins to chew her cud. If the mouth is not yellow, give immediately three pints of molasses a little warmed.

T. S.

THE AGRICULTURE OF NOVA-SCOTIA AND NEW-BRUNSWICK.

By A. GRANK, F. G. S., &c. &c.

CHAPTER II.

It has become evident from the recent observations of distinguished Philosophers and Statesmen, that the occupations of the inhabitants of every civilized country, are greatly influenced by the geological characters of the districts where their abodes are fixed. The manufacturing character of the Coal districts in England, contrasted with other counties where mineral fuel does not appear but where the soil is perhaps more fertile, is a striking proof of the correctness of this opinion. But this view may be carried still farther, and it may be shewn that the different kinds of soil as derived from different classes of rocks, frequently govern the population, wealth, and happiness of the people; and also perform an important part in the advancement of civilization, and even the practice of morality.

So far as regards the Provinces of Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick, these distinctions have not yet become very manifest; but that the nature of the soil, in each district, does influence in some degree the character and habits of the inhabitants, must be obvious to every careful observer. It might indeed be said, that idleness and extravagance are more common on the fertile districts of New Red Sandstone, than elsewhere; labour and economy are requisites on the mountains of slate; while adventure and speculation are cherished along the alluviums of the navigable streams, and upon the beds of gypsum.

In the older townships and settlements the large farms of the first inhabitants have been divided and subdivided among their descendants; and although there is still in general a sufficient quantity of land for each of the present proprietors, yet the improvements in agriculture, have by no means been equal to the rates by which the old farms have been reduced, and impoverished. It is true fine villages are springing up in almost every quarter, whose inhabitants received their first supplies of the necessaries of life from the older districts; but, that too many, from habits acquired in the easy cultivation of their native abodes, have avoided the clearing of new farms for themselves, and have not sufficiently prized the noble and most respectable occupation of the farmer, is equally certain.

By acquiring a knowledge of the nature of the soil and the means of its improvement, the advantages of each district will in some degree become equalized, and each division of the country will be improved, according to the amount of labor and skill bestowed by the farmer.

It is to be regretted that correct geological or agricultural maps of the Provinces have not yet been completed; and large tracts of excellent land still remain almost unexplored and unknown. My observations must therefore be confined to such districts as have been partially examined, and remain open to such corrections as future enquiries may supply; when more shall be known of the true value of this part of the British Empire. A complete geological explanation of these Provinces, embracing an agricultural survey, will be the work of time, nevertheless whatever is known of the value and capabilities of the soil, or any of the natural resources of the country, should be made known; and every encouragement should be offered to those who are disposed to improve them.

SOILS.

In pursuing an inquiry into the nature and properties of the soils of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it will be necessary in the first place to separate them into general divisions, according to the

nature of the rocks they most frequently cover, and in which they have had their origin. It would be impossible in the present state of our knowledge to define accurately the boundaries of each of these divisions; the soil formed by the disintegration of one class of rocks, having been transported so as to cover partially the hills of another class, by causes already mentioned. But the general character of the soils in each district, will be found to agree, and from these general divisions, which differ from each other in regard to fertility, and the proper modes of cultivation, and improvement, we may enter upon the local and particular varieties, until a careful analysis is given of the whole, and the particular mode of improvement laid down. It is well known that the fertility of different districts varies; and the productive character of the soil presents some remarkable contrasts. If good Agricultural Maps of the different Counties were made, the divisional lines between the several classes of rocks, would shew very nearly, the great divisions of the soil; but until such maps, which have been found so useful in Europe, are obtained, we must endeavour to reap the advantages of observations, already made, and to which future discoveries may be added.

CLASSES OF SOIL.

That the classes of soils are governed by the rocks from which they are derived, and upon which they frequently repose, has been already noticed. The stratified rocks themselves have arisen in some degree from the consolidation of ancient soils, a fact fully proved by the remains of animals and plants found in them.

The soils still collecting through the medium of operations ever active upon the surface of the earth, partake of the characters of the masses from which they were formed, notwithstanding the chemical changes they undergo, by being exposed to the atmosphere and other meteoric agents.

With a knowledge of these facts I have thought it most proper in the classification of the different varieties of soil, to apply such terms to them as would not only give some idea of their composition, but also in some degree refer to their origin; and the best proof that this is a proper mode of applying names in the present case, is the fact that the same word will almost always meet both of these objects; and convey some idea of the composition and origin of each variety. Although I have never seen this plan introduced by writers on soils, I cannot but hope it will be found useful, for it may be extended to meet the peculiar conditions of every country or district.

In North America the chains of mountains and hills in general, run from the South-West to the North-East, seldom varying farther than North North-East and East North-East in their directions. The same forces, seem to have been applied to them, by which the primary rocks have been uplifted. These are the courses also of the stratified formations, which lean against the mountain ranges as if their strata had been elevated by them, a fact scarcely to be doubted.

We therefore find belts or tracts of different kinds of soil, running in those directions; and parallel with the courses of the strata or layers of rock. The diluvial operations already referred to, have scattered the soils of each group of rocks, Southward of their original sites; but not so far, that those belts may not be traced along the country.

The above courses are also those of the Atlantic coast and Bay of Fundy; and the whole of the features of the shores have arisen from geological causes. It is necessary to take this wide view of the subject, in order to lay the details fairly before the reader; and however remote these things may appear to the object of agri-

culture, it will be seen hereafter that they are necessary preliminaries in the inquiry instituted.

It is of importance before the general classes of the soils are laid down, to give the outline of the tracts of Country they severally occupy; and thus a comparison may be made directly between the soil itself, and the rocks beneath; and although these general divisions may not in every instance correspond with the nature of the soil in particular localities, for reasons already given, yet for general purposes, they will be found to possess a degree of correctness not to be obtained by any other mode of proceeding.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SOILS.

Before I proceed to inquire into the nature and properties of the soils, it will be necessary to give an outline of the tracts where they exist. Some of these outlines can be given with a desirable degree of exactness, while others cannot be laid down exactly according to the lines they approach to, on account of parts of the Province being almost unexplored.

Extending from Yarmouth and through the counties of Queen's, Lunenburg, Halifax, and parts of Pictou, and Sydney in Nova-Scotia, in a North-East direction, there is a large tract of country occupied by a soil derived from the disintegration and decomposition of granite. This kind of soil is well known in those counties, and is cultivated more or less at Shelburne, Liverpool, La Have, Lunenburg, Chester, Halifax, and along the numerous harbours between the Capital of the Province and Cape Canso. Also in the county of Annapolis, on the mountains Southward of the valley through which the beautiful river passes, and towards the source of Tusket, and Clyde rivers, and Lake Rosignol, this is the prevailing soil. A similar tract also reaches from Nictau along the South mountains between Sherbrooke and Kentville, to the source of the Avon. Recently a similar kind of soil has been found extending from near Cape Chignecto, through the township of Parrsboro', and Northward of Londonderry, forming the Cobequid Mountains, to the County of Pictou. There are many small tracts connected with these, but the soil on them will be readily recognized. These form the principal granite districts in the Province, and the soils upon them, are peculiar to the rocks beneath; they have therefore been called *granite soils*.

Taken altogether these tracts of granite country are not generally cultivated on account of the scantiness of the soil, and there are extensive areas where the naked rocks occupy the surface; notwithstanding there are many farms upon the detritus of that rock, in the counties already mentioned, they are not equal in fertility to the lands situated upon the extensive tracts to be noticed hereafter.

ON AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT.

Among the many objects upon which great improvements are made at the present day, it is cheering to consider that agriculture is also receiving much attention. True it is, that this is a subject which has been too much neglected. We have followed our predecessors. As our fathers and grand fathers did, so have we done. We have long followed them in their steps, without ever supposing that their ways could be altered for the better. And it is astonishing to consider that while enterprise is the great characteristic of the Yankees, they have remained so long satisfied with travelling in the steps of their forefathers. But so it is, at least so it has been in this part of the country. But while some yet continue in the practice of their forefathers, others have left their tracks, and are now beginning to make experiments for themselves. The method of cultivating the soil that has been practised in this vicinity, that was handed down to us by generations, that have gone before us, and which some of our farmers yet continue to practise, is the following: In the first place, a man to be called a farmer, must have a large farm. This is divided into lots for mowing and pas-

turing. The pastures are left to take care of themselves, and since they were cleared, have seldom or never been disturbed by the plough. Of course they now produce but very little, and that not of the best quality.

But this is good husbandry, compared with the practice of many of our farmers, with their mowing lots. With one class of our farmers, it has been the practice to till far too much land, and that quantity of manure that ought to be put on one acre, is put on three. After planting several seasons, it is sown with some kind of grain, without manure, till the soil becomes exhausted to such a degree, that it hardly compensates the laborer for his toil. It is then thought to be in a good condition to be put to grass.

This is one instance of the mismanagement of farmers in this region, and the natural consequence is, that land has greatly decreased in value. Many farms have been worn out to such a degree, that the owners have been under the necessity of removing to the more fertile lands of Ohio. But though most of the farmers have for a long time practised this method of their forefathers, though their minds for a long time have been prejudiced against every thing contrary to what their predecessors taught them, yet it is pleasing and cheering to witness, notwithstanding many continue to practise the old methods, that some are laying them aside, and beginning to act with unbiased and unprejudiced minds. It is truly gratifying to witness the improvements that are made at the present day in agriculture, and though we do not expect to plant and hoe, or raise our crops by steam or water power, yet we believe improvements in agriculture have but just commenced. It is gratifying also to consider how much is written at this day on this subject; how many periodicals are published and distributed in our land, when but a few years ago such a publication could scarcely be found. And it is cheering to see, that such publications are now read by many with unprejudiced minds. The time has been, when if a person read a periodical on this subject, and was influenced by it to deviate in the least from the customs and practices of his forefathers, he would be despised and ridiculed. I have seen the man, who, when told by his more enlightened brother farmer, his method of raising corn, would sneer at him for getting his opinions from the newspapers.

