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THE BRITISH AMERICAN



CULTIVATOR.

"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—Dr. Johnson.

VOL. 2.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1843.

No. 4.



THE CULTIVATOR.

"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practise, and every inquirer into nature improve."—Dr. Johnson

TORONTO, APRIL, 1843.

The following Circular will show the opinion entertained towards our journal by a gentleman who stands foremost in the ranks of the "social band" who are exerting their influence in promoting the agriculture of the Province. We take this favourable opportunity of assuring him, as well as all others, who have kindly lent us their aid, that nothing shall be left undone on our part, to make **THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR** the best practical agricultural paper on this continent. If, however, the support which we receive be of that character which will tend to cripple our exertions, and have for its end serious losses, both of money and time, the public need not expect that its pages will be embellished with costly engravings, or that its original matter will be characterized with as much spirit as though it had been handsomely patronized. It has been a little upwards of sixteen months since the first number of **THE CULTIVATOR** was ushered before the Canadian public, and during the whole of that period, the actual losses which we have individually sustained in publishing, travelling, and postage expenses, besides other trifling incidental expenses, have equalled no less a sum than seven shillings and sixpence per day, on an average. No selfish motive actuated us when we entered the field as an agricultural writer, and we still feel no desire to make a fortune out

of the business, and would have been satisfied were the profits equal to the losses which we have sustained, per day,—this, we would consider fair mechanical wages, and much less than we could obtain at other employment; but as practical and theoretical farming have ever been our hobby, we would employ our services in the business we are at present occupied, and be satisfied with fifty per cent. less than we could earn at other employments.

Since we commenced the present volume, many of our best friends have advised us to draw the publication to a close, and lose that which we have already lost, rather than make further sacrifices. Independent of this friendly advice, we have resolved to see the end of the second volume, and we may weather the storm, so as to be enabled to see the close of the third volume; if it should then prove a losing affair, we may safely take leave of the farmers, without leaving it in their power to say that a fair chance was not given them to support our enterprise:—

CIRCULAR.

Cobourg, March 8th, 1843.

SIR,
The agricultural paper accompanying this letter has been procured by the county of Northumberland Agricultural Society for gratuitous distribution, for one year, from the first of January last, and it is earnestly requested that you will read it as soon as possible, and send it to your neighbour, in order that it may have the greatest possible circulation, in the hope that it may induce many to become subscribers. If the names of such as may wish to become subscribers be left with John Steele, Esq., Vice-President, Colborne, or Donald McTavish, Esq., Secretary Grafton, or with the undersigned at Cobourg, and the sum of two shillings and sixpence currency in money, the paper may be had from the commencement of the present volume, on the credit of the society. If two or three neighbours would join, the expense would be so trifling that I anticipate every farmer and gardener in the county will procure the reading of it, if it be only for the benefit of the rising generation. I sincerely believe that a good agricultural paper, such as this is, attentively read, and the directions at-

tended to, is worth as much to a farmer who has fifty acres of improved land to till, as an extra labourer would be.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. RUTTAN,

One of the Vice-Presidents of the County Northumberland Agricultural Society.

To Mr. —

The above Circular was sent us for the purpose of being printed on a Circular sheet, but upon due consideration, we concluded that it would serve the object in view much better by being exhibited on the first page of our journal. It is only due to the above society to acknowledge the receipt of their subscription, which was sufficiently large to insure the advantage of the high premium which we offer societies and clubs. Other societies, we hope, will follow their example, and in future all receipts from agricultural bodies will be publicly acknowledged.

The Publisher of this journal has the painful announcement to make to his subscribers, that the services of its indefatigable and talented Editor, Mr. Evans, have been suspended, owing to the want of a sufficient support to warrant the payment of his salary, together with the disadvantage, inconvenience, and expense arising from the fact that all the manuscript and selected copy had to be sent from Montreal to Toronto by mail. Mr. Evans' talents and long experience as an agricultural writer are so well known to the Canadian public that it would be superfluous in us to dilate upon them; but we seriously lament that his name and talents could not have been coupled with **THE CULTIVATOR** so long as its continuance might prove an advantage to the Canadian farmer.

The humble individual who will in future take the whole charge of the conduct of this periodical, claims to be nothing more than a plain homespun Canadian farmer, whose interests in common with his brother farmers are inseparable, and by him shall be advocated with as much ability as his talents and experience are capable of showing.

SMALL AND LARGE FARMS.

The comparative value of small and large farms, is seldom made a subject of serious investigation, especially in Canada, where lands can be purchased for a trifle. Farmers in this country, are very apt to boast of the number of bushels of seed sown, or the acres ploughed; but when you enter into the details of their management, and expose their want of skill, you then confound them at once. Owing to the high prices of labour and farming utensils of every description, and the very low prices which the produce of the farm generally command, arable culture cannot be carried out to that extent in Canada that is successfully practised in Britain. The profits of a provincial farmer, much depends upon the amount of labour performed by himself and the branches of his own family, and of course, the skill brought to bear in the business, consequently, small farms are the most profitable, unless the branches be very extensive. The largest farmers in the country are in a much worse condition than small ones the present year, owing to the fact, that it requires all the produce of the farm, to pay a few greedy labourers.

The largest and one of the best farmers in the Gore District, in the neighbourhood of Paris, who has between five and six hundred acres under cultivation, assured us that the whole of the produce from his farm, would not pay the labourers which he employed during last year. This is a deplorable state of things indeed, but we know of a truth, for we speak from experience, that it is true to the very letter. Scores of similar instances have come under our notice, and we are led to predict that the class of farmers, who have the largest expectations, will be sadly disappointed next autumn, owing to serious changes which have taken place in England, over which we have not the slightest control.

The best possible plan for large farmers to practice, to get rid of the impending difficulties, which will be out of their power to check, unless they nip them in the bud, will be to seed down into cultivated grasses, as much land as possible the present year, and only keep as much under the plough as they can well cultivate themselves; ten acres thus cultivated and sown in season, and harvested and taken to market by the owner of the soil, will bring more real profits than fifty acres badly cultivated by hired labourers. A person cultivating a large farm can do but a very small proportion of the labours supposing that he be ever so industrious; but the cultivator of a small farm, consisting of but fifty or sixty acres, can do the whole, with the assistance of a lad sixteen years old.

It is folly to talk about expensive modes of preparing lands for cultivation, or even expensive culture, unless the majority of the work be executed by the owner of the soil; this argument would not apply a few years since, when every description of produce amply remunerated the farmer; but now things have materially changed—the lumber trade has received its death blow—which made a market for much of the produce from Western Canada. And the corn trade has been so seriously affected, that we have no hopes of realizing as much as formerly, by at least twenty-five per cent., for either wheat or flour.

The safest policy for every farmer to pursue, is to lay as much of his lands as possible down to clover and timothy, and instead of allowing his cattle to pick a living on the road sides or the woods, should turn them into good fat pastures, and sell them off in the fall to the butchers for what they may bring. By this plan, the lands will receive rest, and if a change for the better should come around in the farming business, those lands may be broken up in their turn and be sowed with wheat as usual.

We conceive that we have a responsible duty to perform, in laying before our readers facts, as they really exist: and our readers in return, are bound to correct us whenever we fall into error;—the advice we have given above, will be found practical and correct, unless some very unexpected change should transpire before the lapse of another year, which would open a market for the produce of this country on more favourable terms, than the appearances would at present indicate. Let the farmers of Canada bear in mind the old proverb, "that what is worth doing is worth well doing," and the only way to do this, under present circumstances, will be "to do but little, and do that little well."

Suppose a farmer is desirous of sowing ten acres of wheat, if he ploughs his land only once; he may, by chance, get twelve bushels per acre, if he ploughs it twice, he may get twenty; and if he ploughs it three times, he may anticipate thirty. Lands may be ploughed in Western Canada for seven and six pence per acre; and, it will be seen, that the cost for the two extra ploughings, bear no comparison to the difference of the supposed product;—besides, when the land is thickly covered with a crop, the weeds are choked, and by that means the lands are much cleaner and better for subsequent crops.

A gentleman who has 600 or 800 acres of cultivated lands, had much better divide them off into small farms of 100 acres each, and let them out at a moderate rent, and cultivate only as much as he can cultivate well, unless he turns his attention to the dairy business, which will be found a profitable investment, if the article which he makes be of a good quality. A farm of three hundred acres of cultivated land, might keep 100 cows in good condition during the whole year, and the profits from cheese and butter, would equal twenty per cent. on the gross capital invested; and the proportion of manual labour, required in the business, would be trifling, when compared with a farm of the same description under arable culture; and the most novel part of the results, from the dairy business would be, that there would be no occasion to complain of the *rust*.

RULES WORTH BEING OBSERVED BY FARMERS.

1. Perform every operation in the proper season, and in the best possible manner.
2. Always keep your implements and tools in the best order.
3. Finish one job before you begin another.
4. After finishing a job always return your tools to their proper places.
5. Don't put in a crop too large to cultivate well.
6. Personally attend to every operation, and see that it be effectually done.—*Baltimore Am. Farmer.*

HEMP AND FLAX CULTURE.

The cultivation of hemp and flax, as articles for export, have been so frequently brought before the Canadian public and with so little effect, that it may be considered almost a hopeless affair, to further discuss the matter! We, however, see clearly that an entire change in farming must be brought about in this country, in consequence of certain alterations made, and likely to be made in the English corn laws. In recommending this change, we by no means wish it to be understood, that the farmer in this country must cease growing wheat; but it is clear to our mind, that other important staples will have to be introduced and cultivated to a great extent, if we expect to meet the heavy demands, which are already sorely pressing against us for imported goods, for which the country, at present, is unable to pay. It is well understood in Western Canada, that capital cannot be profitably invested in lands, and those lands properly cultivated and sown with wheat, unless the price be at least four shillings currency per bushel. It is preposterous to suppose, that on an average of seasons, that the price will equal that sum, under the present arrangements, and we do not feel backward, in giving it as our opinion, that the average price in future, will not exceed three shillings currency. It would be necessary to give a full description of the mode of farming on the continent, and the very peculiar circumstances which the lands are held and managed, in order to point out to our readers the grounds for the above prediction. As the limits for this article, forbid such a course, we would merely advise our farmers, that they must raise other crops as well as wheat, if they wish to make their business profitable. The colonists have no control over imperial legislation, and consequently must only take things as they are prepared for them by their royal mistress without grumbling; and if this country is to be deprived of being looked upon as the granary for England, as a few wild theorists have supposed shortly would be, the only course left for its inhabitants, will be to turn their attention to the growth of such articles as will find a ready market in England, and at the same time handsomely remunerate the producer. The articles which should in a great measure take the place of wheat and flour, are hemp and flax, nicely cured hams, bacon, cheese and butter. We conceive that Canada is admirably calculated for the growth and production of all the articles above specified. Hemp or flax culture, and the dairy business should, in most cases, be coupled together;—as those plants exhaust the soil nearly as much as wheat, without making any return in manure, and would require a great amount of time for due attention to the retting and dressing, and preparing the fibre for market.

We conceive this subject of such vast importance to this rising colony, that we earnestly draw the attention of the Provincial Government to it—and also agricultural societies and gentlemen of extensive property throughout the Province—in the hope that some encouragement may be given, by which a new and profitable trade will be opened between this and our parent land. Agricultural societies are unprecedentedly liberally aided by the Government in furthering their laudable objects, and from them we expect an unanimous action on this subject. If each district society, would purchase thirty

bushels of hemp seed; or, if in the best districts for hemp culture, they should double that quantity, and give it out to those farmers only, who would guarantee to properly cultivate not less than one acre—the advantages to the producers, and ultimately to the whole community, would be almost incalculable.

The seed may be purchased in Chicago now, for three and six pence per bushel, whereas last year it rated at five dollars per bushel.

Hemp and flax require a deep, rich, friable loam, or vegetable mould, with a porous subsoil, of which many parts of this country abound. In fact, in many sections, the lands are naturally so rich, that wheat cannot be grown with certainty, for many years after they are first brought into cultivation. Such lands are the best for hemp, flax, and grass, and should be managed accordingly. To those who have made up their mind to engage in the business, we would only say, that no danger need be apprehended, regarding the profitability of it, if properly managed.

The penitentiary at Kingston requires many tons annually, which is manufactured by the convicts, for which, in many cases, fifty pounds per ton is paid for the second rate Russian retted hemp. It is surpassingly strange, that a country like this, should have to send to Russia for an article, which they could much better produce themselves. This is another instance of the inattention of the public men of this Province to the true interests of the colony. If the criminals in the penitentiary and common gaols, had been employed during the last ten years, in manufacturing ropes and cordage from hemp and flax, the growth of this country, they would have earned their own living, which would have saved the province many thousand pounds, and have paved the way for the successful cultivation of these plants for the British market, on a scale which would have placed us in such a position, that we would have been fully entitled to the high encomiums which are daily paid us in England. Not many years since one thousand pounds were granted by the British government, for the growth of those plants in Canada. It is almost needless to say that the money was squandered, or rather divided, and no hemp was grown, excepting by a few honest Dutch farmers, who could not find a market for the samples which they raised, and, very naturally, the business dropt; and but little mention has been made relative to the subject since, excepting by a few theorists, who suppose that the £400,000, which our government send annually to Russia, might much better be divided among the loyal subjects of this colony. While those political economists make their dividends, we would beg merely to suggest the propriety of cultivating those plants, as a means for paying for the extensive imports, which arrive yearly at our wharfs, and for which we have but little to say but promises, or a false capital, the evil consequence from which, are about being felt, by the business men in every department.