But how strange it is, that the farmer has remained so long deluded; how strange that they have remained so long blind and deaf to the writings of those who have examined the subject, and whose object in writing has been to benefit them.

The divine must spend years in studying the bible, and in examining commentaries upon it, before he is qualified for the duties of his office. The lawyer must spend years in study, before he is capable of pleading at the bar. The physician must spend years in studying and examining the writings of others, on the treatment of diseases, before he is qualified for attending to the sick. But many a farmer supposes he can be taught nothing with respect to cultivating the soil. He has already the art to perfection; and he would almost as soon think of putting a rattle snake into his bosom, as to read on this subject. But the times are fast changing; books and periodicals on this subject are now read by many without prejudice. Those that cultivate the soil, are now rising from the degradation in which they have so long remained. Formerly it was thought that farmers were wholly unfit for any thing except to till the soil, and they were considered the offscouring and the dregs of mankind. But at the present day, the farmer is fast rising to respectability and he now fills places in society, for which he was formerly thought wholly unfit. Formerly it was thought, if he could read, write, and say the multiplication table, it was all that was necessary for him to know. Not a year ago, a young man applied to his father for permission to attend a select school, then kept in the town in which they resided. Ah, said his father, I would not have you attend that school for a thousand dollars. The reason was because he thought learning worse than useless for the farmer.

But these dark ages with respect to agriculture are rapidly flitting by us; and the sun that has been so long hid in clouds and darkness, is now breaking forth in its meridian splendor, dispelling the fogs and mists in which our land has so long been enveloped.

—Cultivator.

From *Low's Elements of Practical Agriculture.*

SHEEP.

THE Southdown.—The Southdown is a breed of fine-woolled sheep, now greatly esteemed, and extensively diffused on the light

soils and chalky downs of England. They are without horns; their legs and faces are gray, and, like the sheep of the mountains, they are light in their fore-quarters. Their wool is fine and short, being from 2 to 3 inches in length, and weighing, on an average, about 2½ lbs. the fleece. Their flesh is of excellent flavor; they are a hardy class of sheep, kindly feeders, and well suited to the species of pasture on which they are chiefly reared; they are about size of the Cheriote sheep, the wethers, when fat, weighing about 18 lb. the quarter.

These sheep have been raised from time immemorial upon the chalky soils of Sussex; they have spread into other districts of light soils and downs, and also into some to which they are not adapted.

Much care has been bestowed on the cultivation of this breed, and it has accordingly been greatly improved; but attention having been mainly directed to the form and fattening properties of the animals, the quality of the wool has declined, though its quantity has increased.

MERINO.—In the class of fine-woolled sheep is the Merino or Spanish breed, now partially naturalized. They were originally natives of the northern provinces of Spain, and were introduced into this country in the year 1788. In the year of 1792 the rams were made to cross the Ryeland, the Southdown, and other fine-woolled breeds of England. His Majesty King George III. had introduced rams of the Merino breed from Spain, and cultivated it with care. In the year 1804, the sales which then began of his Majesty's stock attracted great attention to the breed; and, in the year 1811, a society was formed for the purpose of encouraging and extending it.

The result of the crosses with the native sheep has not in any degree fulfilled the expectations formed. The wool of the native sheep has indeed been improved in quality; but this has been accompanied by defects in the characters of the animals themselves not to be compensated by the increased value of the fleeces. The sheep of the mixed breed have nearly all proved defeated in their forms, slow feeders, and less hardy than the parent stock.

DISLEY.—The improved Dishley breed is very generally termed the New Leicester, from having been formed by Mr. Bakewell of Dishley, in the county of Leicester. This gentleman was the son of a considerable farmer; and, about the year 1755, had begun to turn his attention to those improvements in the form of feeding animals, by which he came so distinguished. The precise steps which he followed in the forming of his breed of sheep are not known, as he chose to observe a species of mystery upon the subject. He is supposed to have derived his first sheep from Lincolnshire; but however this may be, it was by a steady breeding from the best formed animals, until the properties aimed at had been acquired, that he gradually corrected the defects, and improved the form of the animals. He was well aware of the external characters which indicate a disposition to feed, and, by a steady course of selection continued during a lifetime, he obtained animals of superior feeding properties to any that had been before cultivated. By constantly breeding, too, from individuals of his own flock, and consequently near of blood to each other, he gave a permanence to the characters of his breed which it retains to the present hour. Mr. Bakewell adopted the practice of letting out his rams for the season, and this contributed to the general diffusion of his breed. Successors to Mr. Bakewell have continued the same system, and bestowed the utmost care in maintaining the purity of their flocks; and thus from the county of Leicester as a centre, this breed has been spread to every part of England, where the breeders have thought fit to receive it; and it has generally changed the character of the greater part of the long-woolled breeds of this kingdom.

The sheep of the new Leicester breed are inferior in size to the other varieties which they have supplanted. The wool is but of moderate quality, and in weight it falls short of that of the larger breeds: it weighs from 7 to 8 lb. and has a length of pile of from 5 to 7 inches. The value of the breed, therefore, does not consist in the size of the individuals, or the quality or abundance of their wool, but in early maturity, and aptitude to feed. In this latter property, the New Leicester has not been surpassed or equalled by any other breed of cultivated sheep.

IMPROVEMENT OF BREEDS.—The breed of sheep to be reared in any case must be selected according to the nature of the pastures, and the artificial means possessed of supplying food. If a mountain breed is selected for rearing on a low arable farm, then the advantage is lost which the farm possesses of producing a larger and finer class of animals. If, on the other hand, a lowland breed

is carried to a mountain farm, an error of a different kind, but yet more hurtful, is committed; for a fine stock will be ruined if placed in circumstances where it cannot be maintained.

The breed, then, being selected which is the best suited to the circumstances in which it is to be placed, the province of the breeder is to breed from the best individuals.

Disposition to feed, and early maturity, are the properties most regarded in sheep to be reared for food. But the property of yielding good and abundant wool is not to be disregarded; and there is another property essential in the rearing of this class of animals, namely, hardiness and sound health of individuals.

In the case of the sheep as of the ox, refinement in breeding may be carried too far, and with more danger. By breeding from animals near of blood, the same means exist in the case of the sheep as of the ox, of giving that prematurity of age which produces fineness of the bones and a disposition to feed. But it is attended too with the same effect, of rendering the animals more delicate, and subject to diseases. It seems a violence done to nature, when carried too far, and the animals show the effects of it by becoming too fine in their skins, by ceasing to produce wool in sufficient quantity, by the females ceasing to yield milk, and by males becoming at length unable to continue their species.

Whenever, then, the sheep of any flock become too near of blood, the breeder should resort to the best animals of another family, but of the same breed, to continue his stock. This species of crossing is now easy, since there is scarce any of the cultivated breeds of which superior males may not be procured from other flocks. In the case of the new Leicester, so widely diffused and highly improved, no necessity can exist for breeding from animals too nearly allied.

FOAM.—In the sheep, as in other animals, certain external characters indicate a disposition to feed, and at an early age. Other characters indicate a disposition to produce wool, and the quantity of wool, it has been said, is not to be disregarded in the rearing of the sheep. But the main purpose in rearing the sheep in this country being for food, the province of the breeder is to accomplish this object with as little sacrifice as possible of the secondary qualities.

A property that indicates a tendency to feed in the sheep as in the ox, is a general rotundity of form and fineness of the bones. The chest should be broad, the ribs well arched, and the back and loins accordingly broad, flat, and straight. The sheep, like the ox, occupies, independently of the neck and head, nearly a rectangle, and the larger the proportion of this rectangle which the body occupies, the more perfect is his form as a feeding animal. His body, therefore, should be large in proportion to his limbs, or, in other words, his limbs should be short in proportion to his body; his breast should be well forward, and his belly straight; his head should be small and his ears thin; his limbs to the joint should be fleshy, below delicate and covered with short hair: his skin should be soft and elastic; his wool soft to the touch, thick, and coming well forward to the face, but not covering it; his face and forehead should be covered thickly with short hair, and his eyes, as indicative of health, should be lively.

THE GOOSEBERRY

Is among our choicest garden fruits, and is one of the earliest species which is fit for the table. But in many locations it is subject to mildew, which not only blights the fruit, but the anticipations of the cultivator. Mildew, according to Darwin, is a plant of the fungus kind, which vegetates without light, or change of air, in the same manner as the generality of mushrooms; and penetrates with its roots the vessels or plants to which it adheres. Wyllich says it is a topical disease only to be cured by a topical remedy. We have heard, and seen somewhat ourselves, of the effects of topical remedies, in which lime, salt or sulphur have constituted the preventive or cure of this disease, not only upon the gooseberry, but upon the grape, wheat, &c.

In the grape houses about Boston, and in our own grape house, sulphur is efficaciously employed, in its dry state, dusted upon the young fruit, to prevent mildew, or to check it where it has already appeared. Here neither winds or rain occur to wash or blow it off; and one or two applications suffice for the season. It may be applied outdoors in a liquid form, by first mixing the sulphur with milk, with which it incorporates—and then diluting freely with water, sprinkle it upon the leaves and fruit with a white-wash or other brush.

A weak brine, or salt, scattered about the roots of the gooseberry and grape, in May, is said to operate as a preventive. Before we were aware of it, we perceived our gooseberry crop affected with mildew, when the fruit was about the size of peas. We immediately applied a weak brine; and three days afterwards, dusted the bushes with lime. The disease was checked, and the berries have continued to swell, and appear healthy. Whether the salt or lime was separately or jointly beneficial, we are unable to say; but the remedy seems to have proved effectual. In the application of either of these substances, care must be taken not to apply them in excess, lest they should destroy the plant as well as its parasite. Salt is best applied to vegetation in a liquid form, as it is then more equally distributed. Lord Manners applied it with great success, in the proportion of one ounce of salt to a gallon of water. Two cuneces to a gallon proved hurtful to vegetation, but the second year the herbage where it was applied was abundant. All the land on the coast is treated with sea water in China and Hindostan. The utility of salt, in preventing or destroying mildew, has been announced, by the Rev. E. Cartwright, of London, as a discovery of great importance to agriculture. He declares it to be an absolute remedy for the mildew in wheat. His directions are: take "salt one part, water eight; with this mixture let the diseased grain be sprinkled: in three or four days the mildew will vanish, leaving only a discoloration on the straw, where it had dried off. Two hogheads of the mixture will suffice for an acre. The best mode of applying it is with a white-wash brush, having a tin roller made water tight, to prevent the mixture dripping down the operator's arm, and running to waste. The operator having a pail of the mixture in one hand, with the other dips the brush into it, and makes his regular casts, as when sowing broadcast; in this way he will readily go over ten acres a day."

T. A. Stoughtenberg, Esq. of Johnstown, has an east and a west high tight fence to his garden. His gooseberries on the east fence, he informs us, which do not get the morning sun, have been uniformly free from mildew; while those on the west fence, the soil at both being similar, are covered and spoiled by mildew. "This has happened for years. In the compact part of Albany, in the small enclosures, excluded by buildings from the morning sun, the gooseberry is seldom affected with mildew.—Buel.

THE CURRANT.

Like the gooseberry, should be in every farmer's garden. The fruit of the red and white varieties are nutritive and pleasant, and afford, in many ways, nice dishes for the table. Like the gooseberry it is propagated by cuttings, and requires no great space or labor to make it profitable in the family and for the market.

Propagation.—Take thrifty well ripened shoots of the preceding season's growth, and cut them 12 to 18 inches in length, and if it is desired to make them trees, or to grow them on a single stem, gouge out all the eyes with a sharp knife, except three or four upon the upper extremity, which are designed to form the branches. Cut the lower end square at a bud; it will sooner granulate, and throw out roots;—and when planted, insert two-thirds of the cutting in well dug ground. The cuttings are best when taken off in autumn, soon after the leaves fall. They may be put out then, or, what is better, kept till spring, in a cellar, or buried in the ground. Thus every man may procure cuttings in autumn or winter, to be planted in spring. They may be planted where they are to stand, or in a nursery bed, to be removed after one or two years. They may be planted in rows 10 feet apart, and 4 feet in the rows.

The Culture consists in digging the ground about the bushes in the spring, keeping down weeds, thinning the wood, and cutting in the long shoots.

The fruit may be used for culinary purposes while green; and, in its ripe state, is converted into wine, jelly, and is used extensively, in various ways, for the table, with other food, in which form it is gently laxative, emollient, and sometimes anodyne. The jelly is grateful and cooling in fevers, and no less so as a conservat table; and the wine affords an excellent summer drink, especially with the addition of water.

Sorts.—There are two varieties of both red and white, termed the common and Dutch kinds, the latter growing on lower bushes, and affording larger fruit, than the common kind. The Champagne is another kind, distinguished principally by its pale colour. Mr. Knight has produced a sweet kind, not yet introduced into our culture.—Buel.

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL BOARD.

At a meeting of the Central Board of Agriculture held in the Province Building, 17th July, 1841.

Present.—The Hon. JAMES McNAIR, WILLIAM YOUNG, JOHN B. FAIRMANER, THOMAS WILLIAMSON, EDWARD ALLISON, and EDWARD PATER, Junior, Esquires.

Read the Minutes of the last meeting, stating, among other things, that the Board would proceed on this day, in terms of the Act, to apportion the sum of £75, granted to each County for the present year, among the various Societies that had entered into correspondence with the Board.

COLCHESTER.—Read two letters from Dr. Edward Carrit, the Secretary of the Colchester Society, inclosing a printed copy of its rules and constitution, and a list of its members, being 109 in number; also a scheme of prizes that had been proposed in April by the Committee of Management, in the expectation of the whole £75 being assigned to the Society, and which appeared to the Board to have been judiciously and carefully selected. The Committee claimed that theirs should be considered a Central Society, and requested that the Board would order from 10 to 20 bushels of Winter Wheat of the most approved kind from Scotland, so as it might arrive in time to be sown about the first of September. It was mentioned that John Ross, Esq., the President of the Society, had tested the growing of winter wheat on a small scale and that it was looking uncommonly well, but that the quantity he was raising was insufficient to meet the demand in the neighbourhood of Truro.

Read a letter from Mr. John Bonyman, Secretary of the Stirling Agricultural Society, recently organized at Tatumagouche, and claiming a portion of the Legislative grant,—being located on the Gulf Shore, embracing a wide extent of arable land highly susceptible of culture.

There being no other claim for this County, *Resolved*, That the sum of £50 be assigned to the Colchester Society, in consideration of its numbers, activity, and zeal, and that the sum of £25 be assigned to the Stirling Society on their transmitting to the Board sufficient evidence that they will actually raise £10 at least by their annual contributions conformably to the Act.

Ordered, that 10 bushels of Winter Wheat be sent for by the next Steamer, for the Colchester Society, from Scotland.

PICTOU.—Read a letter from John W. Harris, Esq., President, Edward Smith, Esq., Vice President, and Mr. John Stiles, the Editor of the Mechanic and Farmer, and Secretary of the Pictou Society, stating that it was formed in 1837, and that the members had steadily exerted themselves to carry out its objects—that it numbered 61 members, paying one dollar annually—had imported seeds as far as its means would allow—had procured a valuable bull, and had introduced a number of improved agricultural implements from the United States, such as Straw-cutters, Cultivators, &c.—that \$48 of the funds of the Society were now in the hands of the proprietor of a warehouse in Boston, for the shipment of agricultural implements, and that annual ploughing matches had been held, the last of which in November was contested by eleven teams, though the premiums were lower than the Society would have been glad to have had it in their power to offer. The officers further stated, that until the recent offer of Legislative aid, theirs was the only institution of the kind in the County, and if others should spring into existence, that it would afford the Society great pleasure to correspond and co-operate with them in the improvement of their agriculture.

The Board were highly gratified by the perusal of this letter, from the information it conveyed, and the tone in which it was written.

Read a letter from the Rev. John Stewart, the Secretary, Adam Carr, Esq., being the President, Mr. B. I. Kirkpatrick, the Vice President, and James Carmichael, Esq., the Treasurer of the New Glasgow Society, formed in April, its leading objects being declared to be the introduction of improved implements, seeds, and cattle, and the holding out of premiums for the best system of tillage, crops, and live stock, in the township of Egerton. The number of members was expected to be upwards of 50, and a considerable sum was subscribed at the first meeting.

Read two letters from Mr. Lawrence J. Den, the Secretary and Treasurer, Kenneth McLean, Esq., being the President, and Mr. Robert Fatterson, Vice President, of the River John Society, formed in May last, with a copy of its rules. The Society had appropriated £15 out of their own funds for the purchase of a bull

of the short horned Durham breed, which they expected to procure in the County of Cumberland, from the stock of a late English importation there. They wished also one or two Cheviot or Cotswold rams from Britain, and were desirous of knowing in what way their proportion of the public funds could be drawn.

There being no other Societies in the County of Pictou, and these three being equally entitled to the favourable consideration of the Board, *Resolved*, That the sum of £25 be assigned to each for the present year; and that the R. John's Society be informed that their President and Secretary will be entitled to draw out of the Treasury of the Province the sum now assigned to it, subject to the obligation of rendering an account of the expenditure thereof as well as of its own funds, to the extent of £10 at the least, agreeably to the Act.

CUMBERLAND.—Read a letter from Jonathan M'Cully, Esquire, the Secretary, written by order of the Hon. J. S. Morse, the President of a Society reorganized at Amherst in June, 1840, and denominated the Cumberland Agricultural Society, stating that about fifty persons had enlisted themselves as members at a subscription of 2s. per annum; that until the recent Act, however, no further measures had been adopted, and of the sums subscribed the Treasurer had collected about £6.

Read a letter from Mr. John C. Phillips, the Secretary, Stephen Oakley, Senior, Esquire, being the President, Timothy Weatherbe and R. Thompson, Esqrs., Vice Presidents, and Amos Black, Esquire, Treasurer, of a Society instituted at River Philip, in May 1840, and which since that time has slowly though steadily increased to the number of 47. Its operations have been limited, and confined chiefly to improving the stock of Sheep, and the supplying of Clover Seed.