No period of Canadian history has been so auspicious as the present, and none more suitable for the introduction of the growth of hemp and flax. Let the colonists then show themselves worthy of attention from Great Britain, and we will warrant them that every reasonable patronage will be granted them.

The winter months are pretty much spent in idleness by the mass of Canadian farmers, and our time might be profitably occupied in dressing a few tons of hemp and flax each, and by

that means be enabled to pay such debts as have been contracted for lands or for the necessities of life—and would enable them to keep out of debt and always have a few pounds of ready money in their pockets to purchase useful periodicals for their children—to train up their youthful minds in morality and make them useful members of society.

Water retted hemp carefully prepared, is worth, at least, £45 per ton. The United States government has pledged to pay \$200 per ton for the growth of their own soil, and we have no doubt but similar steps will be taken by our own government, as soon as their attention is drawn to it, by those who should most interest themselves in the matter.

Many may be deterred from entering into the business, owing to their want of knowledge or skill in the management; but to those we would say, that where there is a will there will be always found a way to accomplish their object, if it has for its end the advancement of the happiness and prosperity of mankind. We say then, make the experiment, and if you fail in your expectations, try it the second time, and endeavour in every possible manner to obtain such information on the subject, as will lead you to practice such a system of cultivation and dressing, that will enable you to surmount all the difficulties.

Hemp should be sown as early as the first of May, so the plants may cover the ground before the weather becomes extremely warm. About two bushels of seed should be sown per acre.

HARROWING AND ROLLING WINTER WHEAT.

As soon as the ground becomes quite dry, which generally happens by the middle of April, we would advise the farmers to harrow their wheat with a pair of light harrows, and then roll with a heavy roller. The harrowing will pulverise the hard crust or surface, which is formed by rains, and will also check biennial weeds, which frequently take the start of the wheat plant in the spring, and in many instances that have come under our notice the later has been completely destroyed for want of some precautionary steps being taken to extirpate such weeds. If the harrowing be done in a farming like manner, and with the implement we above recommended, and at a period when the land is perfectly dry, it will be found as good as a hoeing to the plant, and it will in most instances, add twenty-five per cent. to the gross product. The object of using the roller, is to compress the fine soils about the roots of the wheat plant, and will be a sure means of destroying many insects, and has been recommended by some experienced farmers as a sure preventive of injury from the hessian fly. It will be found advantageous to harrow and roll just before a rain.

To such of our subscribers as may have received injury to their wheat plants, by autumn or early spring frosts, or if they appear too thin on the ground, we would advise them to sow about one bushel of spring wheat among such fall wheat, and by that means they may insure a crop. In the spring of 1839, we adopted this plan upon a ten acre field, and sowed the seed as early as possible, and the result was that we had twenty-five bushels of good wheat to the

acre, and the other fields which we had sown with fall wheat was not worth cutting, owing to the blight or mildew which was prevalent that season.

CHANGE OF TERMS.

We perceive by two of the New York State Agricultural papers, both of which have a respectable circulation in Canada, that they offer a very high premium to agents for remittances to their journals. To convince the agents for our work, that we are determined to do our part to make our journal as cheap and as worthy of support, as any work of a similar kind published on this continent, we feel a pleasure in laying before them the following offer.

Any person or agent remitting two dollars at one time in advance, free of postage, will be entitled to an extra copy; fifteen copies for ten dollars and fifty copies for twenty-five dollars.

Agents who have ordered the work on credit may have them on the above conditions, providing the money be remitted within two months from this date.

No orders will be attended to in future, from any party, no matter how responsible, unless the small sum, which we ask for our periodical, be paid strictly in advance.

EXTRAVAGANCE.—As this is an age celebrated for its extravagance, we trust the following advice, will be found to have a good effect on those to whom it is intended to apply:—

No man can ever borrow himself out of debt. If you wish for relief, you must work for it,—economise for it. You must wear homespun instead of broadcloth—drink water instead of champagne—and rise at four instead of seven. Industry, frugality, economy—these are the handmaids of wealth and the true sources of relief.

MILCH COWS.—As no man has a right to expect these animals to give either good or much milk, unless he feeds them well, we call upon you to see, in addition to three good feeds of hay or fodder, that your milch cows receive also due proportions of succulent food of some kind, and be sure to give them salt twice a week.

If husbandry is made respectable, as it ought to be, it will serve to check one of the greatest evils that now bear heavily on the community. The rush of our young men into the learned professions, which are already filled to overflowing—especially that of the law, which, under the present wretched course of legislation—is making litigation cheap—is starving this once honourable and most useful profession.—*American Paper.*

SOWING INDIAN CORN BROAD-CAST.—We notice in several of our exchange papers, that experiments have been made the past season, in sowing corn broad-cast. About one and a half bushels of seed per acre, was generally sown, and the yield of green stalks per acre varied from 16 to 22 tons. When dried, the yield is estimated from 6 to 8 tons per acre. The stalks make a very palatable food for horned cattle, as they do not heat, the nutritive properties are fully retained in the stalks. We should think the experiment worth repeating, when a supply of food is needed for winter.—*Central N. Y. Farm.*

2,500 SUBSCRIBERS WANTED.

The Publisher of this journal begs to claim the indulgence of his friends, who have so nobly assisted him in his very arduous and costly undertaking, for another appeal for their aid in extending its circulation, which he is compelled to make, or else be a *semper victor*. If each person who receives a copy of THE CULTIVATOR, would make it a point to call on his neighbours and solicit their aid, and endeavour by every possible means to obtain the sum of two dollars, and by forwarding it free of postage, he would then have the pleasure of presenting an extra copy to his neighbour, which would, before the lapse of another year, stimulate them to take an entire copy from their own funds. We trust our agents who have been so active, will spur up their less active neighbours, and by their united exertion, together with the very liberal support which we anticipate from agricultural societies, we may safely hope that our subscription list will be very shortly augmented to at least double its present gross amount.

It will require the above addition to the subscription list to cover the expenses for the current volume, without any regard to profit, remuneration, or liquidation of the heavy losses already sustained. As THE CULTIVATOR is received at upwards of three hundred Post Offices, and as there are upwards of four hundred agents who take an interest in its success, it will require but little exertion from each to double its present field of usefulness.

We trust every friend of agricultural improvement throughout the Province, will use their utmost endeavour in our behalf, and we pledge them, on our part, that each number shall be worth more to any practical farmer, than the whole year's subscription.

We are aware that these are times for retrenchment, but when farmers give up taking agricultural periodicals in consequence of the general dearth in money matters, they are, perhaps, "a penny wise and a pound foolish;" at all events, if scarcity of money be the principal reason for their withholding their mite, we would strenuously urge them to club together in twos, threes, or fours, and have the reading of it at once, and when the times change for the better, each may safely take it on their own account.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A number of anonymous communications have come to hand, but most of them are so foreign from the style and character which we intend THE CULTIVATOR shall be in future conducted, that we cannot give them place in our columns.

The policy which we intend to practice ourselves, and which must be acted upon by correspondents in order to secure attention, is that the work shall be almost exclusively practical. If a practical agricultural periodical is objectionable to Canadian farmers, we are most certain that one based on theory would be still more so. Therefore, before we condemn our brethren of the plough, we have resolved to give them what we consider a fair trial; and we trust our exertions will be crowned with success.

Articles on useful suggestions or practical experiments on any of the branches on which we profess to treat, will at all times be acceptable;

and we earnestly solicit communications of that character from the friends of agricultural improvement.

We wish none of our friends to suppose that we find it difficult to obtain matter to fill the columns of THE CULTIVATOR, as the contrary is the case: but we want a useful variety from the practical farmers of the Province; and if those who know the importance of a change for the better being effected in its agriculture, would only set their shoulder to the wheel and aid with their talents and means in bringing about so desirable an object, the task would be accomplished with a trifling exertion and expense.

Communications from A. B. of Goderich, on practical subjects on farming and gardening, will be thankfully received, and the favour will be liberally reciprocated on our part.

The subject mentioned by our esteemed friend of Water Down, relative to the establishment of an Agricultural Board, opens a field for a useful article for our journal. As it has fallen into competent hands, we hope to be favoured with an illustration of the probable duties and benefits of such an institution.

A communication signed "A Farmer," of the municipal District of Dorchester, has been received, and would receive insertion, were it not that we have already crowded out a number of seasonable useful articles, and have been obliged to curtail a number of Editorial articles which should have appeared in full uniform, especially at this important season.

A Reader of Belleville may receive attention in the next number.

A Friend to the Linen Trade will perceive that the subjects of Hemp and Flax culture have been largely treated upon by us, and as his communication contains no practical experience on the subject of growing Flax, hence there is no necessity for its insertion.

It was fully our intention to have given insertion to *A Free Trader*, but are unavoidably obliged to omit publishing it, at least for the present. *A Free Trader* is like too many gentlemen who come to this country, strongly opposed to protection to the farming interests. Advocates for free trade will find, to their sorrow, before the lapse of the present year, that Canada has but one great interest, which is agriculture, and if those engaged in it as a business are depressed in their circumstances, all other branches of business in the country will have to find its common level. Let the advocates for free trade make a tour through Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, and compare the natural and artificial features which characterizes those states, with the peculiar features of this country, and then will they be satisfied that we require artificial aid to enable us to successfully compete with the farmers of those countries. So long as the Corn Laws of England remain un repealed, so long will we strenuously advocate that a scale of duties should be levied upon every description of American produce, excepting wheat, equivalent to the duties upon Canadian produce going into the markets of that country. Every Canadian who studies his own and his country's interest will make the above text his watch-word. Let us suppose a case or two in point. If nine cents per pound for American cheese and five for butter, were exacted as a Provincial tax on those articles, the effect would be that it would amount

to an indirect prohibition. The Canadian farmers will then turn their attention to the dairy business, because they would have no dread of a ruinous foreign competition; and they would feel also certain, that if the farmers of the United Province produced a surplus, that they would find a sure and remunerating market in England, for any quantity they might have to send. To substantiate this position, it is only necessary to look at a practical illustration, which is exhibited in every District of the Province. Only a few years since, American Castings were imported into this country at ruinous prices for Canadian manufacturers; and the natural consequence was, that but little capital was invested in the business. At present, manufacturers of Castings are protected to the tune of 30 per cent. on foreign ware; and at no period has the business been more profitable, nor the ware cheaper—simply because men of real capital have embarked in it largely, and consequently could afford their ware much cheaper, than if they were doing a small and uncertain trade.

When the new American tariff passed, it was thought that the consumers of foreign manufactured goods, would be seriously taxed; but we see by the following notice in the *Pittsburg Advocate*:—"that calicoes of American manufacture, have been sold for 7 cents per yard, which were sold last year of the same description of foreign manufacture, for 12½ cents; and scarlet flannels, for at least twenty-five per cent. less than the range of prices for last year. The *Louisville Journal* also states that the increase of the duty on coal and iron, as on other staples, has had the effect to diminish prices. Although we are strenuous advocates for a protective duty, yet we are not flat enough to suppose that any description of produce would bear extravagantly high prices, in consequence of any protection that may be given us. Whatever agricultural surplus produce, we may have to dispose of, is governed by the prices in England—the same argument will apply to the United States and other foreign countries; but the preference given to the colonists in the British market, should be taken into account, which at present is made available by the Americans, under existing colonial laws.

If a free trader has not learnt by this time, that Canadian agriculture cannot be made respectable, so long as those engaged in it as a profession, have to compete with foreigners, who do business on a different scale, we must only recommend him to study the character of our neighbours, and then he will be enabled to understand the question more fully.

ST. CATHERINES' NURSERY.—We would remind our friends that Dr. C. Beadle, the enterprising proprietor of the above nursery, has about 20 acres of ground, thickly planted with trees of the choicest varieties; and is prepared to supply orders to almost any extent, on the most reasonable terms. Before our farmers make their orders from a foreign country, they should in the first place consider the claims which the above meritorious and well conducted establishment has upon their attention.

A MISTAKE IN CALCULATION.—On the 21 page of the present volume, under the "weight of oxen," there appears to be a gross error in a calculation of the author. As we have not practically tested his theory, we are not prepared to correct the error; but we will make it a point to measure a few beasts by his rule, and give full details in some future number.

WORK FOR APRIL.

As soon as the snow is off the ground, the fence should be attended to, before the cattle have an opportunity to destroy the grass and fall sown wheat. There has been much improvement made of late in fencing; but as most of the plans are too expensive for general introduction, we would for the present merely mention the following. Lay five rails high of common worm-fence; then select stakes, averaging two and a half or three inches in diameter, and drive or otherwise set them in the ground perpendicularly, to the depth of one foot, opposite the lap of the ends of the rails. Then take pieces of wood, fifteen inches long, six wide, and two thick—and bore holes in them with a 3/4 inch auger, at the distance which the stakes are apart, and fit one over each pair of stakes; and by raising the fence four rails higher between the stakes, it will be found to answer all the purposes of a common fence and have a more uniform and tasteful appearance—and will not be likely to get out of repair until the stakes decay, which will then merely require sharpening at the bottom, and may be driven in the ground without the necessity of removing the rails.