Read letters from the Hon. D. Macfarlane, the President, and Mr. Daniel B. Muoro, the Secretary of a Society organized at Wallace, July 1839, numbering forty members, with an annual income of £10, and an accumulated fund of £20. The Society is stated to be in a prosperous and thriving state, and in various ways to have been productive of much good. "Previous to its formation young men took but little interest or pride in doing their farming work neatly or with taste. Now, a degree of emulation is alive, not only among those who are members, but amongst all the young farmers in the neighbourhood, and even those who have not joined the Society. Formerly every thing connected with farming was done in a slovenly manner and without taste. Now, horses must be in good order, harness neat, ridges straight and of equal width, drills for potatoes or turnips drawn with much precision and taste, and altogether evincing a strong desire in the farming class to become more and more acquainted with the science of Agriculture, practical as well as theoretical." To this enlightening picture, sketched by the Hon. President, it is added, that the Society held their first Ploughing Match last October, and distributed three prizes on that occasion to the most skillful workmen.

Whereupon the Board resolved that the sum of £35 should be assigned to the Wallace Society, in consideration of its activity and zeal, and that the sums of £20 each be assigned to the Societies at Amherst and River Philip.

SYDNEY.—Read letters from Richard J. Forrestall, Esq., a member of the Board, and from Dr. Charles Crewd, the Secretary, George Brennan Esq., being the President, Augustus Ogden, and Mr. Rob. Trotter, the Vice Presidents, and Dr. A. McDonald, the Treasurer, of the "Central Agricultural Society for the County of Sydney," with a copy of its rules adopted 29th June, one of which is that the Committee, together with three delegates from each of the branch Societies formed at Arisaig, St. A. Crews, and Tracadie, should have the disposal of the funds for the present year. At a meeting subsequently held by the Committee and delegates, it was unanimously resolved, that each branch, and the Central Society at Antigonish, should contribute equally towards raising the sum required by the Provincial act, and divide the legislative grant of £75 equally, the surplus funds of each separate society or branch to be considered their own private property. It was further resolved, that the whole of the funds for the present year, say £100, be appropriated to the purchase of improved breeds of sheep, and that the importation and choice of the breeds be left with the Central Board, with directions as to their age, and the proportion of rams and ewes for the different branches. The Secretary also stated that about £40 would be raised in the County, the greater part of which was already subscribed; and that the office bearers of the three branches connected with the

Central Board, were as follows: Arisaig branch, Mr. Peter McNeil, Cove, President; Mr. John McKenzie, Doctor's Brook, Vice President; Mr. John Grant, Knoydart, Treasurer, and Mr. Edmund Corbett, Secretary. St. Andrews branch, Mr. Angus McDonald, Meadow Green, President; Mr. Alex. Chisholm, Vice President; Mr. John Chisholm, Treasurer; and Mr. Donald McDonald, Secretary; Tracadie branch, James Randall, Esq., President; Mr. Dominique Dorley, Vice President; Mr. Michael Potty, Secretary and Treasurer. The resolutions adopted by these branches at public meetings held for the purpose, were enclosed, and the Board were much pleased with the organization of this County, which appeared to them at once comprehensive and judicious.

Ordered that the sum of £75 be assigned to the Central Society; and that the same, with a further sum of £25 to be contributed by them, be remitted to the agent of the Board for the importation of sheep in the proportions specified by the Society, and of the same breeds that have been ordered by the Board, and are expected this fall.

GUYSBOROUGH.—The Board regretted that there was no communication from this County, as the fine agricultural district of St. Mary's, and other parts of the County, afford ample scope for the operation of Societies in connection with the Board, and which, they trust, will be speedily formed.

CATE BRETON.—Read a letter from Edward Sutherland, Esq., a member of the Board, containing some valuable suggestions for the importation of Stock, and referring to the exertions and origin of the Central Society at Sydney.

And thereupon resolved that the sum of £75 be assigned to it.

RICHMOND.—No institution having been organised in this County, the sum granted to it for the present year will revert to the Provincial funds.

INVERNESS.—Read letters from Mr. W. H. Young, the Secretary, W. McKeen, Esq. being the President, N. Clough, A. McDonald, G. C. Lawrence, J. L. Tremain, J. G. McKeen, and Duncan McDonald, Esqrs. Vice Presidents, and J. L. Tremain, Esq. Treasurer, of the Inverness County Agricultural Society, with a copy of its rules, providing for two general meetings in each year, for an annual subscription of 5s. from each member, and the appointment of a committee of thirteen. By one of the articles, every member is required to make at least one experiment in machinery, cultivation, or work, during the year, and report its success or failure to the Society. It is stated that a very general disposition is evinced throughout the County, extending through all classes of the community, to support the Institution, and there was no doubt but that a sum more than double the legal qualification would be shortly raised. In a subsequent letter, the Secretary, by order of the Society, requested that the Board would procure for them, from such places and in such manner as they should think proper, £50 worth of sheep and swine in the proportions and of the kind specified, also a Cultivator, plough to serve as a model, harrow, and winnowing machine.

The Board had great pleasure in marking the spirit and desire of improvement manifested by the County of Inverness, and thereupon resolved that the sum of £75 be assigned to the Society; that Sheep and Swine to the value of £50 be immediately ordered for them, and that the implements they require be imported from Boston and sent to Port Hood without delay.

HANTS.—Read a letter from W. Bowman, Esq. the Secretary of the Hants Agricultural Society, formed at Windsor, in November 1839, consisting at present of thirty members, the subscription being 10s. the entrance 10s. and the accumulated fund, as no part of the money has been spent, amounting to £45. The Society desired to import, through the Central Board, a yearling Bull and Heifer of the West Highland breed, and that their proportion of the grant, with a further remittance of £10, should be applied to that use.

There being no other application as yet from this County, resolved, that the sum of £37 10 be assigned to the Hants Society, and that a Bull and Heifer, as desired by them be imported this fall, along with the other Stock.

KINGS COUNTY.—Read a long and highly interesting letter from James Harris, Esq. the Secretary of the Kings County Society, stationed at Horton, describing its history from the year 1789 when it was first instituted, its revival, being never altogether extinguished, in 1818, its flourishing state during the existence

of the former Central Board, its decay after Legislative aid was withheld until it almost ceased to exist, and its ultimate revival in 1838, when the farmers began to join the Society, which is now in a prosperous condition, numbering 39 active members and rejoicing in the re-establishment of the Central Board. Since the annual meeting in Dec. 1838, the Society have imported from the United States several new kind of Potatoes, and among them the Rohan, said to be the first introduced into the Province,—they have expended a portion of their funds in premiums for ploughing—have purchased two or three of the best rams which could be had in the Province, and which have already much improved their breed of sheep—and have expended nearly £50 towards the importation of a very superior bull from England, which has lately arrived, and is a beautiful animal 16 months old. His cost was £27 stg. but the charges for freight &c. will carry the expense far beyond the sum above mentioned, £26 of which was contributed by individuals of the Society. They had also endeavoured, at the last meeting, to meet the views of the Central Board by giving premiums to the extent of £9 in Clover Seed, Timothy Seed, Wheat and Potatoes, "all of which they were determined should be fairly and honestly expended." The annual subscription is 10s. entrance 5s. and the ordinary funds for the present year will probably exceed £23. Since 1838 £66 have been actually paid into the hands of the Treasurer besides the above £26.

Read letters from Samuel Chipman, Esq. a member of the Board, and from Mr. C. C. Hamilton, the Secretary of Cornwallis Society, inclosing a copy of its rules and postponing the consideration of the grant until a meeting of the three Societies could be obtained. The sum raised by the Society last year exceeded £22, and they requested four copies of Mr. Jackson's work on Agriculture, as recommended by the Board to be transmitted to them.

Read a letter from Mr. John D. Van Buskirk the Secretary, Thomas Tupper, Esq. being the President, of a Society recently organized at Aylesford, numbering forty members, and having raised the sum of £10 by subscription. They requested the Board to import for them a yearling ram of the Southdown breed, and expressed an anxious desire to avail themselves of the opportunity now offered for stimulating the Agricultural class, and raising the art from languor and degradation to its proper influence and dignity.

Whereupon the Board resolved, that the sum of £35 should be assigned to the Horton Society, and £20 each to the other two, and that a ram of the Southdown breed be imported this fall for the Aylesford Society, along with the other stock.

ANNAPOLIS.—Read a letter from the Rev. James Robertson and James R. Smith, Esq. the Secretary, Joseph Fitzrandolph, Esq. being the President, John Bent and Alex. Fowler, Esq. Vice Presidents, and Thomas Spurr, Esq. Treasurer of the Annapolis County Agricultural Society, formed 26th March last, with a printed copy constitution and rules, and a list of premiums of an extensive and highly judicious character. The Society at present numbers 130 subscribers, and promises to be the means of awakening the Farmers of this beautiful and fertile County to the advantages of an improved and perfect system of husbandry.

Whereupon the Board resolved, as the Society contains so large a number of members, and there is no other application from the County, that the sum of £50 be assigned to it.

DIGBY, YARMOUTH, AND SHELburne.—From these three Counties no application has been made to the Board, and the grant of £75 each, that might have been employed in so many shapes for enlightening and advancing their local husbandry, will remain in the Treasury unawakened, until the example of other Counties arouse a laudable emulation.

QUEEN'S COUNTY.—Read a letter from Mr. E. H. Burnaby, Secretary of the Society, recently organized at Brookfield, numbering 41 members, paying one dollar each, and daily increasing. They had come to the conclusion to try an improvement of their Stock from King's County, and requested the Board to import for their use from Boston, Smith's subsoil Plough, Willis' Cultivator, and a Grain Cradle, with Scythe and all the fixtures attached to it suitable for working.

Resolved, That the sum of £37 10 be assigned to the Society, being the only one in this County, and that the above implements be imported and sent to them without delay.