Wherever stagnant water lies on the land, means should be adopted to immediately remove it. Spring wheat should be sown as early as possible; turnips and potatoes are good preparatory crops for spring wheat—and to facilitate the period for sowing, the land should be ploughed in six yard ridges in the autumn—the seed may be sown in the spring without further preparation. We have frequently seen a yield of thirty-five bushels per acre from such management. We are firmly of the opinion, that if lands for spring wheat were summer-fallowed, and the same management adopted as for fall wheat—the last ploughing or seed furrow performed in the autumn, so that the seed might be sown in good season—that from this style of farming it would be more productive than winter wheat, and less liable to rust. Much of the winter wheat will, no doubt, be smothered, owing to the great depth of snow which has drawn the frost out of the ground. This cannot be discovered until the ground becomes quite dry, the leaves will have a mouldy appearance, and the roots may be easily removed. As soon as the farmer is convinced that the plants have received serious injury from the above, or any other cause, he should procure spring wheat and sow it at the rate of one bushel per acre, following the directions given on another page of this sheet.

April is a good month for getting out manure for the turnip and potatoe crop, which should be ploughed in early and allowed to ferment before the season for putting in the above crops. Oats and peas should be in the ground by the first of May, and barley should be sown just as the trees are coming out in leaf. The quantity of seed per acre for the above crops, should be from two and a half to three bushels, on lands which have been many years under the plough; and for new lands two bushels will be found sufficient. Land for peas should be ploughed in the autumn, and the seed covered with a light furrow in the spring—as they are the most troublesome species of grain to cover with a furrow.

If worms should attack any of the young plants, a bushel of salt per acre, sown broad cast,

will destroy them and facilitate the growth of the plant. Hemp and flax should be sown as early as the ground can be prepared, after the direction given under flax culture on another page.

Good ploughing is one of the most essential features of a skillful husbandman; and we trust that farmer's sons will pride themselves in having their horses well trained to perform this department. Horses while at the plough should be governed with single rope lines, and should be cross coupled, and be made to walk at least three feet asunder. We conceive some plain directions necessary on this head, and will endeavour in our next number to make ourselves understood, by giving all the details of what would constitute good ploughing. We strongly urge upon farmers the propriety of doing their work well; and if the hard times are likely to prevent improvements, and the labour and expenses of cultivation are to be curtailed—it would be found much better to allow some fields to remain uncultivated, than to undertake to cultivate much with little labour. Plaster and leached ashes should be applied to the land from the first to the 20th of May. To conclude, we say to farmers, one and all—if ever you worked hard and economized in your life, this is the time—drive your work rather than let it drive you, do every thing in a proper manner and in good season, then we will go bail for the consequences.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

TORONTO, APRIL 17th, 1843.

We may safely say that the past has been one of the most severe winters ever felt in Canada; and from present appearances, we would suppose, but little will be done on the land before the first of May. At this period last year, the Thrush and the Robin, were delighting us with their charming melodies.—The plough boy was merrily whistling after his well-trained pair of horses.—The gardener was preparing his salad beds and transplanting fruit trees; and the markets were even supplied with the early description of vegetables—and in fact all nature was rejoicing at the return of spring, when she might clothe herself in her rich and variegated costumes. We are told by some of the oldest settlers, that about 40 years ago, the winter was as long and severe as the present, and the snow was fully as deep as at this period; and notwithstanding grain and roots of every description ripened well. As one extreme generally follows another, we may hope that when summer comes, that it will be uninterrupted by frost.

This has been unquestionably a severe winter on live stock—and from common report, we would suppose that one-half of the horned cattle are dying off with sheer starvation. The common practice among most of Canadian farmers, is to provide nothing but straw for their cattle and sheep for winter food; and the cry which we hear so much about at present, is only an echo of the old story of hard winters and scarcity of food for stock. At the first of February, much stock were dying from the same cause, up to that period the winter was mild, and the fault must be attached to the owners of such stock. Suppose that human beings were to feed themselves upon the best which the country could produce during the summer months, and for the winter months should only provide as much good wheat bran as they would require to sustain nature.—As a natural consequence

they would be like the poor dumb brutes, before the first of February they would be on "the left, and five chances to one they would die off before the return of spring.

Let the farmers seed down one half their farms with cultivated grasses, and plan their business so that they will have good fat pastures for their stock through the summer months, and an abundance of excellent hay and roots for winter feed; and instead of making straw the sole dependence, use it copiously for bedding the stock, to keep them from freezing to death. If farming will not pay in this way it will not in any other;—we wish this fact to be strongly impressed on all our readers, for much of the success of the suggestions, which we will make in future, will depend upon the observance of this one rule.

No sympathy can be entertained by the wise and prudent to such improvident farmers, who allow their cattle to die for want of attention, unless it be sympathy for their cruel conduct towards their animals, and total ignorance of the laws which govern nature.

Since thrashing machines have come into general use, much of the best straw is wasted, which should not be the case. It would doubly pay to house straw if it were for no other purpose than for bedding for the stock; and besides twice the quantity of manure would be made, and one load thus made, would be worth two made from large masses of straw being thrown in the yard, without a proper admixture of animal manure.

One of the principle errors of the present mode of Canadian husbandry is this—it requires pretty much all that is raised in the summer to winter through a few head of cattle, and to sustain the inmates of the household in comfort—we may almost say idleness. If a species of employment could be introduced, from which the proceeds of the winter months, could be turned to as profitable an account as summer, the business of a farmer might then be made respectable. The dressing of hemp and flax would afford this employment; and we hope that immediate action will be taken on the subject, and that societies may be organized for the purpose of trying the experiment, and introducing the most improved method of preparing the fibre of these plants for the British market. Much in this way may be done the present year, if only men of influence and capital would study the best interests of the Province, and lead the way in the introduction of those improvements.

The late news is rather cheering, and we have reason to believe that a change for the better will soon be effected in the commercial and agricultural relations between this and the parent country; and we trust our farmers will be intelligent enough to avail themselves of every advantage, and use every possible means of making their honourable profession profitable and respectable.

ITALIAN SPRING WHEAT.—Colonel McLean, Post Master, Scarborough, sent us a sample of the above variety of wheat, which weighs upwards of sixty pounds per bushel, and yielded 25 bushels per acre. He informs us that he has a quantity for sale, which may be had at the low price of one dollar per bushel, and is highly recommended by farmers to purchase some of the above, as it could scarcely be distinguished from fall wheat, and is free from oats and other seeds.



To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.

SIR,

In reply to the inquiry made by your Correspondent, Edmund Deedes, Esqr., of Woodstock, respecting spring wheat, I conceive he must allude to two kinds which have attracted much notice in our neighbourhood—the Siberian and the Italian. Two of my friends cultivated these sorts last year, and the results were highly satisfactory, considering the very unfavourable state of all wheat crops. The Siberian yielded, for four bushels sown, sixty-four bushels and a half, and weighed 61 lbs. The Italian gave eighteen bushels and a half to the acre, besides tailings, and weighed 62 lbs. to the bushel. Both samples are very fine, and are scarcely to be distinguished from fall wheat—the Siberian rather a brighter colour. James Pringle, Esqr., grew the first, and Thomas Page, Esq., the latter. These gentlemen have farms near Cobourg, and I believe have some seed to spare, price one dollar per bushel. I intend to sow both these sorts next spring, and shall have much pleasure in communicating to you the results.

As I am addressing you, permit me to say, that I quite approve of your determination to exclude from your columns, "all incredible reports of produce obtained from agriculture." I have known instances where the best part of a field has been selected, and reported upon, as the produce of the whole. To say the least of it, this is child's play. There is only one honest way of ascertaining this point. Take a field, say ten acres of wheat, thrash it out, and fan it up, *fit for market*. Then, whatever that gives, at sixty pounds to the bushel, is the honest produce of the field. Other plans may do very well to catch newly arrived emigrants with, but there is deceit and dishonesty at the bottom of them. I have now been ten years in Canada, and have cultivated wheat to a considerable extent, say from forty-five to fifty acres per annum. My own experience gives eighteen bushels to the acre as an average crop. Last year I had fifty acres, producing only twelve bushels, but the spring wheat kept its weight of sixty pounds.

In reference to Berkshire pigs, allow me to ask your Correspondent, J. W. Rose, Esqr., of Williamsburgh, whether he has ever raised a large number of them, as a farmer would, to sell to the store-keepers, say 25 to 30 at a time. I am very incredulous as to the weight of pigs, fatted and killed at nine or ten months old. The heaviest pigs I have known, have been those kept by farm labourers, who have been "allowed to keep a pig." These are petted animals, attended to by the wife and child-

ren, at all hours of the day, and thus they become extra fat. But will Mr. Rose be kind enough to give his opinion, whether the Berkshire or any other breed of pigs that he knows of, if littered early in April, can be made to weigh from 150 lbs. to 170 lbs. by the following November, if raised in numbers, as a matter of business. And if so, are they to be kept up and fed all the time, and what sort of food, and in what quantity?

Will you be so good as to say, whether you consider leached ashes preferable for grass lands to those which are not so.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

CHAS. BUTLER.

VALE FARM, NEAR COBOURG, }
14th March, 1843. }

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.

SIR,

A subscriber to your paper, and one who is much gratified at the course you have followed since you commenced your advocacy of the rights of the farmer, I beg to convey to you my thanks for your past exertions, and to take this means of cheering you on to renewed exertions in the future. Your paper may not as yet have a very general circulation in this country, but depend on it that it soon will have, were it for nothing else but that you so staunchly maintain the necessity of imposing a duty on produce from the States. I see a communication in your last number, signed *A Farmer*, of which I much approve. I must certainly concur with him in his remarks, that it is the exorbitance of the labouring classes in demanding such high wages from the farmer, that renders them often miserable, and that also injure the farmer. It were better for an emigrant newly arrived in this country, to accept twelve pounds a year for the first year, till he got used to the country and all the peculiar features of our mode of labour, than to be one-half his time idle looking for work, the other half employed at public works, learning much vice and idleness, and by no means acquiring a knowledge of farming, which is likely in the end to become his calling. Your correspondent, "A Farmer," requests you to give him information as to what food you would recommend for the labouring classes in this country: would you allow me to give you a hint ere you answer him, and do not forget the phrase, "*chacun un a son gout*." The same food you can very consistently set before the Irish or Scotch labourer, you could not very well offer a real Yankee; but since we have but few of the latter, and many of the former, as labourers, let us consider what they have been accustomed to in their infancy and manhood in their native land, and follow up that with such additions and improvements as we can afford. 1st. Porridge and milk to breakfast, always laying bread on the table, to be taken after. 2nd. Broth, made of beef or mutton, with pot barley or

groats in it, also onions, a few peas, &c., with such seasoning as you can. The meat boiled therein, potatoes and bread. 3rd. If you dine at noon, when at very constant and trying labour, a lunch at half-past four, with a drink of cider, if you have it, if not, good butter milk, skim milk, or, in the absence of all these, good water, with a handful of oatmeal on it. 4th. To supper, sowins and milk, porridge and milk, or pounded potatoes and milk, with bread on the table. That, Mr. Editor, is about the practice in Holland and Ireland. If you are English, and have English labourers, they would, probably, some of them prefer home-made small beer to any other drink which the English understand better how to make than the Scotch and Irish. Above all things, Mr. Editor, eschew ardent spirits and tea, both are too expensive for farmers, and, as neither can be raised by us, avoid them, they are not for men who have to live by their industry. They have a tendency to corrupt and effeminate, as well as to impoverize all their votaries. Let the mistress of the house, if you will have a respectable stock of good tea in her possession, to be administered only as a medicine to those of the household, and used at her table when she pleases; but abolish the practice of giving it to labourers always twice, and frequently three times a day. I would not have troubled you, Mr. Editor, with this communication, were I not in doubt as to what countryman you are, and, if Yankee, you would surely use and recommend tea, tarts, pumpkin pies, &c., with lots of vinegar to gnaw out our teeth; and were you English, you would be apt to forget that the English were long extravagant in their food, until they felt the recent hardship of the times. Prescribe from the practice of Scotland and Ireland if you know it: if it be considered too plain, recollect that many would be glad to have it, and those who despise it may possibly have cause to repent. Do not give the sanction of your high authority to any extravagance; prescribe for food what we grow, and you shall be friend of many.

A FARMER.

For the British American Cultivator.

"To hurt any one order of citizens, for no other purpose but to promote that of some other, is evidently contrary to that justice and equality of treatment which the Sovereign owes to all the different orders of his subjects.—Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, by McCulloch.

All classes in Canada are protected in their callings except the agricultural class. The lawyer is protected, the medical man is protected, the ship owner is protected, the mechanic is protected, yet these and all other inhabitants of cities, towns and villages unite in one voice against protection to the industry of the farmer. If we impose a duty, as we do, on such imports from foreign countries as is required for the farmer's use and consumption, we have a right also to enforce a duty on such imports as rival and come into competition with his industry and production.