LUXENBURGH.—Read a letter from James S. Wells, Esq. the Secretary, Edward Zwicker, Esq. being the President, and George Mitchell and James Thomson, Esquires, the Vice Presidents, of a Society recently organized at Chester, and which has begun under the happiest auspices. Thirty persons joined at the first meeting, the annual subscription being 10s. and there have been several additions since. The Society has already taken steps for the improvement of their Stock, and mean "to press steadily forward, cheered by the countenance and advice of the Central Board."

Read a Letter from Mr. John A. Jost, the Secretary, Mr. Benjamin Zwicker being the President, Mr. John Tupper and Mr. Benjamin Legg, Vice Presidents, and Mr. John Kedy, the Treasurer, of a Society recently organized at Mahone Bay, numbering 38 members, who pay 10s. each per annum. Thirty seven of these joined at the first meeting on the 20th of June, a Managing Committee of eleven persons, including the officers, was named, and the funds were dedicated to the purchase of improved breeds of Cattle, Implements, and Seeds.

Resolved, That the sum of £37 10 be assigned to each of these Societies.

HALIFAX.—Read a Letter from Mr. Henry Wright, Treasurer, Mr. Adam Reid, Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. Archibald Sinclair, the acting Secretary of the Halifax Society, claiming a proportion of the Legislative grant in consideration of the efforts made by the Society since its formation in 1838. It had raised by contributions £26 7 7 and expended upwards of £50 in premiums, the annual subscription being 10s. and the number of members 51. The Reports of this useful Institution having from time to time appeared in the newspapers, its character is established, and the Board, while they could not but regret that no other Society had as yet sprung up in the Agricultural Settlements, were gratified in awarding to it the one half of the Provincial grant, being the sum of £37 10, for the present year.

The Board have thus discharged the most important and responsible duty confided to them in the Act, by apportioning among all the Societies that have entered into correspondence with them, the sums set apart by the munificence of the Legislature for the improvement of the Provincial Husbandry. The Board have been entrusted for wise purposes with the power of determining what proportion, if any, each one of such Societies shall receive and they will exercise that power in future years, as in this, impartially but firmly, so as to stimulate and reward the diligent cultivator, and to withdraw their aid, should it unhappily appear in any case to be abused or misapplied. Devoting much of their time and their most sedulous attention to the interests of the farming class, they expect from the public spirited and intelligent members of that body, throughout the Province, an active, upright and zealous co-operation. The spirit that has been already manifested in so many quarters affords them sincere delight, and they confidently rely on the exercise of strict integrity in the expenditure of the public monies, in the awarding of premiums, and above all in putting and every attempt at favoritism and jobbing.

The Agricultural Body must not forget that the present Board was created after a severe struggle, and will be narrowly watched; and that on their own virtue and public spirit depends the wholesome activity and permanence of the Institutions that will be formed under its wing, and which, in every country, where a free government at once protects and animates the industry of its subjects, have been found so highly conducive to the comfort, independence and happiness of the people.

At a meeting of the Central Board of Agriculture, held in the Province Building, July 26th 1841.

Present, Hon. James McNab, William Young, Thomas Williamson, E. Allison, and Edward Pryor, Junr. Esqrs.

Read a Letter dated 14th July 1841, from G. P. Haliburton, Esq. Secretary to the Cape Breton County Agricultural Society, enclosing Minutes of proceedings at a Meeting held 13th July 1841, being resolutions to expend £70 in purchasing and importing certain Stock, implements and Books, and also to offer various agricultural implements as prizes for the cultivation of white and green crops: but they did not request that the Board should import any of those articles for them, and the Secretary was directed merely to notify the Society that the sum of £75 had been assigned to it.

Read a letter from the Secretary of the East Hants Agricultural Society, (dated July 8th; Received July 21st, 1841.) enclosing

resolution to expend their funds for the present year in the purchase of one or two short-horned Durham Bulls, which they request the Board to import for them. They also sent the sum of £10 to the Board to be applied towards the purchase of the said cattle.

The Board resolved that the sum of £25 should be assigned to this Society; but as the orders for importing the Stock applied for by the different Societies had been sent by the last Steamer, they did not think it advisable to send any further orders to England this season.

Read a Report of the proceedings of the last Meeting prepared for publication, which after some slight alterations was approved of and adopted by the Board.

Since the above Meeting, a letter has been received from Peter Spearwater, Esq. the President of the Agricultural Society, recently organized at Shelburne.

COLCHESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At a Quarterly Meeting of this Society, on the 7th of April, 1841,

Resolved, That the following Prizes be offered by this Society for encouraging the alternate, or rotation system of crops, within this County, viz:—

For the First Prize,	£5	0	0	per annum.
Second do.	4	0	0	per do.
Third do.	3	10	0	per do.
Fourth do.	2	10	0	per do.

Provided always, that the first Prize shall not be awarded for the cultivation of less quantity than four acres of green crops in each year; for the second, two and a half acres; for the third, two acres; and for the fourth, one acre. That there shall be at least two competitors for each Prize, and no Prize be awarded until the expiration of the fourth year. That five Judges shall be elected, a majority of whom shall award the Prizes; no competitor to be eligible to elect or be elected. The successful candidates for the first and second Prizes, shall, at their option, in lieu of Prizes, receive gold Medals, with suitable inscriptions, the value, design, and inscription, to be adopted by the Committee before such Prizes are awarded.

Resolved, That the following Prizes be offered by this Society for the improvement of Live Stock, and the method of feeding, for the year ending the 1st day of June, 1842, the exhibition to take place during the previous month of May, when the Prizes shall be awarded as follows:

For the best Entire Colt, two years old, and raised within this County, the sum of	£2	10	0
For the best bull Calf, two years old,	2	10	0
For the best ram Lamb, one year old,	2	10	0
For the best boar Pig, not less than 10 months old,	2	10	0
For the best milch Cow and Calf,	2	10	0
For the best pair of working Oxen, not more than six years old, properly trained, and accustomed to work upon a Farm,	2	10	0
For the best beef Oxen,	3	0	0

Provided always, that no Prize shall be awarded for any animal unless owned in this County for six months previous to awarding the said Prizes.

Resolved, That the sum of Forty Shillings shall be given for the best quantity of Homespun Cloth, Men's wear, pressed, and dressed.—Also, the sum of Forty Shillings for the best quality Worsted Homespun, Women's wear.—And also, the sum of Twenty Shillings for Home-made Flannel. Provided always, that no Prize be awarded for a less quantity than ten yards each.

Resolved, That the sum of Forty Shillings be given for the best quality of Timothy Seed, of not less quantity than four bushels. The last four Prizes to be awarded to persons belonging to families, Members of this Society.

Resolved, That the sum of Thirty Pounds be placed at the disposal of the General Committee, for the immediate importation of Seed and improved implements of husbandry, in addition to the sum appropriated for introducing a system of rotation of crops, and premiums for better management of Live Stock, the former to be furnished to Members of this Society at costs and charges; and the latter to be sold by Auction amongst the Members of this Society. The Committee of Management deemed it prudent to defer

publishing the foregoing Resolutions until they could ascertain the amount of the Provincial Grant to be awarded to the Society by the Central Board. That decision was not given until the 17th instant, consequently the season is too far advanced to enable Members to compete for the present year, for the rotation system. The first year of that system will terminate on the 1st Novr., 1842.

EDWARD CARRITT, *Secretary.*

Truro, 30th July, 1841.

ESSAY ON AGRICULTURE,

Read before the Literary Society in Truro, in March, 1840—by a Member.

Until Dr. Home's principles of Agriculture and Vegetation were published, in the year 1772, little information on Husbandry existed beyond what was derived from its imperfect practice. By the experiments of that Philosopher several very important discoveries were made, from which certain facts might be determined. The culture of the ground heretofore practised according to ancient but popular prejudices, now became an art of all others most susceptible of indefinite improvement on scientific principles. Ancient customs, however absurd, are not easily got rid of, particularly when interwoven as they almost invariably are, with the associations and recollections of youth, rendered sacred by the example of our forefathers, and connected with national prejudices. Every prejudice, however, must be overcome before an improved system of farming can be introduced amongst us. A knowledge of Vegetable Physiology is absolutely requisite, to enable us to introduce into the soil those ingredients best adapted in due proportions, and at the proper season; and when properly applied they cannot fail in producing favorable results. An acquaintance with the undeviating laws of nature which render a conviction of a rotation of crops indispensable, and the effects which certain articles of food and modes of treatment have on the growth of animals, ought to form the Class Book of a practical farmer. Some of these branches are not yet thoroughly understood, but to be partially conversant with their principles is indispensable.

The Arts and Sciences have advanced to their present comparatively perfect condition by slow but steady progressive improvements, and it is encouragement to our humble efforts that the working class of society of which we form a part, have not been the least contributors to the vast stock of practical and useful knowledge which has now become the birthright of every individual who can read the English language. It is perhaps a novel view of our individual interest in this inheritance, that the divisibility of its parts amongst the increasing multitude does not diminish but rather increases the personal interest of all. By reversing the application of the laws which govern the physical and political world and which led to the maxim that unity is strength, we attain the practical effects of the axiom in the moral world "that knowledge is power,"—the diffusion of knowledge and extension of its branches being equally powerful in the latter, and in the same ratio as the masses to the atom in the former, or in other words knowledge is, in the moral world what water is in the natural, the more space it occupies and the more divided its parts (as in steam) the more powerful its agency and the results it produces.