Perhaps the greatest effort ever made in the cause of a "Free Trade," was the

petition of the merchants of the city of London, to the House of Commons, on the 8th of May, 1820, yet in that petition with all its undemonstrated theory, and one sidedness, it is admitted "that among the other evils of the restrictive or protective system, not the least is, that the artificial protection of one branch of industry, or source of production, against foreign competition is set up as a ground of claim by other branches for similar protection!" Let the farmers of Canada then have the benefit of this, although it is far from being their strongest ground of claim. The most celebrated authors on political economy, even when contending in favour of a *Free Trade*, admit that the farmer has a right to protection to the full extent of an equivalent for duties paid on the importation of such articles as he consumes. A very considerable item in the expense of farming is the cost of implements and harness; the article of salt is worthy of notice, on such coming from a foreign country, the farmer must pay a very heavy duty, and to the extent of an equivalent for such duty the farmer ought to be protected, at least, even according to the free trade theory, which has not yet during time raised any nation to greatness and power.

Although it may be very well for a time thus to turn the weapons of our enemies against themselves, yet we need not rest here; but may observe that unless Canada can be rendered a wealthy and prosperous country by the improvement of its agricultural resources, it cannot be so by any other means. Can it ever be made a prosperous manufacturing country? The time is very far distant indeed when it can! How can wealth be produced in Canada, to pay for our importations, but by our improvement in agriculture? All admit it is the principal source of Canadian wealth. Then why suffer it to be blasted in its infancy by the better matured industry and productions from the most extensive and fertile agricultural country in the world? To please the clamorous and short-sighted population, who cry, "let us have cheap bread, should you render the country so poor by your free trade, and your currency bill, that we shall have no means to purchase it?" There is no reason to admit that the imposition of a moderate duty on American produce entering Canada would render provisions above their natural and fair value, it is even contended by some, that the imposition of such duty would improve our markets: were the United States a wilderness, situated as Canada is at present, its productions could supply its consumption, and secure as she then would be from overpowering competition, the immediate result would be an increased investment of capital in agricultural pursuits to an extent that would bring the profits on such investment on a level with the profits on others, and the demands for consumption and exportation would be supplied, and with more regularity than at present, subject as we are to the changes of a

market which fluctuates in proportion to the management of their monied institutions.

Those most anxious to have the agricultural interest protected, do not desire a high duty, yet, if you prohibit American produce as it may be said the Americans do ours, within two years from such act of prohibition, the influx of wealthy farmers and capitalists from the mother country, together with the vastly increased energy of our present farmers, would keep provisions at a fair and natural price; it were no monopoly, while the profession is open to the vast millions of capitalists and industrious subjects with which the British Empire is overflowing. But observe when that capital and industry quits the British shores, where does it settle? The former certainly does not in Canada, to follow agricultural pursuits, if by times it does, it is but to give proof of the necessity of some alteration in our international law, on the introduction of American produce into Canada by the ruin of the capitalist. Much as the late and lamented Governor General, Lord Sydenham advocated the principles of free trade in one of his despatches to the Colonial Secretary, he recommended that the Colonial Legislature should have the power of suggesting the imposition of duties on certain productions from the United States. This power being now vested in the Colonial Government, "they are without excuse" one would suppose; yet such is not the case—the Lower Canadians are too tenacious of antiquated habits, to introduce such a scale of improvements in agriculture as would enable them to raise their own provisions; so long as they must buy, they will not submit to a duty on what they purchase.

For my own part, I have heard candidates at the hustings very eloquent in favour of a protecting duty; but where in the House of Assembly they are, much like a certain Militia Colonel of great notoriety on the Western frontier, with whom I happened to dine at the close of the session of Parliament before last, who remarked that a portion of the day was occupied on the question of a protecting duty: then, with a sneering laugh, said: "We must tickle the farmers a little on that question, just to please them." Should this meet the eye of the worthy Colonel, he will remember the circumstance, and how he was replied to from the opposite side of the table. Such are the Representatives of the farmers in the Legislature.

De Blaquiere seemed in earnest during that session in the Legislative Council, but at his seventh resolution he rather bolted off the course, in ranging so wide as to meddle with the *Corn Laws* of Great Britain, as if it should be framed to suit the purpose of half a million of Canadians, to the starvation of the British population. Here he was taken up by the President of the Council, who, himself, shied a little from the real line of demonstration, when he urged as a reason for not imposing a duty on American produce, "that the farmers of Canada were better circumstanced than those of the

United States, their taxation," he said, "was less, and as it often occurred that produce in the States was lower than in Canada, even far below a remunerating price," he contended against the imposition of any such duty. Now, for my part, I cannot see the force of this argument, for the lower prices are in the States, and the more miserable are the farmers there; the more need have we of drawing a line of demarcation between us, for while the free trade system continues, if their prices are ruinously low, they will soon find a way to reduce our markets to the same ruinous level. A. C.

"Infatuation of Farmers."

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.

HAMILTON, 22nd March, 1843.

SIR,

A short time before the last session of Parliament, a meeting of the inhabitants of the Gore District was called to take into consideration the necessity of petitioning the the Legislature to impose a duty on cattle, sheep, beef, &c., &c., imported from the United States. At this meeting about thirty individuals attended, when an address was adopted, which was never presented to the Legislature, as the chairman (a lawyer) neglected his duty, and omitted to transmit it, as was intended, to Dr. Smith, the member for Wentworth.

How different is the action of the farmers when any political meeting is convened, as has been lately the case at Hamilton, when more than two thousand farmers gave their eager attendance; the upshot of which meeting will probably be that this great agricultural District will be represented in the next Provincial Parliament by three gentlemen of the long robe.

The present Parliament contains but eight members who are engaged in agriculture, if we may believe the statements contained in some well written letters by a farmer at Brantford, which have appeared in the Hamilton papers; and the next Parliament will scarcely boast so many, so that the farmers have little prospect of ever being effectively heard within the Legislative halls. This matters not, so long as we good people of Hamilton are regaled at the end of March, on beef of very superior quality, at the price of \$3 and \$4 per 100 lbs. This beef is now imported from the States ready killed, so that we buy direct from the importer. I strongly suspect that those useful members of society, the butchers, will quickly leave us, for Jonathan grudges them even the profits formerly made by killing and retailing his exported herds and flocks.

I am, Sir,

Your well-wisher,

B. A.

RECIPE.—The fumes of brimstone are useful in removing stains of linen, &c. Thus, if a red rose be held in the fumes of a brimstone match, the colour will soon begin to change, and at length the flower will become white. By the same process, fruit stains or iron molds may be removed from linen or cotton cloths, if the spots be previously moistened with water.

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.

HURON DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

GODERICH, Huron District, }
March 11th, 1843. }

Sir,

Having seen in your paper, several accounts of the different Agricultural Societies in this Province, I trust that you will give the following account of the lately formed Huron District Agricultural Society, an early insertion in your excellent pages. This Society was formed on the 14th February, 1842, under the patronage of Thomas Mercer Jones, Esq., Commissioner of the Canada Company. The affairs of the Society are managed by a President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and 15 Directors, elected annually, through whose active exertions the affairs of this infant Society are very prosperous. The Canada Company, with their accustomed liberality, presented the Society, through the hands of their Commissioner, with a very handsome donation in aid of the funds. The consequence of which, at the annual meeting on the 14th February last, the Treasurer, after paying all the yearly expenses of the Society, still had the balance of £152 5s. remaining in his hands. The Society have purchased a thorough bred Durham bull, 4 years old, from the stock of the Hon'ble Adam Ferguson, of Woodhill; and also, a thorough bred Devon—both for the use of the settlement. Six copies of the *Cultivator* are circulated by the Society amongst the members, and will no doubt tend greatly to the improvement of the farmers. A premium of ten pounds has been given for the erection of a weighing machine in the market square; and the same premium offered for the best bred horse, that shall travel the District during this season. And premiums are offered for the best orchards and nurseries of grafted fruit trees.

It is therefore sincerely wished that the farmers will come forward with alacrity, and cheerfully contribute their aid in support of a Society formed expressly to promote their welfare, and which has already promised so fair to become in a few years of much utility, and a source of future wealth.

The first show was held at Goderich, on the 18th of October last, when premiums were awarded for the best stock and agricultural produce. The cattle were only of the common stock of the country, but such as were very good of their kind. Some excellent Berkshire pigs, the property of Mr. William Gooding, to whom the prize was justly awarded. But the agricultural produce was particularly fine, and received great commendation. The fall wheat prize was given to Mr. Elliott, whose wheat weighed 64 lbs. a bushel. The spring wheat 62 lbs., and was very fine. So also were all the other sorts of grain. Beautiful butter and excellent turnips, mangel wurzel and other roots, sufficiently proving the richness of the soil in the Dis-

trict, and the laudable pride taken by the farmers in their productions.

Believe me to be, Sir,
Ever your well wisher,
N. BROWN.

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.

Sir,

In some of your former numbers there appeared a proposition much approved of in my neighbourhood, viz: that there should be formed in Canada, a general board of agriculture. In anticipation of your further urging the subject, I, as well as many others, have remained silent; but we now think it high time, that more than that proposition should be advanced.

The want of union amongst farmers, which has hitherto prevailed, is principally the cause of our want of strength; and the formation of the general board of agriculture would, with your very efficient paper, be the means of a union and co-operation, which would ere long relieve us from our present disabilities—so far, I presume you and I are of one opinion;—but what next is to be done? To reason the matter farther is superfluous:—all the farmers in Canada west, at least, will agree with you; and I presume that were you without further loss of time to act as Secretary to such Board and in your April impression call upon every district society in the Province, to elect a delegate to some central rendezvous, there to concert measures for the more complete organization of such society;—that your call would be very zealously and respectfully attended to.

May I then request that you will take such measures, as to you may seem most likely to effect such meeting, and the formation of such general board, and bear in mind that time is precious—it is fast passing away; and you should not leave until to-morrow what should be done to-day.

The farmer must now look to you as his friend and counsel, and you may depend the farmers of this section of the Province, will appreciate your exertions; but go-a-head—let this board be formed—it will be attended from all quarters of Canada west. Your humble correspondent has for the last ten years, often been alone in supporting the cause you have so seasonably espoused—confident it was and is a strong one: its strength will now, it is evident, be manifested through your columns—the materials are at your hand in every farm house and shanty in the country—be it your business to unite, and thereby strengthen these materials into a superstructure, that cannot be overthrown by any other power in this country;—a superstructure, which from the nature of our soil, our climate, and our people,—must gather bulk, wealth and strength, as time rolls on—if those depending on its existence for justice, are but true to themselves and will remain united.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
A FARMER.

PITTSBURGH, 16th March, 1843.

To the Editor of the British American Cultivator.

TURNIP CULTURE.

Sir,

Through the medium of your useful paper, I wish to make a few enquiries. Will some one of those farmers, who have had experience in the culture of turnips and stall-feeding, be kind enough to state, whether Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurzel, or what kind of turnips is best adapted to our soil and climate, and the purposes of fattening. How the ground should be prepared to produce the most abundant crop, and what time and in what manner the seed should be sown. How many turnips should be fed to an ox at one time, and how frequently. The answers to these questions by yourself, or some one of your subscribers acquainted with the subject, will greatly oblige

A YOUNG FARMER.

In answer to the inquiries of a *Young Farmer*, we would refer him to an article on another page, which will show him a scale of the comparative value of roots and farming produce of every description for food. So long as things remain as at present, stall-feeding horned cattle for the market, will prove a sinking business, and no farmer would be wise in attempting it on a large scale. Five roods of mangel wurzel may be grown with more ease than four of Swedish turnips, and three of potatoes, than one of the latter. The turnip fly has been so destructive to the young plant for the last few years, that many of the best turnip growers have become quite discouraged. Those little depredators do no harm to the plant, when sown on new lands, lately cleared from the forest. Ashes strewed on the ground are a sure preventive, and if not laid on in too great an abundance, will act as a stimulant for the plant. Field carrots will ultimately prove the most valuable root in use for feeding cattle. Rutabago seed should be sown or drilled from the twenty-fifth of May to the tenth of June. As a general thing we would recommend drilling for every description of roots, so that the land may be cultivated between the rows with a horse and cultivator, and by that means save much manual labour.

Lands for roots require autumn and at least two spring ploughings; and from twenty-five to thirty waggon loads of good barn yard manure per acre. Manure for turnip land, should be thoroughly fermented, and would be most serviceable were it laid in the bottom of the drills, and the drills split with a plough; by this means the plants would have the whole benefit of it. The quantity fed per day, will entirely depend upon the size of the ox and the quantity of other food given him, and should probably average five pecks per day, but must be varied in the different stages of feeding, to suit the taste and condition of the beast; half the above may be given morning and evening; and oat sheaf, cut

with a straw cutter, and mixed with chopped oats and pease, will be found an excellent change for the middle of the day. Good hay should be liberally given to the animal, and warm winter quarters, with an excellent bed of straw provided. Much of the success and profits of stall feeding depend upon the latter. We would be happy to hear from others on the subject of turnip culture.

For the Cultivator.

HOPE, March 28th, 1843.

To the President, Vice Presidents, and Directors of the Agricultural Society of the County of Durham.

GENTLEMEN.

Permit me to congratulate you and the country at large, on the auspicious prospects of a speedy and satisfactory termination to that great agricultural measure, which has so long, so earnestly, and so anxiously engaged our attention.