Having thus far stated the light in which I purpose to view the subject of Agriculture in this Essay, let us enquire what those agents in nature are, and how they can be applied by art so as to assist the process of vegetation by their chemical combination, or neutralize the effects which may arise from disproportion in the mechanical mixture of the different earths which constitute what is commonly called fertile soils. All soils consist of four distinct

earths, viz. Flint, Clay, Lime, and Magnesia, Animal and Vegetable matter, and Saline compounds. Clay and Sand, or in chemical language "Allumina" and "Silica," form the basis of the earthy constituents of every soil, except in some instances where Carbonate of Lime is the principle earthy ingredient, such as marl. As either of these earths prevail beyond their due proportions, so is the soil less adapted to the support of certain kinds of plants, and better fitted for others of a different kind; except in some cases where the disproportion is so great that one of the earths comprise nineteen parts of twenty of any of the constituents, the land is then comparatively barren. It is evident therefore that the nature of the soil and its adaptation to the support and nourishment of certain plants, ought to be the first consideration of the practical farmer, for this knowledge enables him to pursue that mode of culture, and raise that description of crop for which the soil he possesses is best calculated. Plants with bulbous roots require a looser and lighter soil than such as have fibrous roots, and the plants possessing only short fibrous roots require a firmer soil than such as have long top or extensive lateral roots. A good turnip soil, or that best adapted for the production of bulbous roots has been analyzed by Sir Humphrey Davy, and found to contain 8 parts out of 9 of silicious sand, and the finely divided matter consisted of

Carbonate of Lime	63 out of 100 parts.
Silica or Flint	15
Alumina or Clay	11
Oxide of Iron	3
Vegetable and Saline matter	5
Moisture	3

100

The same celebrated Chemist also analyzed an excellent Wheat soil, or that best adapted for raising plants possessing fibrous roots, which afforded three parts in five of Silicious sand, and the finely divided matter consisted of

Carbonate of Lime	28
Silica	32
Alumina	29
Animal or Vegetable matter and moisture	11

100

Of these two soils, that remarkable for raising good wheat was by far the most cohesive in texture, or in other words more clayey, sand being in the former as 8 is to 9, and in the latter as 3 is to 5. From these data, therefore, the most casual observer may, without the test of chemical experiments, satisfy himself, that a clayey soil is better adopted to the growth of wheat than of turnip. These two plants are well known to Agriculturists as the most difficult to raise, and ranking at the head of the classes to which they belong, and yield to the Farmer a greater return in value when properly cultivated, than any other plants which are used as food. These experiments have established the important fact that carbonate of lime is an essential ingredient in fertile soils. Limestone, or the carbonate of lime, contains a definite proportion of carbonic acid gas, which is ascertained to be 43 per cent; so that when the quantity of this elastic food given out of the soil is ascertained, during the solution of its calcareous matter in acid, either in weight or measure, the quantity of the carbonate of lime may be easily discovered. When the progress by diminution of weight is employed, two parts of Muriatic acid diluted in water, and one part of the soil must be weighed in two separate bottles and very slowly mixed together till the effervescence ceases, the difference between their weights before and after mixture denotes the quan-

ity of carbonic acid lost, for every four grains and a quarter of which ten grains of the carbonate of lime must be estimated. The best method of collecting the carbonic acid gas, is by an apparatus in which its bulk may be measured by the quantity of water it displaces. The next progress is to ascertain the quantity of finely divided insoluble animal and vegetable matter it contains. This may be done with sufficient precision by strongly igniting it in a crucible over a common fire until no blackness remains in the mass, the loss of weight it undergoes denotes the quantity of the substance contained destructible by fire and air. It is not possible, however, without refined and very difficult experiments to ascertain whether this substance is wholly vegetable or animal, or a mixture of both, the substances remaining after the desiccation of the vegetable and animal matter, are generally clay and sand.

Here, then, we have a simple process within the reach of every practical farmer, by which he may learn with sufficient correctness, the quality and capabilities of the soil which he cultivates, and thereby be enabled to pursue such mode of culture as best accords with the laws of nature, and without which, labor to a certain and very great extent must be lost.

To be Continued.

THE PURSUIT OF AGRICULTURE.

The following extracts from a very interesting paper read by the late Judge Buel, editor of the *Cultivator*, to the New-York State Agricultural Convention, February, 1838, are well worth the consideration of the Farmers of Nova-Scotia:

"We cannot be too often reminded of the contrast which exists between good and bad husbandry,—nor too often admonished to search into the causes of this difference, and to apply the needful remedies. The difference does not consist alone in a single crop, or a single season; the soil in one case is becoming more and more exhausted of fertility, and losing its intrinsic value, while in the other its relative worth is on the increase, and the difference in product is consequently annually increasing.

We will illustrate our proposition by a comparison between American and Scotch husbandry, now and sixty years ago. Sixty years ago the Agriculture of Scotland was in a wretchedly low and unproductive condition; while the products of our yet unexhausted soil were abundant. But sixty years ago the spirit of improvement fell upon Scotland, her Agricultural Society was instituted, and commenced its useful labors, and was soon after greatly aided by the organization of a National Board of Agriculture; agricultural surveys were made and published of every County—the best practices of every district thus became known to the whole nation—men of fortune and science turned their attention to the encouragement and improvement of this parent art; and the consequence has been that a wonderful and salutary change has come over that land, fraught with abundance and with blessings. The value of land has in consequence been enhanced three and four fold, and its products have been increased in a proportional ratio. 'In fertile districts,' says Sir John Sinclair, 'and in propitious seasons the farmer may confidently expect to reap, from thirty-two to fifty bushels of barley; from fifty-two to sixty four bushels of oats; and from twenty-eight to thirty two bushels of beans per statute-acre. As to green crops, 30 tons of turnips, 3 tons of clover, and from 8 to 10 tons of potatoes may confidently be relied on. In favorable seasons the crops are still more abundant.'

Now what has been our progress during the last sixty years? Has it not been retrograde in Agriculture? We have, to be sure, obtained abundant crops from our rich virgin soils, and when these have become exhausted under bad management, we have occupied and exhausted others in their turn. But what is the condition of the lands that were cultivated by our fathers half a century ago? Do they produce the average crops which are given above as the products of Scotch husbandry?—under all our favorable circumstances of climate and civil liberty. Are our crops half as large? Nay, are they more than a third as large? Do we get from our old districts an average of more than ten to

thirteen bushels of wheat, of 14 to 17 of barley, or of 17 to 21 bushels of oats per acre?

At the close of the last, and in the beginning of the present century, the surplus products of northern agriculture were exported to an immense amount. Now we import the Agricultural products of Europe to avert the evils of famine! The cause of this remarkable difference in the surplus products of the soil, may be partially owing to unpropitious seasons, but is mainly to be sought for in the neglect of our agriculture, both by the people and the governments. In Europe, the governments and influential individuals, have bestowed spirited attention upon the improvement of agriculture, as constituting the basis of national prosperity and independence. While with us improvement in husbandry has been considered a minor concern,—it at least has not received the consideration of the statesman or the political economist. Party politics, and local or personal schemes of aggrandisement have so much engrossed the attention of the men who ought to lead in these matters, and who do lead in every other public improvement, that the humble claims of agriculture have failed to attract their notice or engage their attention although it constitutes the base which supports the whole superstructure of civilized society. If we could preserve the superstructure with the embellishments, we must take care to make strong and permanent this foundation. Our farmers, too, seem generally indifferent or spiritless, in regard of the general improvement of our agriculture, either because they mistake their duty and true interest, or that under the influence of a strange fatality, they fear they shall sink as others rise. We should consider our soil as we do our free institutions—a *patrimonial trust*, to be handed down *unimpaired*, to posterity; to be used, but not abused. Both are more easily impaired than they are restored. Both belong in their pristine vigor and purity as much to our children as they do to us. In some of the once populous and fertile districts of the old continent, the fertility of the soil has been sedulously preserved for ages, the population has continued prosperous, wealthy, and happy.

It is undeniably true that our general system of farming is bad; that in most parts of our country the natural fertility of the soil has been gradually diminishing, and its products becoming less; that the evil is increasing; and that without a radical reform, we shall, in the north, not only cease to have surplus products to pay for the foreign commodities which long habit has rendered necessary to our convenience, but lack a supply of bread stuffs for our own population. To what degrading dependence will this course of things in a few years reduce us—unless prompt and efficient means are adopted to check our downhill course in the products of Agricultural labor! With the finest country in the world; a population almost entirely agricultural,—exempt from the enormous burthens, as tithes, rents, and poor rates, which press like an incubus upon the agricultural labor of Europe—and dependent on foreign supplies for the means of subsistence!! The idea is humiliating—is alarming, to all who look to the ultimate prosperity and happiness of our country. Our maritime commerce depends upon contingencies which we can neither foresee nor control. Venice and Genoa, Portugal and Spain, have each in turn had their days of 'commercial prosperity'—they successively rose to opulence, to power—and successively sunk, the victims of corruption, into effeminacy, vice, and despotism. Manufactures too, as we have had abundant cause to know, are but a precarious dependence for national greatness. Commerce and manufactures are the shaft and capital of the social column, of which agriculture constitutes the base; and without this base they can no more withstand the shocks and revolutions of time, than could the short-lived glory of the nations we have named. Great Britain now wields the trident, and the world is made tributary to her workshops. But great as she is in commerce, and in manufactures, these are considered secondary and auxiliary to her Agricultural greatness. Land is the basis of her national wealth, it is the surplus marketable produce of her soil, says Sir John Sinclair, that is the source of all her political power, and of the personal enjoyment of her citizens; and there is no source of domestic industry, or of foreign commerce, he adds, that can in any respect be put in competition with the improved cultivation of her soil. The agriculture of Great Britain employs but two-thirds of their population; and yet the surplus products of her soil suffice to feed and support the other third, and assist in supplying our deficiencies."