When I had the honour of being selected by you, as your Representative in Parliament, I told you in sincerity and in truth, that I had no object of personal ambition or private interest to gratify; but that I should be actuated by a far nobler motive—a determination to maintain the just rights, and advocate the interests of the great body of the people without distinction of political party. I had long ere this, united with you in exposing the glaring injustice done to the agricultural community, by permitting our staple productions to be depreciated—by inundating our markets with an article of foreign competition, free and unrestricted; at a time when the United States imposed a duty, amounting to a prohibition, on the like article of Canadian growth, when imported into her territories. I further cordially united with you in deprecating the system that tolerated the admission of this article of foreign competition, (which is transmitted by this route) into the ports of the United Kingdom, as the produce of Canada; and I had also the satisfaction of your entire approbation in my views, relative to the propriety of removing or diminishing the restrictions in our commercial intercourse with the United States, on articles imported into this colony, essential to our wants:—to remedy these evils, I gave you the assurance that I would devote my best energies; and, I trust, I have redeemed the pledge, in the exposure of the pernicious policy then prevailing. I have endured the obloquy and denunciation of those interested in the perpetuation of the abuses complained of; nevertheless, sustained by a consciousness of rectitude, it only made me the more determined to persevere in my efforts.

You will readily admit, that we have had to contend with a powerful opposition during the administration of Lord Sydenham, who was so strenuously opposed to any restriction on the importation of American wheat, that every member of the Executive was induced to vote against the measure, when introduced into our Legislature, in the first session of the present Parliament; and those who advocated the measure in that session, were considered by their opponents, as visionary enthusiasts; and their anticipations of the benefit that would flow from the adoption of the measure, as wild and chimerical: the obstacles thus presented, called for renewed exertion—that at the close of the session, I had made up my mind to proceed to England, and lay the complaints of the agricultural classes before her Majesty's government: I arrived

in London, on the 30th day of November, and immediately came into correspondence with Lord Stanley, on all the matters before enumerated. His Lordship at once frankly acknowledged that the claims I advocated were just in principle—and that they would forthwith be submitted to the cabinet, and subsequently honoured me with an interview, when he was pleased to thank me for my communication, and made the most satisfactory acknowledgements of the intentions of the government, in relation to the agricultural population of Canada, the particulars of which were communicated to you in my letter of the 11th day of January, 1842.

When in attendance at the Colonial office and the Board of Trade, it was my good fortune to have the gratification of frequent intercourse with our worthy friend and zealous advocate, Wm. Hamilton Merritt, Esq., the member of North Lincoln, whose experience on matters of colonial policy, greatly facilitated the object of my mission. Actuated by views of a near similitude, his representations powerfully supported my previous communication.

The latest advice from England, gives us the assurance that the royal assent will forthwith be given, to the act passed in the last session of our legislature, imposing a duty on American wheat, imported into this country; and that an act of the Imperial Parliament will authorise the admission of all wheat and flour from Canada, into the ports of the United Kingdom, at a mere nominal duty; thus conferring on us considerations of the most momentous import to the prosperity of the country.

In the first consideration, the Canadian grower, by the remission of the duty, which at the present time, on the graduation scale, is five shillings per quarter, will realize that sum in the advanced price of his wheat in this country; and moreover, is protected from foreign competition, by the duty levied on American wheat.

2ndly. A revenue will accrue from the duty imposed on the importation of American wheat, to be expended in the public works within the Province, of at least £100,000 per annum.

3rdly. The Canadian grower will have the satisfaction of perceiving that the British government gives his productions a decided preference in their markets, over articles of foreign competition, and his attachment to the parent state is thereby strengthened.

And lastly, it will stimulate to increasing exertion the whole mercantile community, by admitting foreign productions by the St. Lawrence into Britain, (after paying the duty in Canada) on more advantageous terms than have ever yet been conceded.

Indeed the whole measure appears to me pregnant with consequences the most beneficial to the Province; and we may reasonably anticipate the most prosperous results to flow from them.

Mr. Gladstone's bill, goes into operation on the 1st day of July next, having made provision for a prominent and essential portion of our representations, it only remains with our local Legislature at the ensuing session, to pass a bill, establishing a moderate protective duty on every article of the United States, imported into this Province, that may come into competition with the labour, industry, and skill of our people; and such a bill, without doubt, will pass to make the measure complete and ensure an harmonious working of the whole.

I must now again take leave to congratulate you on the prospect of a successful termination of our efforts, in removing the

menbus so long pressing down our energies: and I hesitate not in saying, that a few zealous members of our Assembly, urging on her Majesty's government, and affording them opportunities of explanatory interviews, respecting the state of this country, have been mainly instrumental in facilitating the adoption of this great desideratum.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your obt' humble servant,
(Signed.) JOHN T. WILLIAMS.

AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION.

A series of resolutions and the subjoined petition to the two branches of the Legislature, were sent us for insertion: as the petition contains the essence of the resolutions referred to, we beg to apologize for not giving them insertion. The Hon'bles Ferguson and Crooks, have been requested to take charge of it in the Legislative Council, and Caleb Hopkins, M. P. P., to do so in the Legislative Assembly.

The last paragraph in the petition, embraces all that is necessary, to give the Canadian farmer full liberty to supply his own market without fear of competition from foreigners.

In all probability similar petitions will be sent in to the Legislature from Sandwich to the Eastern Townships; and if all were couched in pretty much the same spirit as the clause in question, there cannot be much doubt but a similar action would be entered into by the people's representatives, at the next sitting of Parliament. We would then say farmers awake!!!

To the Honourable the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, &c. &c. &c.

We the Freeholders Inhabitants, and Householders of the Township of Nelson, in the Gore District, beg leave to approach your honourable house, with an earnest and humble petition; and to request your honourable house, to take into consideration the immense injury, sustained by your petitioners and others, inhabitants of this fine Province, by the introduction of agricultural produce from the United States, free of duty—and more particularly by the introduction of horses, cattle, sheep, and fresh and salted meat.

We, your petitioners, have learned with gratitude, that her Majesty's ministers have come to the determination of recommending to the Imperial Parliament the free admission of Canadian wheat and flour into Great Britain; and the admission of United States wheat and flour through the St. Lawrence to England, subject to such fixed duty, only upon their entering Canada, as the Provincial Parliament may think proper to establish.

We, your humble petitioners, beg therefore respectfully to urge your honourable house, to impose such duties upon all stock, and other agricultural produce, imported from the United States, for consumption in Canada, as shall be at least equal in amount to the duties imposed on such articles in the said United States.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

IDLENESS.—There are but very few who know how to be idle and innocent. By doing nothing we learn to do it.

From the Plymouth (Eng.) Herald

PRACTICAL DIRECTIONS FOR THE PLACE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DUNG-HEAP.

Farmers have generally found out the advantage of having a dung-pit instead of a dung-heap; but still the rich drainage of the dung is much of it allowed to run away; the urine from the stables, &c., does not half of it run into the dung, though it is the best part, the essence of the whole, and the privy manure, which is better still, is mostly neglected altogether.

All drainings from the stables, cow-houses, and styes, should run into the pit, and the overflowings should be caught in another pit, to throw back in dry weather.

The following is a cheap and effectual method of doing all this:—When convenient, the pit should be on the north side of a wall, or of some trees, to shade off the sun; or under a shed, to keep off both sun and rain; but these advantages cannot always be had without too much cost.

Having selected the best place for your pit, first lay in way soil, peat, or any soil as different as possible from that of your farm, and give it a hollow surface, like a great tea saucer. Upon this lay potatoe stalks, and any other vegetable matters, easy to ferment, and hereupon a layer of dung. Next a layer of vegetable matter, as peat, turf, bark, rotten weeds, ferns, leaves, or any kind of dead vegetable, to increase your quantity; and so every week, cover your dung from the stables, styes, &c., with three or four times as much dead vegetable matter; thus making up your heap in alternate layers. The urine should all run into the pit from stables and all, by narrow drains, where it will not be much exposed to evaporation; and another such drain should lead from it to a lower pit, to catch the overflowings when there are any; and keep them to throw back upon the dung in dry times. This lower pit should be deeper and smaller than the other, and must never be allowed to overflow, as that would be waste. It may contain cabbage stumps, and other things difficult to work, which may be thrown back upon the heap as they rot.

The lower pit may be used as a store of liquid manure, for watering young corn in May or June; which gives it a start, and much strengthens its growth. In leaky ground, the bottom of the pits should be stanch'd with clay; and stones or gravel stamped in, to harden it.

The privy should discharge into the large pit, if possible, or else into the small one; and coal ashes (but not wood ashes), are good to throw where this comes out. Sawdust or turf-dust from the stacks do very well. House-washings, as soap-suds, &c., should also be thrown on the heap; but the wash of the country, and heavy floods of rain should not be allowed to enter it, but be led into the meadows by other channels.

In wet seasons, the top should be slanted to turn off the rain.

Each layer of dung being covered with a layer of peat or other dead vegetable matter, the whole heap, when finished, should be crusted over with way soil, or other earth, to retain the vapours.

The fermentation will be slower or quicker, as it is more or less covered and compressed.

Wherever your heaps are made, whether in the yard or the field, give them a bed of some sort to absorb the drainage, and crust them over with soil, and mix all up with the dung before spreading. The drainage carries down the strength of the heap;

sometimes enough to kill the seed in the place where the heap stood; whilst it would have been of the greatest benefit if spread out with the dung.

MANAGEMENT OF CALVES.—Have as many calf bows made in winter as you expect to have calves in the spring; hickory is the best wood for these; split it out and whittle or shave it down to the size of a whipstock, leave a knob on one end, and cut in a notch at the other end. The average length before bending, should be from 18 to 23 inches, according to size and age of the calf. The cap to go over the ends of the bow as a hole $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch at one end. An inch from this hole towards the end, bore a half-inch hole, and cut a mortice of half an inch from one to the other, so that when the bow is put into the three-quarter inch hole to the neck it springs back through to the end of the mortice and remains stationary until removed.

For ties we would recommend light trace chains, with a small ring at one end large enough for the bow to pass through, and a fixture at the other end to fasten it to the calf's trough or manger, with a swivel to keep the calf from twisting up the chain, which any common blacksmith can make and put in. These bows will last for many years as we can testify from our experience, and can always be had ready whenever there is a new calf dropped. The advantages of tying up calves in a calf house until weaned, is to halter-break and make them perfectly tame and docile, so that they never forget it; it also accustoms them to eat at an early age. Hay, or new mown grass, roots, oats, shorts, or indian meal, are usually much cheaper food than milk, it can consequently be saved for family use, by substituting these kinds of feed, and the calf be pushed forward with about the same rapidity. Water is essential once a day, notwithstanding the calf may have milk morning and evening. It is important to keep the calves out of the scorching sun and away from the tormenting flies and woodticks in summer; and from pelting storms and cold at the other seasons of the year. By keeping them well bedded with straw and throwing it out under a cover, such as may be made cheaply from loose boards laid upon poles in crotches, and mixing muck, soda, or road scrapings with it a good pile of rich manure may be made in a few months from this source alone.

TO PREVENT NICE, GRUBS, AND INSECTS FROM HARBOURING AROUND THE FEET OF FRUIT TREES IN WINTER.—Before the ground is frozen in the fall, scrape away the loose mould from the trunk and supply its place with lime and ashes—mice and moles will not come to disturb the bark and burrow among the roots, when so strongly protected with alkalies; and the insects and their larvae will be effectually exterminated by the contact, and the tree and its fruits will be saved from their destructive ravages the following season. The value of this application as a manure for the tree, will abundantly remunerate the trouble and expense.

DEAD WEIGHT OF STOCK AT SMITHFIELD.—The dead weight of the largest prize ox, exhibited at the late Smithfield show, was 2,117 lbs. He was a Short-horn, and only 4 years ten months old. The largest Long-woolled sheep weighed 204 lbs., at one year 8 months old. The largest South-down, at two years 8 months old, weighed 165 lbs., others one year 8 months old, weighed 133 lbs. With pigs the largest was 236 lbs., at 32 weeks old.

A TABLE OF THE COMPARATIVE VALUE OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF FODDER FOR CATTLE has been published by M. Antoine, in France, and is the result of experiments made by the principal agriculturists of the continent, Thier, Gemorhausen, Petro, Rieder, Weber, Krantz, Andre, Block, De Dombasle, Bous-singault, Meyer, Plotow, Pohl, Smee, Crué, Schwartz, Pabst. It is unnecessary to give the figures which each of these experimentalists have set down, but the mean of their experiments being taken, there is more chance of the result being near the truth. Allowance must be made for the different qualities of the same food on different soils and different seasons. In very dry summers the same weight of any green food will be much more nourishing than in a dripping season. So likewise, any fodder raised on a rich dry soil, will be more nourishing than on a poor wet one. The standard of comparison is the best upland meadow-hay, cut as the flower expands, and properly made and stacked, without much heating; in short, hay of the best quality. With respect to hay, such is the difference in value, that if 100 lbs. of the best is used, it will require 120 lbs. of a second quality to keep the same stock as well, 140 lbs. of the third, and so on, till very coarse and hard hay, not well made, will only be of half the value, and not so fit for cows or store cattle, even when given in double the quantity. While good hay alone will fatten cattle, inferior hay will not do so without other food.

100 lbs of good hay is equal in nourishment to	90 " " hay-made clover, when the blossom is completely developed.
88 " " ditto, before the blossom expands.	93 " " Clover, 2d crop, is equal in nourishment to
93 " " Lucerne hay	91 " " Sainfoin hay
89 " " Tare hay	146 " " Clover hay, after the seed
410 " " Green clover	457 " " Vetches or tares, green
275 " " Green Indian corn	541 " " Cow-cabbage leaves
374 " " Shelter wheat-straw	442 " " Rye straw
164 " " Oat straw	153 " " Peas halm
159 " " Vetch halm	201 " " Raw potatoes
175 " " Boiled do	339 " " Mangold-wurzel
504 " " Turnips	276 " " Carrots
308 " " Swedish turnips	350 " " do with the leaves on
54 " " Rye	45 " " Wheat
54 " " Barley	59 " " Oats
50 " " Vetches	45 " " Peas
45 " " Beans	64 " " Buckwheat
57 " " Indian corn	68 " " Acorns
50 " " Horse-chestnuts	62 " " Sun-flower seed
69 " " Linseed cake	105 " " Wheat bran
109 " " Rye bran	167 " " Wheats, peas, and oat chaff
179 " " Rye and barley chaff	

Lattermath hay is good for cows, not for horses. The second cut is generally considered as inferior in nourishment to the first. New hay is not wholesome. At Paris, when a load of 1000 kilos is bargained for, the seller must deliver—if between hay making and October 1, 1300 kilos—and after April, only 1000. This is fair, and

and allows for loss of weight in drying. In London, a load of new hay is 20 cwt.; of old hay, only 18 cwt.

The dried half of the *Trifolium incarnatum*, after the seed is ripe, is little better than straw. Clover, lucerne, and sainfoin, are generally supposed to lose three-fourths of their weight in drying; but in general they lose more, especially in moist climates, where the sap is more diluted. When touched by the frost, they become very unwholesome, and should never be given to cattle except quite dry.

Straw is, on the whole, but poor food, and unless cattle have something better with it, they will not keep in any condition; when given with turnips or other roots, straw corrects their watery nature, and is very useful; cut into chaff it is very good for sheep when fed on turnips, and when newly thrashed is as good as hay. By a judicious mixture of different kinds of food, a more economical mode of feeding may be substituted for a more expensive one, and the same result obtained. The value of straw depends much on the soil: a very clean crop will not give so nourishing straw as one containing many succulent weeds. Peas and vetch halm are superior to straw, especially when cut into chaff: it is by some thought equal to hay. The same may be said of bean halm not left too long in the field, and cut before it is completely dry. Buckwheat halm is of little value: it is thought unwholesome if given to sheep.

16 lbs. of raw, or, 14 lbs. of boiled potatoes will allow a diminution of 8 lbs. of hay.

Turnips will feed store pigs, but they will not fatten on them. Carrots and parsnips are excellent for horses, and, when boiled, will fatten hogs. Ruta-baga is liked by horses: it makes their coats fine, but must not be given in too great quantity, or it will gripe them.

FEEDING.—A certain quantity of food is required to keep an animal alive and in health: this is called his necessary ration of food: if he has more, he will gain flesh, or give milk or wool.

An ox requires 2 per cent. of his live weight in hay per day; if he works, he requires 2½ per cent.; a milch cow 3 per cent.; a fatting ox, 5 per cent. at first; 4½ per cent. when half fat; and only 4 per cent. when fat; or 4½ on the average. Sheep grown up take 3 1-3 per cent. of their weight in hay per day, to keep in store condition.

Growing animals require more food, and should never be stinted.—*Journal Royal Agricultural Society.*

SHEEP STOCK.—After discussing the management of sheep at the Framingham Farmer's club, it was resolved, that they should have free access to either rock or common salt—that nothing is preferable to common hurdles for folding them in fields—that pasturing old clover leys with them, destroys many of the slugs and wire worms, and that their feeding the young wheat in the spring is beneficial.

SCOURS IN SHEEP.—In case of their being thus attacked, a small dose of castor oil should be given to remove any offending matter from the bowels, after which four grains of opium and one oz. of chalk, and then put them upon dry food.

RECIPES FOR THE ROVEN IN CATTLE.—The Hadleigh Farmer's club recommends the following recipe for blows or roven cattle: 1 lb. glauber salts, ½ lb. of treacle, and 1 oz. of ginger, mixed with one pint and a half of warm water. Powerful stimulants, such as ammonia, are also recommended.

SAVE YOUR DEER BONES.—We were in a shoe shop a day or two since, and noticed a large, gracefully-shaped bone, as clear, smooth, and dense almost as ivory, which was used for wedging out shoes when on the last; on inquiring we found it was from the lower hind leg bone of a deer. This is split from the pastern joint, which forms the knob or handle, as far up as required towards the gambrel joint, and the upper end is dressed down, and this small article made in an hour, from what is usually thrown away as useless, is worth from 25 to 50 cents. and as each leg furnishes two, the hind legs of a deer are worth from 1 to \$2 cash. We believe all the leg bones are valuable, though perhaps not equally so. The horns are always in demand. The aggregate of such savings may add thousands to the wealth of the country, and greatly to its comforts.—*N. Y. Agriculturalist.*

MONUMENT TO THE EARL OF LEICESTER.—Nearly £5000 have already been subscribed towards erecting a monument to the late Earl of Leicester, as a testimony of his worth and the improvements made by him in agriculture.

The *London Farmer's Magazine* for February, is embellished by a portrait of one of the old Long-horned bulls—a pretty good animal—and a party of sportsmen on horseback leaping a high fence. This last is called "Getting into Difficulty," and is graphically done.

ASPARAGUS.—This plant, in its native state, is found growing upon the sea-shore, in many parts of Europe. It was cultivated by the Greeks, and is generally considered one of the most delicate of all our garden vegetables; and yet very few of the farmers in this part of the country, have provided themselves with an asparagus bed. This neglect has probably been occasioned by the general impression, that in order to plant asparagus, a hole should be dug the size of the intended bed, several feet deep, paved with flat stones, or bricks, filled up with manure and rich earth; and then plant the roots; and also, that sprouts produced, would not be of sufficient size for use, short of three years. This is not the case. An asparagus bed may be made with as little expense as one for beets, or carrots; and when once prepared, will last for twenty years. We would urge every farmer who considers himself permanently located, and has not already done so, to prepare one this spring.

In selecting a place in the garden for an asparagus bed, it should be remembered, that it is not always ornamental, and should therefore be at the farthest part of it; and, if the ground should be moderately damp, it will be the better. A bed, four feet wide, and twenty-five long, will be sufficient for a large family. Let the ground be well manured, spaded deep, the earth made fine, and raked and finished, as for beets or carrots. Line the bed, putting them one foot apart, each way—occupying ground sufficient for one hundred hills. Having procured the roots, set one in each square, cover them about two inches, and keep them from weeds through the summer. In autumn, cut down the stalks, and cover the bed six inches thick, with coarse litter from the barn yard; in the spring, fork up this manure but allow it to remain upon the bed. If the plants were large when set, it will give some fine-sized shoots; but if small, they should be allowed to grow the second summer, without cutting. When roots cannot be procured, seeds may be planted at the same distance, putting two in

a hill. The young plants should be kept hoed the first summer, and afterwards covered and managed the same as roots.—*True Genesee Farmer.*

ONIONS.—The cultivation of onions is so common, that a kitchen garden would be thought incomplete, without a bed of these savory vegetables; and little could be said that would be instructive to many of our good house-wives, on the subject of raising the common varieties; but as various changes have taken place in regard to their cultivation, we venture to speak of them.

There has been introduced into this neighbourhood, within a few years past, a new species of onion, which bids fair to take the place, in a great measure, of the old varieties. It is called the potatoe-onion, but is different from two varieties (probably of the same species,) which we have long known by that name; both of which are of small growth, and not very productive. The present variety grows to a large size, and it is thought by our gardeners, that a greater quantity of them can be produced from a specified portion of land, with the same labor, than that of any other.—They do not produce seed, and are propagated by the division of the bulbs, into cloves. They grow much sooner than common onions, so that they may be raised on grounds intended for cucumbers, or other late crops; and harvested before the vines require the room. Being raised from sets, all the small weeding necessary for the cultivation of the common onion, is avoided. These sets should be planted out in rows, as early in the spring as the ground can be prepared; the rows should be about the same distance apart as we plant the seeds of other onions; and the distance in the rows, should be from four, to six inches, according to the size of the sets; the smallest of which will produce the largest onions, as they will not divide the first year; whereas, the larger ones will produce from five, to a dozen plants, or bulbs; most of which, for the want of room, are forced from the ground, by the swelling of others; these soon dry up, and are usually kept for planting the ensuing season. Those which were upon the outside of the cluster, to the number of four or five, retain their hold upon the ground, and swell into large onions.—*ib.*

A LIFE PRESERVER ALWAYS AT HAND.—In many cases of apparent danger upon the water, safety appears attainable by the proper use of a man's hat and pocket handkerchief, which being all the apparatus necessary, is thus used: Spread the handkerchief on the ground or deck, and place a hat, with the brim downwards, on the middle of it; then tie the handkerchief round the hat, like a bundle, keeping the knots as near the centre of the crown as possible. Now, by seizing the knots in one hand, and keeping the opening of the hat upwards, a person, without knowing how to swim, may fearlessly plunge into the water.

TO CURE A FOUNDER IN A HORSE.—The secret of curing founder is to commence at an early stage of the disease. A writer in the *S. W. Farmer*, recommends bleeding first thing, then make your horse swallow about a pint of salt, and bathe his feet in spirits of turpentine; and it is asserted he will be well in one hour.

APPETITE.—A relish bestowed upon the poorer classes, that they may like what they eat, while it is seldom enjoyed by the rich, because they may eat what they like.

TREATMENT OF INFANTS.

The milk of the parent ought, in every instance, to constitute the food of the infant, unless urgent reasons prevent the mother from suckling, or renders her milk improper for the child. There is always a relation between the condition and constitution of the mother, and the age and constitution of the infant which renders this proper, and which cannot exist between the child and any other nurse, but which exercises an important influence on its nutrition. It is well known, for example, that during the first few weeks, the milk is thinner and more watery than it afterwards becomes. If, consequently, a newly-born infant be provided with a nurse in the third or fourth month, the natural relation between its stomach and the quality of the milk is destroyed, and the infant suffers from the oppression of food being too heavy for its powers. If, again, an infant of five or six months old be transferred to a nurse recently delivered, the aliment which it receives is too watery for its support, and its health in consequence gives way.

In like manner, if the parent be of mature age, her own milk, or that of a healthy nurse of a nearly similar age, will be more suitable to the infant than the milk of a younger woman; because the constitution of the offspring always bears a relation to that of the mother, and is adapted to the quality of the fluid nature has provided for it. I speak, of course, only of the healthy state; for in cases of disease, the mother may be, and often is, the most unfit nurse that can be found for her own child.

The leading error in the rearing of the young, I must again repeat, is *over-feeding*—an error serious in itself, but which may easily be avoided by the parent yielding only to the indications of appetite, and administering food slowly and in small quantities at a time. By no other means can the colics and bowel complaints, and irritability of the nervous system, so common in infancy, be effectually prevented, and the strength and healthy nutrition be secured. Nature never intended the infant stomach to be converted into a receptacle for laxatives, carminatives, antacids, spicy stimulants, and astringents; and when these become necessary, we may rest assured that there is something faulty in our management, however perfect it may seem to ourselves. The only exception is where the child is defectively constituted, and then, of course, it may fail to thrive under the best measures which may be devised for its relief.

Another cause of infantile indigestion, and which is too much overlooked through ignorance of its importance, is *variation of the quality of the milk*, caused by imprudence, neglect, or anxiety on the part of the mother. The extent to which this cause operates in inducing irritation and suffering in the child is not generally understood, and accordingly it is not unusual for mothers to display as much indifference to health, regimen, and tranquility of mind during nursing, as if the milky secretion, and all other bodily functions, were independent of every external and corporeal influence. Healthy, nourishing, and digestible milk can proceed only from a healthy and well constituted parent; and it is against nature to expect that if the mother impairs her health and digestion by improper diet, neglect of exercise, impure air, or unruly passions, she can nevertheless provide a wholesome and uncontaminated fluid as if she were exemplary in her observance of all the laws of health.

It is no new or uncertain doctrine that the quality of the mother's milk is affected by her own health and conduct, and that in its turn, it directly affects the health of the nursing. Even medicines given to the parent act upon the child through the medium of the milk; and a sudden fit of anger, or other violent mental emotion, has not unfrequently been observed to change the quality of the fluid, so much as to produce purging and gripes in the child. Care and anxiety, in like manner, exert a most pernicious influence, and not only diminish the quantity but vitiate the quality of the milk.

As soon, then, may we expect to see a bad tree bringing forth good fruit, as bad management good results; and low must that parent be ranked in the scale of moral beings, who, knowing the relation we have pointed out, can still deliberately sacrifice the welfare of her offspring by the improper indulgence of her appetites and passions, and by culpably neglecting the duties and restrictions demanded by her own health.—*Combe on digestion.*

BLACK SEA WHEAT, &c.—*Messrs. Editors.*—For three or more seasons, this variety of wheat has been cultivated in this vicinity, and with universal success. I have seen the grain selected from the most rank and lodged portions of the field, threshed separate, and the yield was about one bushel to the shok; in fact, it, has invariably given a good return, from 20 to 40 bushels to the acre. The grain is not as light coloured as other varieties, but the berry is always plump; the quality of flour is more harsh and not as white. The great encouragement to grow this kind of grain with us, is that it never failed of yielding a good return, and in most cases a large crop, not subject to the rust, as other varieties have been here.