"It is apparent from the examples of improvement that are witnessed in many districts of our country that we can improve the

general condition of our agriculture, if we will adopt a wise and energetic policy. Nay, we have a demonstration of the practicability of doing it, in the now palpable benefits of the law to improve our agriculture, passed in 1819. That law involved an expenditure of 40 or 50,000 dollars, and expired in 1824. It was found fault with by many from political motives, and by more from a spirit of envy, in those who either had not the enterprise or the talent to compete successfully for the rewards which it gave to industry and skill. And besides, the law in some instances, was badly, we may almost say corruptly, executed. Yet under all the disadvantages of want of organization, of inexperience and abuse, has not that expenditure been like manure spread upon our soil? Did not that law excite a laudable emulation among the whole farming community, and bring into action, more skill, more industry, and more improvement? Has it not been instrumental in greatly improving our farm stock, our farm implements and modes of culture? Has it failed to increase the farm products of any one County, of a respectable population, to the amount of the total expenditure? Or has it failed to return into the treasury, every year, the gross amount of that expenditure, in the form of canal tolls upon the increased productions of the soil? We do not put these questions because we have any doubts in the matter, but to bring the subject home to the calm and deliberate consideration of those reflecting men, whose duty and interest it is to scan, to judge, and to act wisely upon a question of momentous importance to our country. If these men think with us that the law of 1819 has amply remunerated the state, for its expenditure in the increased tolls on our canals, and that it has added millions to the value of our annual agricultural products, they will not hesitate to renew that policy which has been productive of so much public good.

"It requires no science, and very little art, to wear out and exhaust the most fertile soil. The process is simple; take from it all you can, by close cropping, for a few continuous years, and return to it nothing in the form of manure, and the work is done, or far advanced. In this business we have shown ourselves to be no mean adepts. But it does require science, and art, and perseverance and capital, to restore fertility to a soil which has become exhausted. This we have not yet sufficiently learned; but it should be our next lesson; and the sooner we begin the sooner we shall profit by it. Agricultural improvement is slowly developed, at least to superficial observers. It requires years to renovate the fertility of an exhausted soil—to improve the stock of a farm; or to realize the benefits which result from draining, from alternating crops, and from root culture. We are much in the habit of calculating upon immediate gains, without looking to remote and ultimate benefits. We saw not the change when the law of 1819 was in force, because its benefits were but partially developed. But we now hear the remark from hundreds, that the appropriation was one of the most beneficial to the state that has ever been made by the legislature."

"As regards the means of improvement, much has been done, and much is doing by the Agricultural periodicals of the day. The first of these was established at Baltimore, by John S. Skinner, in 1819; and we can now enumerate nearly twenty, that are diffusing light, awakening enterprise, and inciting to industry, in every section of our country.—Probably one hundred thousand farmers are now deriving instruction, and improving their practice, by the perusal of these Journals; and it is not extravagant to say that the benefits they are dispensing to the nation are equivalent to millions of dollars every year. But what is one hundred thousand compared to the gross agricultural population of the union?—and how much greater would be their benefits if these journals had access to every house, or even to every schoolhouse in the state? Besides giving much that is useful in the science, or the first principles of husbandry, they are continually advertising their readers of every improvement that is being made in the practical operations of the farm of new seeds, and plants and the mode of cultivating them, and of every improvement in labor-saving machines. In twelve numbers of the Cultivator may be noticed more than a hundred and twenty communications, mostly from practical farmers, residing in the different States, detailing their practice in the different departments of husbandry, thus making their improvement known in a short time, to its twenty thousand patrons. By thus concentrating, as it were in a focus, the practical knowledge of the country, and then scattering it, like the solar rays into every corner of the land, to fructify the earth, and by thus rendering it subservient to the benefit of all, some individuals have been enabled to obtain a clear profit of fifty, one hundred, and even one hundred and fifty

dollars, on an acre of corn, or an acre of Swedish turnips, who had never before obtained a profit of thirty dollars an acre from either; and the benefits of these splendid results are not confined to the individuals who effected them: they are heralded in the agricultural journals; become known all over the country; and every new and successful effort at improvement, soon has its fifty, its hundred and its thousand imitators."—*Cultivator*.

SCRAPING APPLE TREES.—George Olmstead, of East-Hartford, publishes in the *New-England Farmer*, that he has experienced great benefit from scraping the moss from his apple and pear trees, with a hoe, in June or July. There is no mistake in this. The rough bark of those trees affords shelter to numerous insects, and a receptacle for their eggs, prejudicial to the tree or its fruit. A smooth clean skin is of as much value to the tree, as it is to the animal; its functions are important to the health and growth of both. The fault is, Mr. Olmstead does not go far enough: he should clean, as well as smooth the surface of his trees; and we do not think there is any thing better for this purpose, at least for the apple, than a strong ley of wood ashes or potash. We have had a dozen years experience of the benefits of this wash, though we have not in this time applied it more than twice to the same trees. It is applied to the bole, and as far as convenient to the larger branches, with a common shoe brush, affixed to the end of a stick a yard long, the loose bark, where there is such, being previously scraped off. It imparts to the bark a handsome, smooth, healthy appearance, destroys insects and their eggs, takes off the moss, and seems to be to the apple tree what salt is to the animal—a highly useful condiment. The objection to lime-wash is, that it stops up the pores of the bark, and by its caustic quality contracts the sap vessels, and gives to the exterior a dry and rigid appearance. The ley, on the contrary, removes every obstruction to a wholesome perspiration, and leaves the bark so soft and pliable that it may almost be indented with the thumb.

There is a pernicious prejudice with which all are too generally imbued; it is that fruits are injurious in the Dysentery, and that they produce and increase it. There is not perhaps a more false prejudice. Bad fruits, and those which have been imperfectly ripened in unfavorable seasons, may occasion Cholics and sometimes Diarrhæ—but never Epidemic Dysentery. Ripe fruits of all kinds, especially in the Summer, are the true preservatives against this malady. The greatest injury they can do, is to dissolve the humours, particularly the bile, of which they are the true solvents, and occasion a Diarrhæ. But even this Diarrhæ is a protection against Dysentery. Whenever the Dysentery has prevailed I have eaten more fruit and less animal food and have never had the slightest attack. Several Physicians have adopted the same regimen.—I have seen eleven patients in one house; nine obeyed the directions given, and ate fruit; they recovered. The Grandmother, and a child she was most partial to, died. She prescribed burnt wine, oil, powerful aromatics, and forbade the use of fruit.—The disease was destroying a Swiss Regiment stationed in garrison in the South of France. The Colonel purchased the grapes of several acres of Vines. The sick soldiers were either carried to the Vineyard, or were supplied with grapes if too feeble to be removed. They ate nothing else; not another died,—nor were any more attacked with the complaint after they commenced eating grapes.—*Dr. Tissot*.

HORSES.

When in conversation the other day with a gentleman who had unsuccessfully tried, for a long series of years, to effect the cure of windsuckers in one of his horses, by a variety of ingenious contrivances, he mentioned with satisfaction, that he had at last succeeded in his attempt. He said he had employed hardwood mangers without effect; he next overlaid them with sheets of iron, still without effect; it was gnaw, gnaw, gnaw—crunch, crunch, crunch, with the usual pernicious result. But one day lately, when examining the premises of Mr. Templeton, carpet manufacturer here, he observed a workman renewing the covering on a wool carding machine, called the drum, and this gave him a hint that proved successful. This covering in outward texture nearly resembles the rough wiry face of a domestic wool-card, and it occurred to our friend, that were he to cover the usually gnawed furniture of his stable with this article, the propensity of his "Rosinante" to make chips might be cured. The application

was made—the horse renewed his old practice, but great was his surprise to find his lips come in contact with a whole legion of tormentors; whenever he attempted to get a bite of his manger. His philosophy was fairly at fault, and after tugging his claret four or five times in succession, to his deep chagrin, he gave up the practice. This hint may prove useful to those who possess wind-suckers.—*Encl.*

PREVENTION OF RUST, BY SALT.

The following account of a successful experiment in destroying mildew in wheat is from the Rev. Mr. Cartwright, and is copied from the Edinburgh Quarterly, and from a paper on the diseases of plants, by G. W. Johnson, Esq.;—"I and a neighbour of mine have applied it as a remedy for the mildew in wheat, with the most unequivocal success. I first made the discovery about two years ago. My experiments at that time were upon a very limited scale. They have this year only extended over an acre and a half, but under circumstances that leave not a shadow of a doubt of salt being an absolute specific for Mildew in the most aggravated stages of the disorder." "I found a few ears of wheat which I conceived to be a new and improved variety; from these ears I raised as much wheat as last year planted a piece of land four feet wide and a hundred yards in length. The produce I had promised Mr. Coke, and to augment it, the ground was highly manured, and as soon as the wheat came up it had a good dressing with soot, which was once or twice repeated. In consequence of this superabundant dressing, the wheat, as might indeed have been expected, was as rank as wheat growing accidentally upon a dunghill, which never fails to rot upon the ground without ripening a single grain; the Mildew made its appearance on this part of the field while the straw was quite green and the grain in a milky state." "I ventured to give it a dressing with salt and water. As a heavy shower of rain fell a few hours afterwards, the dressing was repeated the next morning. The result was, the Mildew was completely subdued, and the wheat went forward to maturity, and although the sample was not so bold as it might have been, it was sound and marketable. In other parts of the field, where the Mildew shewed itself not under the aggravated circumstances described above but as it commonly appears, the wheat was not in the least injured by it after the salt and water were applied; it was indeed as fine a sample as could be grown." "The effect of the salt upon the mildew, to those who do not consider the manner of its operation, is truly astonishing; I believe it to be instant death to the fungus; this however is certain, in less than forty-eight hours the straw nearly recovers its original colour and brightness."