GRAFTING.—Melt a little beeswax and tallow together, and if it is at hand, stir in a little powdered chalk, and while hot dip in some strips of calico or cotton cloth. Tear them into strips of such width as may be most convenient to wrap around the stock and scion. Let the stock and scion be covered, so as to prevent the escape of the sap or the introduction of water, and the work is done. This will, I think, be as good as the surgeon's adhesive plaster, or any more complicated or expensive grafting wax.

RECIPE FOR MAKING GOOD BREAD.—James Roche, one celebrated in Baltimore, as a baker of excellent bread, having retired from business, has furnished the Baltimore American with the following recipe for making good bread, with a request that it should be published for the information of the public:—

“Take an earthen vessel larger at the top than the bottom, and in it put one pint of milk-warm water, one and a half pounds of flour, and a half a pint of malt yeast; mix them well together, and set it away, (in winter it should be in a warm place) until it rises and falls again, which will be from three to five hours—(it may be set at night if wanted in the morning,) then put two large spoons full of salt into two quarts of water, and mix it well with the above rising; then put in about nine pounds of flour and work your dough well, and set it by until it becomes light. Then make it out in loaves. The above will make four loaves.

As some flour is dry and other runny, the above quantity, however, will be a guide. The person making bread will observe that runny and new flour will require one-fourth more salt than old and dry flour.—The water also should be tempered according to the weather, in spring and in fall it should only be milk-warm; in hot weather cold, and in winter warm.”

TO STEAM POTATOES.—Put them clean washed, with their skins on, into a saucepan, and let the water under them be about half boiling, let them continue to boil rather quickly until they are done; if the water once relaxes from its heat, the goodness of the potatoe is sure to be affected, and to become soddened, let the quality be ever so good. A too precipitate boiling is equally disadvantageous; as the higher parts of the surface of the root begin to crack and open, while the centre continues unheated and undecomposed.

GRAFTING.—“We will give a few directions for those who have not attempted or attended to the cultivation of their orchards, and beseech them to make a beginning this present season, when they will find that a few experiments will render it a pleasant amusement, rather than labour, which will be attended with handsome remuneration. The more common kinds of trees to be grafted are, the apple, pear, quince, cherry and plum. Cions of these should be cut before the buds are too far expended, and kept in a cool and damp place, where they will neither be dried, or their buds so swelled as to be injured. Having the cions of such varieties of fruit as it is desirable to propagate some wax should be prepared by melting together beeswax, rosin and tallow and when melted, dip into this wax pieces of thin, old cotton cloth, with which cover the wounds when the grafts are set. It is not very material as to being exact in the proportions, of the ingredients in making wax, as some prefer one proportion, while others use that which is proportioned differently, with equal success. Equal parts of bees-wax, and rosin, with half the quantity of tallow, is given by some as suitable; others, use one part tallow, two parts rosin, and three parts bees-wax, but either, we consider will answer: and we have found the most convenient way of using to be, to tear the rags to be used into strips about an inch wide, and roll them up like webbing, and dip them into the melted wax, which will so fill them that when a piece is wound round a graft and stock, it will make the covering air and water-tight, two things essential to the success of the cion. Grafting may be done from this time until the month of June; but the last of April may be considered the proper season. Cions taken from the tree before the buds are burst, and set immediately, are found to do very well; and when they are near the place where they are to be set, saves the trouble of taking care of them between the time of cutting and setting. New beginners will find the most simple mode of grafting to be that denominated *whip or tongue grafting*, the stock and cion both being cut slanting, and a small lip raised by a cross cut, both parts being pressed together and covered by winding the strips of cloth as above mentioned.—When the cions and stocks are in good order, there is not as much difficulty in making the cions live, as there is in moving trees and having them succeed.”—*True Genesee Farmer,*

“DIG ABOUT, AND DUNG IT.”—This direction was given many centuries ago, and has often been repeated, and perhaps I may say, as often forgotten or neglected. Last summer, I took particular care to apply the above to some young pear trees standing.—The ground was loosened for some distance about the tree, perhaps a dozen times during the season. From a single stem, of three feet, the new growth measures 30 feet! The effect on all, was very obvious.

G. BUTLER.

Clinton, N. Y. Feb. 1843.

CARE OF ANIMALS.

Every kind of animals require much care in cold weather, or at any season when shut up, in order to preserve them in good health and condition. For want of attention they frequently become diseased and die, or grow poor, to the great loss of the owner. And it is frequently the case that animals thus treated or rather neglected, consume about as much food as would be necessary to keep them in good health and flesh with proper care. Salt should be given to animals occasionally, both as a means of thrift and preventive of disease.

By the free use of salt we have known severe disorders that have appeared among a herd of cattle, first mitigated to a mild form, and finally arrested before going half through the stock, when without some preventive means, such diseases prevailed through the herd.

In cold weather salt should be given in small doses, lest it opens the pores and produce colds. Wood ashes mixed with salt in the proportion of four to seven quarts to a quart of salt, is considered excellent for stock, as it promotes an appetite and prevents diseases. It will prevent bots in horses and rot in sheep.

We have given this mixture with evident success. Cattle and sheep will generally eat it freely. Horses are more particular than most other animals as to what they eat or drink. Some of them will not eat this mixture. In such cases mix a small quantity of ashes with salt at first, and put them on roots of which the horse is very fond, and in this way he will get accustomed to eating this wholesome condiment.

Animals should have a good supply of pure water. Some persons think that sheep do not need water in winter when they have access to snow, but if such persons will supply them with water, they will see their great mistake, not only from the decided preference which the animals give to water, but from their superior condition; and the advantages will be evident by the greater number, size, and superior condition of the lambs. Sheep will go a considerable distance after water, and go oftener than cattle, after they have first been coaxed or gently driven to it, that they may know where to find it.

Cattle should be fed regularly and have but a small quantity of fodder at a time, as they will breath upon it and render it unpleasant or offensive. To prevent this, in some measure, the cattle house should not be boarded up in front, excepting above the heads of the cattle, and one board at bottom to keep the hay in its place. Then the breath of the animals will pass off with less injury to the fodder and afford good wholesome air for respiration.

Boys should be early learned to feed stock, as it is a business that requires much experience, and a sound judgment, according to the kind and condition of the stock, the fodder, weather, &c. But they should have the advantage of constant instruction and superintendance of some one of riper years. This supervision is necessary where boys are faithful and attentive. In some cases boys are negligent, and then it becomes more important, as they may manage somewhat like the old negro, who threw all the hay to the master ox and requested him to divide it among them.—*Boston Farmer's Journal.*

We understand that the Quebec Merchants now in England have been pretty successful in making contracts for the delivery of Timber next summer, at rates which, it is said, will leave them fair profit. It must be remembered, however, that much of the Timber thus sold entailed a heavy

loss on those who manufactured and brought it to the Quebec market. From the prices ruling in Quebec last fall, several lots of Timber must have been sold at a loss of 40 to 50 per cent to the original holders.—*Montreal Courier.*

From the Boston Farmer's Journals.
FARMING—ITS PLEASURES AND PROFIT.

MR. EDITOR,—It seems to be the fashion—and a very good fashion it is—for enterprising and observing farmers to give, in some of the agricultural papers, details of experiment they have been making in the raising of particular crops, in the application of manures, or in some other of the various departments of farm management. Now the whole business of farming has been a new experiment with me, and as the present hard times, and existing state of depression of all other branches of business, have directed the attention of many to agriculture as being less subject to the vexatious vicissitudes, the ups and downs that attend other callings, and not a few will probably try the same experiment with myself, of commencing a new and untried business, it might, perhaps, be a benefit to some such to have hints of the experience of a beginner. I have not leisure to be laughed at for undue egotism.

In the spring of 1841 I took a lease of a farm for several years, consisting of convenient proportions of mowing and tillage land, pasture and salt marsh. The soil was naturally good, but in a low state of cultivation. From my experience, my former habits of life, and my want of adequate capital my friends predicted an utter failure. I did not, however, allow myself to be depressed by their predictions, and have done my best to prove them false prophets. I engaged in the business with a view both to pleasure and profit. Pleasure I have certainly found in it, for besides the quiet, tranquil nature of its employments, favourable to health and enjoyment, I have made my new business a study, and in it something like the pleasure which the philosopher feels in learning the truths of science, or a literary man in the acquisition of a new language, I have endeavoured to supply the want of previous knowledge by reading agricultural publications, by inquiries about the experience of others, and by careful observation. These occupations have interested me, and I have found in them even more pleasure than I anticipated.

As to profit, not much was to be expected in the two years of a novice on a worn out farm. But even in this respect I have done quite as well as I expected, and I entertain sanguine hopes that in the remaining years of my lease, my profit will be much increased. Being near a large city, I have found milk and hay the principal articles to be raised for market. I make it a point to raise as much corn, rye, potatoes, &c. in short, as much of all kinds of farm and garden produce as is wanted for consumption on the farm, and if there happens to be a surplus, it is sold. But milk and hay are the only articles I raise expressly for sale. I take pains to make a good quantity of manure, which is as essential to my crops, as provender is to my cows and oxen. I till only as much land as I can manure well and take proper care of. Every field in tillage I lay down as soon as I think it will produce a good crop of grass. Doubtful and expensive experiments I leave to amateur farmers who have plenty of money.

I seek to avoid all unnecessary expenses, for the profits of farming will never justify extravagance. I keep an exact account of

all my receipts and expenditures and a daily journal of what is done on the farm. I can thus easily tell at any time how I stand with the world and what I have been doing. Not commencing with any expectation of great or rapid gains I have not been disappointed. He who makes haste to be rich should engage in some other calling. It has been said that nine out of every ten of the merchants and trades in our cities sooner or later fail. I am confident that nine out of every ten who engage in farming may succeed. The prizes in this calling are not so great, but there are more of them. Industry, frugality and good management are all we want with the blessing of heaven to attain them.

These desultory observations will seem very trite and common place to experienced farmers. It is not for such I have written. But if the hints they contain serve to instruct or encourage any inexperienced beginner like myself, I shall have attained the end at which I aimed. AGRICOLA.

CULTURE OF THE STRAWBERRY.—*Messrs. Editors.*—I early turned my attention to Horticulture, and in one department of that, the cultivation of strawberries, I think I can show by facts, that I have been truly successful. I have not failed to have a good crop every year, for ten years; and last year, from 1,371 plants only a year old, I sold eighty gallons, besides what was consumed in my family, and some choice parcels perhaps from vanity, sent as presents to my friends. My garden is a light loam, nearly level, but high and dry, not remarkably rich, it having been taken from a wheat field and enclosed the year before.

My mode of cultivation is to set out the plants or runners at equal distances of 18 inches, and if planted in the spring, keep them constantly worked and the runners off. This may be done with a garden scraper, quickly and neatly. In the month of November, if the season does not set in cold sooner, I manure with well rotted manure and work it in, putting my beds in nice order. I then cover them about one or two inches deep with pine shatters, (having an abundance of them) straw, chaff—perhaps tanner's bark would do as well, though I object to the chaff because it has more or less wheat, which will vegetable, and give your beds an unsightly appearance. Having made my servants work the shatters under the vines, they stay on until the strawberries are done bearing. In this way the vines are kept warm in winter, the grass and weeds do not spring up, and the fruit is so clean when gathered, that there is no necessity of washing, &c. I make 10 alleys in my beds my ground being porous and dry. If I plant in the spring, I deem it advisable to renew my beds after the second year's bearing.—This is done by simply directing the runners to the centre of the square formed by the old vines, throwing over the tendrils of the runner has taken root, sever it from the parent vine. Then with a hoe, for the space will admit it, but cut out the old vines. The manure which the ground has received in two years, will put it in fine order, and thus the bed may be kept up for years. I intend to try plaster on my vines this spring. I sold my strawberries for 50 cents a gallon throughout the season, in our village market, and could not gratify the demand. I omitted to state that the 1371 plants grow on a comparative small area, as any one may see by calculating it. I then had four beds. I now have twelve, and in every bed the plants look beautiful, scarcely one missing. I had but very few male plants, though I was by accident. BRUCE J. GOLDSBOROUGH, Cambridge, Md. Jan. 28, 1843.

FLAX CULTURE.

The soil and climate of Canada is admirably adapted for the growth of Flax, and might if proper steps were taken, form a heavy item among the exports of the country. We see no reason why Canadian soil would not produce flax as well and much better, than the worn out lands of Germany. Many may not be aware of the vast amount of specie sent out from Ireland annually, to purchase the raw material. Last year, before a committee of the House of Commons, which sat upon the export and import questions, it was ascertained that 80,000 tons of flax had been brought over from the continent to Ireland, at a cost in money of six millions of pounds sterling, which would average £75 sterling per ton. This fact would appear almost incredible, but when the extent of the Irish linen manufactures are taken into consideration all doubts on the subject would be set aside. In Belfast alone, there are upwards of forty mills in full operation, some of which, work up 50 tons a week.

The price of flax like most other products, depend entirely on the quality of the article. The range of prices vary from £60 to £140 sterling per ton. The latter price is frequently paid for the best quality of Belgian flax.