Mr. Johnson adds, "I can afford decided testimony to the efficacy of the cure recommended by Mr. Cartwright; but I would add these precautions. The safest quantity of salt per gallon is eight ounces, and then the application may be rendered more effectual by frequent repetition, without any danger of injury to the plants. If the application is not made during a clouded day it is best to defer it till evening."

This pickle is thrown on the grain by a man carrying a pail in one hand and a white-wash brush in the other, and making casts as when sowing grain, or else with a common watering pot, swung with great force. Two men will get over about four acres a day, the one to spread and the other to supply the mixture.—This should be applied at the first appearance of the rust.

There is no disease that does so much injury to our wheat as the rust. Smut is in a great measure prevented by steeping the seed in vitriolic solutions or salt and lime, but they have no effect upon rust. Yet every grower of wheat must have observed that

some varieties are more affected by this disease than others. This circumstance points out the way to avoid great injury from rust. I have seen a field of wheat which was generally very much injured by rust. There were in the field five or six different varieties; one of these, a bald wheat with downy husks, was so much injured that the grain was worthless. Another with short beards, and rather short heads, with husks of a glassy smoothness like the bark of a rattan, was perfectly free from rust, with very large plump grain. Were a person to select from a field of rusted wheat those heads which had resisted the disease, and sowing very thin, continuing the selection for a few years, it is probable that a kind might be produced which could be sowed with less risk than our common wheat.

T. S.

THE CROPS.

The early part of the season was accounted cold, the wind being from a Southerly or Easterly point, yet the very few days in which the land winds prevailed, were almost invariably warm, but since the ice-fields which cooled our sea breezes have passed by, there has been no complaint of lack of warmth. There was for a time a drought which checked the growth of grain and potatoes, but frequent and moderate showers have thoroughly restored the verdure to the pastures. From Halifax to Lunenburg the grain is shorter in consequence of the drought, but if the weather continues favorable, it will probably produce an average crop. Potatoes in general look remarkably well. The hay crop was but little affected by the drought here, although it has suffered severely in some parts of the Counties of Hants and Colechester, while over a considerable part of the Province there has been a plentiful supply of rain through the season. In a few places Grasshoppers have done some injury to the crops: where that is the case, it would be well to keep over winter a considerable stock of Ducks and Turkeys, who will generally destroy a large quantity of these insects. Two small kinds of insects, the green and the chocolate colored or foaming Frog-hopper have destroyed a considerable part of the Timothy sowed this spring near Halifax. When these vermin are as numerous as they are this season, grass seed should be sowed very early, for after it has formed three leaves they rarely kill it. New Potatoes are now brought to market in considerable quantities. In the year 1783, they were selling on the 26th August at 6d. the pound. Upon enquiring of those that had gardens why they did not raise them themselves, they answered that Pitman (the only gardener of Halifax) "would never sell any seed!" The same person sold his Green Peas at the moderate price of 40s. the bushel. There is a pleasure in sometimes looking back to times of remarkable ignorance of useful employments, for by the comparison we discover how far we have got ahead.

T. S.

Pick up all the apples that fall from your trees, carefully, and let them be boiled with potatoes for the pigs. They make a very nourishing food for swine; but the most important reason for the practice is this. These apples all contain worms or eggs of insects; and if they are allowed to decay upon the ground, not a few of them will become insects, who will next Spring again deposit their eggs in the blossoms, and produce another crop of wormy fruit. It has often been observed that less fruit falls from trees which stand in yards where pigs and poultry are kept, than from those in the Orchard, which makes it probable that these creatures deposit their eggs generally in the flowers of the tree upon which they were bred.

T. S.

AGRICULTURAL SPIRIT.

The Act for the encouragement of Agriculture has roused a spirit of improvement throughout most of the Province. Agricultural Societies in every County except Digby, Yarmouth, and Richmond, have entered into correspondence with the Central Board, and several have sent orders for improved breeds of cattle, and for various farming implements, all which the Board have taken measures to procure for them.

The Central Board have employed an Agent to import a considerable number of horned cattle, sheep, and swine, of the most approved breeds; as these will be disposed of at auction on their arrival, it will give an opportunity to those Societies who were late in sending their orders, to supply themselves. The Board have also ordered the importation of several Agricultural works of high character, for the purpose of circulating them in the Province, or of publishing such parts of them as appear suited to this climate. Thus the seed is sown, let our farmers apply to its cultivation the due portion of industry and intelligence, and there will be reason to hope that we shall be blessed with such a harvest of improvement, that we shall be able to furnish food and employment to a portion of the overflowing population of Europe, as well as our neighbors.

T. S.

THE CENTRAL BOARD.

The able Report of the Central Board of Agriculture which we publish to-day, will be read with interest by every farmer in Nova-Scotia. The utmost harmony, we understand, exists between the Board and the different County Societies, and from this fact we anticipate the most happy results. It requires only the combined efforts of the few leading Agriculturists in the Province and a little time, to change for the better, our whole system of Agriculture, and the Central Board, we have reason to hope, will prove a powerful instrument in bringing about this desirable end. So far, the proceedings of the Board give every satisfaction, and, considering the inexperience of the majority of its members in matters of the kind, and the many obstacles to be encountered in various ways in getting the machinery in full operation, we think it deserves the warmest support and confidence, of the Farmers of Nova-Scotia.

R. N.

ESSAY ON AGRICULTURE.

We commence, in this number, the publication of an "Essay on Agriculture, read before the Literary Society in Truro, in March, 1840—by a Member." It was late when the MS. reached us, and our pages being almost wholly occupied with other matter, we were prevented from inserting as much of it as we would, under other circumstances, wish.

R. N.

We have received the 3d No. of the New-Brunswick Agriculturist. It sustains its character, and is neatly-printed. We wish the Editor success. The field is ample, and the more information upon the science and practice of Agriculture, disseminated among the people, the better—as it all aids to promote their interests and elevate their character.

R. N.

THE MARKET.

Produce of every description brings a fair price in our market. During the past month the average price of beef has been 35s $\frac{7}{8}$ 100 lbs.; Mutton, 4d @ 6d $\frac{7}{8}$ lb.; Butter, 9d @ 10d, by the firkin; some small lots have sold at 11d. Money is scarce and the market dull.

R. N.

The Editor of the Canada Temperance Advocate, offers a prize of a Gold Medal of the value of £12 10s., or that sum in cash, for the best Essay on Horned Cattle, and a similar prize for the best essay on Hogs. The funds are contributed by a warm friend of Canada.

"At the last meeting of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, George H. Young, Esquire, who is deputed from your Province, to select seeds, stock, &c., and appoint Correspondents, &c., attended, and by a vote of the Council, the Central Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, was elected a corresponding Society of the Royal English Society. The General Meeting and Exhibition of this Society, at Liverpool, which commences to-day, and continues all the week, engrosses a large share of the attention of the Agriculturists and Grazers.—*Corres. Mech. & Farm.*

The Halifax Agricultural Society, presented to Mr. A. SINCLAIR, late Secretary, a silver tankard as a mark of respect for his services.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The Committee of Management of the Halifax Agricultural Society, at a meeting held on Tuesday the 20th inst., resolved to distribute the following premiums for Grain and Green Crops, raised by any of the subscribers to this Society during the year 1841, viz.

FIRST.

For the best five bushels of wheat, 12s 6d per bushel as the price, and 40s premium.

For the second best five bushels of wheat, 12s 6d per bushel as the price, and 30s premium.

The wheat must weigh 60 lbs or upwards, or no prize will be given.

SECOND.

For the second best five bushels of Oats, 5s per bushel as the price, and 20s premium.

For the second five bushels of Oats, 5s per bushel as the price, and 15s premium.

Those subscribers who intend to compete for the prizes for Grain are requested to inform the Secretary of their intention to do so, in writing on or before the first day of October next. And the requisite arrangements will afterwards be made for the prizes to be awarded on Monday the 20th December, 1841.

Halifax, July 30, 1841.

THE FOLLOWING PRIZES will be given for Green Crops, and awarded during the month of August,

FIRST.

A prize of six dollars for the best half acre of early Potatoes.
A prize of four dollars for the second best half acre of early Potatoes.

SECOND.

A prize of eight dollars for the best acre of late Potatoes,
A prize of six dollars for the second best acre of late Potatoes.

THIRD.

For the best five bushels of Barley, 5s. per bushel as the price, and 20s. premium.

For the second best five bushels of Barley, 5s. per bushel as the price, and 15s. premium.

A. SINCLAIR, Acting Secretary.

"THE COLONIAL FARMER,"

TITUS SMITH, EDITOR; R. NUGENT, PROPRIETOR,

Is published monthly at the Novascotian Office. Terms—single copy, 5s. $\frac{7}{8}$ annum, in all cases in advance. When Agricultural Societies subscribe for a number of copies for gratuitous circulation, a liberal discount will be made. Agents are allowed 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ cent. premium.

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