There is much said about sending the redundant population of Great Britain out to the Canadas, and but little is said or done in placing the emigrant in such a position that he may earn a competent living for himself and family. We humbly recommend the attention of government to this subject, and if upon due consideration it be thought worthy of patronage, we trust some steps may be taken, by which a series of experiments may be made on a scale which will at once show the profits and loss of the business. The settlements which the Government have formed, by given free grants of land, in the neighbourhood of Owen's sound on the south shore of lake Huron, are at present in rather a languishing condition, owing principally, to the fact, that much of the time of the settlers is spent in comparative idleness, in consequence of the great depth of snow in winter—if flax and hemp culture were introduced in that settlement, and proper information given them as it regards the cultivation, retting and dressing, and preparation for the British market, there can be no doubt but they would soon become comfortable in their circumstances, if not wealthy.

The Canada Company having large blocks of excellent lands in almost every district in Western Canada, and in some portion of the Eastern sections of the Province, would no doubt materially benefit the country, and themselves in the end, by using every possible exertion in furthering the culture of flax. From specimens of their liberality and devotedness to the cause of the improvement of the agriculture of this Province, which have lately come under our notice, we would naturally infer that some immediate and efficient action would be taken by their enterprising and patriotic Agent of this city on this very important subject, by awarding premiums to their settlers, on the best specimens of water rotted flax.

Agricultural Societies, one and all, should take up this subject with spirit, and enlist in their ranks as far as possible gentlemen of fortune, merchants, and tradesmen. The old style of Agricultural Societies merely meeting once a year to divide the liberal grant of money which has been so bountifully granted them by the Government,

without evincing any spirit of emulation for useful improvement, should in this enlightened age be obsolete. We assure them that their exertions cannot be better applied, than in the encouragement of the growth of flax. If our last sixteen months exertions, for the promotion of a better system of agriculture in this important colony, had been patronized to the extent we anticipated, we would, this season, have made a number of highly interesting experiments, which would have cleared many doubts entertained by skeptics on the above subject as well as other branches of husbandry which would have proved clearly that Canada is as susceptible of an improved system of agriculture being successfully and profitably introduced, as any country in the universe. This improved system, however, would be widely different from much of the trash and nonsense written, on the subject of an improved agriculture. We sometimes fear that we have entered the field too soon as an innovator or rather extirpated of the old and semi-barberous system of farming, which has been cherished from time immemorial, and even practiced in this age of books and learning, to its fullest extent in some portions of the Province, this problem, will, however, be solved by the close of the present year. The experiments in question would only add another serious item, to the bill of costs, which we have already subjected ourselves to, by placing such implicit confidence in the good sense of our native and adopted countrymen, and will, therefore, have to be delayed on our part until the public support us to the extent, which would warrant our entering into such a weighty undertaking.

SOIL AND ROTATION.—With careful cultivation, Flax may be grown upon any soil, but its quality will much depend on the preparation of the land for a crop. A pervous subsoil, with a dry, deep, rich and arable loam, will be found the best for the plant to thrive, which quality of land, is abundant in most of Canada. The land should never be manured for flax, but should receive it with the preceding crop. Oats, wheat, and barley, then flax, is an excellent rotation for the flax.

PREPARATION OF THE GROUND AND SOWING.—The best preparation for flax is to plough the land deep in the early part of autumn, and by throwing it up into high ridges, it will get the benefit of the action of the frost and air; and will also be dry in the early part of the spring, so that it may receive two ploughings and harrowings to pulverise the soil and kill the weeds; the first ploughings should be as early as possible, so as to admit of at least a fortnight's interval, and the harrowing each time, to be just before the ploughing; and it would also be of much service to use a heavy roller previous to each ploughing. The seed should be sown broad-cast, at the rate of two bushels and a half per acre, which on most soils, if prepared as above, will ensure a thick crop, which is of the utmost importance to give the fibre the desired fineness; and will prevent the plant from branching out and being over-loaded with seed. The soil for flax should have the appearance of an onion bed previous to sowing the seed; and the seed should be covered very lightly with a bush, or a very light pair of harrows. It would also be advisable to give the previous crop a double portion of manure,—we mention this fact for the benefit of those who may go largely into the business—so that they may prepare their lands in the best possible manner; if the manure be ploughed in with the stubble in the autumn, the same end will be accomplished. The fine suckers and roots of flax will strike into the ground upwards of a

foot; therefore the soil must be deep and well-tilled to admit them and ensure the plant thriving well. If the soil be prepared at all well, and the seed sown in good season, and at the rate above, no injury can be sustained to the crop from weeds; as vegetation in this country is so rapid, that the plants would cover the ground before the seeds, producing weeds would vegetate.

The seed from flax would be worth more than an average crop of oats—we may safely say that it would be worth three pounds per acre, for the oil it contains; and would be found the best food in use for feeding cattle, to be mixed with oats and peas, and then ground—this food is also very valuable for milk cows.

We see no reason why this matter should not be entered into with spirit. If men of influence would only set the example, the result would astound even England—and a new and healthy order of things would be the natural consequence. For our part we are quite tired of the dull music of *hard times*, and we hope to be the feeble instrument in effecting an entire revolution in the agriculture of the province, which will place us in a natural position as a colony towards the parent state. The British North American colonies are the very best customers for British manufactured goods; but they are only good customers, so far as they are able to meet their engagements for those goods: if flax and hemp culture were entered into with spirit, it would be found that the exports would in a few years equal the imports—then, and not till then, will the tune of hard times be changed. If the exports of a colony equalled its imports, the banks would then be enabled to accommodate farmers and mechanics, and retail merchants, as well as who'sale:—and the money brought into the country by emigrants, and for the payment of troops, and *et cetera*, would remain in the colony; and capital would accumulate in abundance.

There is a great amount of commercial distress in this country; and we apprehend that the worst is not realized. One source of this distress, has been occasioned from the fact, that the producing classes have not turned their time and talents to the best account. Much valuable time has been lost, and much capital badly expended; which will be shown in due time so clearly and practically, that we will not be easily misunderstood.

If the cultivation of hemp and flax, should be considered worthy of notice by the "powers that be"—and some immediate and efficient measures should be put into practice to carry out the design, by either forming hemp and flax societies, or by respectable premiums, or by giving assurance that a certain and profitable market would be opened; and, also, that every encouragement would be given for its growth:—the effect would be, that hundreds of tons would be raised, which would give constant and profitable employment for the settlers and farmers of every class and description, and there would then be no occasion for any to complain for the want of employment.

Flax after being retted, broken, and scutched, is worth seven pence half-penny per pound, for the purpose of making ropes:—this price is given by a rope maker in this city—and it commands even a higher price in Kingston.

Further directions will be given during the summer months, on the retting and dressing, and preparing for market; and we kindly solicit information from any who feel competent for the task.

The great secret of human happiness is this, never suffer your energies to stagnate.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.

The business of farming in this country, we are sorry to say, is too much a matter of uncertainty; and if a farmer obtains a good crop, or realizes a favourable result in any of the operations of his farm, in nine cases out of ten, the cause producing the effect, is seldom made a subject of investigation; hence the necessity of experiment—the business of which is to test the truth of theory—and thereby come at certain conclusions. Every farmer, who tries useful experiments in agriculture, for the public good, deserves the gratitude of the whole country, and should be looked up to as a public benefactor. We are anxious to have the agriculture of Canada made respectable—as we are satisfied that the farmer and mechanic are creators of the materials from which the merchants derive most of their wealth: and the mechanic, what is he, if the farmer refuses his aid? Then from this inference, the profession of the farmer, is the base upon which all others rest. Now to make agriculture respectable, those who are engaged in it as a business must respect it; and in order that it should be respected by all who are directly engaged in it, as well as by all other classes, it will be absolutely necessary to make it a certain and profitable business. The only way to do this, is to introduce an improved system of agriculture, adapted to the peculiar circumstances of the country; and as those circumstances in certain soils and locality vary, the great lever of improvement, experiment, will have to be judiciously introduced. The only way for to successfully introduce experiments, will be to have a correct knowledge of the laws of nature, which govern vegetation. And we know of no way by which this information can be obtained, but by reading and studiously observing every passing incident of note, which is calculated to practically develop the mysteries of those laws.

To make ourselves understood on this point, we would beg to give the following synopsis of a series of experiments, which we made a few years since with a field of wheat:—The field in question was all of the same elevation, and the same kind of soil, and had been for thirty years previous treated with precisely the same management:—it received during the summer-fallowing operation, as it regards the quantity of manure applied per acre—the number of ploughings and the quality of seed sown, a uniform management. Notwithstanding all this uniformity, when the crop was harvested, the results were thus:—No. 1, produced 34 bushels per acre of a superior sample; No. 2 and 3, 24 bushels of a middling do., and, No. 4, 16 bushels of a very inferior sample. The two extremes were managed thus:—The seed for No. 1, was sown in ribs or rows, 14 inches apart; and that for No. 4, was ploughed in and left rough—which plan is highly recommended by many. It is not possible that any

man of common sense would attribute this great difference to a mere matter of chance. As our opinions on this subject were given in the July number of volume 1, it will be unnecessary to repeat them; but we take this favourable opportunity of recommending the Canadian farmers, to give every detail of their respectable calling a thorough investigation; and, if it be found upon mature consideration, that the plan which they have heretofore practised, is not the most conducive to their prosperity, the sooner they adopt a better, the sooner will they have less occasion to complain of pecuniary embarrassments.

Experiments based on sound principles, are considered by us of such vast importance, especially in a country like this, where agriculture is yet in its "swaddling clothes;" that if we were about sowing a field with grain of any description—or intending to plant it with potatoes, or sow it with roots, we would, unquestionably, test the most approved systems of management, unless we had done so previously. This course we highly recommend to our subscribers: and we know of no method more conducive for causing men to think and reason on facts, than the one recommended above.

Every branch of industry except agriculture is liable to be over done; and when this happens distress is the inevitable consequence. This country is at present groaning under the effects of an unwarranted amount of imported goods being in it; and for which all the real and fictitious capital in the province would scarcely pay, including the surplus agricultural produce in the bargain. If the merchants who imported so largely during the last year, had been respectable producing farmers, they would have been a service to their country; but now they have placed the country in a predicament, which will require years of prudent management to even recover the ground which it has lost. Three years ago commercial classes were living by their profits, now we fear too many are obliged to live without profits—and even sink the little which they amassed during prosperous times. As bad as the times are for farmers, we hear it sounded in our ears daily from mercantile men, that they envy the healthful and profitable occupation of the farmer. They say although the cultivator of the soil may not be able to amass a fortune at once, yet he is sure of all the comforts of life; and his profits, though small, are certain. We trust our farmers will ponder on these things seriously; and through the few hints above, much profit may be gleaned, if they only act in the spirit which governs the age in which they live.

BEES WAX.—The neatest way says the *Farmer's Cabinet*, to separate bees wax from the comb, is to tie it up in a linen or woollen cloth or bag, with a pebble or two to keep it from floating; place it in a kettle of cold water which hang over the fire; as the water heats, the wax melts and rises to the surface, while all the impurities remain in the bag.

MEADOWS.—There is no need of a surer index, to point out the residence of poor farmers, than to see cattle traveling over meadow grounds, during the month of March when the ground is sufficiently soft to allow them to sink, "hoop-deep, at every step;" thereby, burying many roots so deep as to destroy them, and at the same time, rendering the surface so uneven, as to impede the operation of mowing; and also occasioning a less crop, by compelling the mower to cut the grass higher from the ground, than would be necessary, if the surface was smooth.

Most farmers who allow their cattle to tread up their meadows thus, in the spring, excuse themselves, by saying "that their last year's crop of hay was light, and their cattle can find something about the fences which they will fill themselves." We very much doubt, whether the gain in this matter is equal to the loss, but is a sure way of continuing short crops.

There is not a month in the year, in which there should be more attention to stock, than March, and none when it is more important to keep cattle under cover.—*True Genesee Farmer.*

SURFACE-WATER.—Passing across a wheat field, a few days since, we could but notice the careless manner in which it was left, at the time of sowing, with regard to surface-water. The field was what would be called level, and the soil which was alluvial, contained so much clay, as to render it impervious to the water. This field, like most others in new countries, had not been worked sufficiently to produce an even surface, and the depressions were filled with water. We examined the wheat in these hollows, and found that where the water was deep enough to cover all the leaves, the plants were dead, but where the leaves were above the water, only a few of the plants were entirely destroyed; but all appeared; to be more or less injured.

Had the farmer, at the time of sowing, ploughed his field in narrow lands, and left the centre furrows open, we doubt not, but his crop would have been one-quarter better than it will be, as it has been managed.

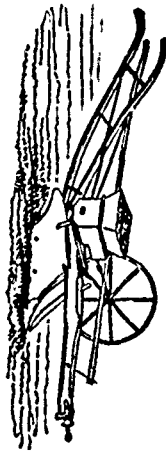
Where the surface-soil rests upon coarse sand and gravel, with an uneven surface, there is little danger to be apprehended from surface-water; but on the contrary, where sub-soil contains a large portion of clay, forming what is denominated "hardpan," with an even surface, great care should be taken to keep open proper channels for carrying off any superfluous water.—*ib.*

ASK THE PRICE.—Whenever I want any thing I always ask the price of it, whether it be a new coat, or a shoulder of mutton, a pound of tea, or a penny worth of pack string. If it appears to be worth the money, I buy it, that is if I can afford it; but if not I let it alone, for he is no wise man who pays for a thing more than it is worth.

But not only in the comforts of food and clothing, but in all things, I ask the same question; for there is a price fixed to a day's enjoyment, as well as to an article of dress: to the pleasures of life as well as to a joint of butcher's meat. Old Humphrey has now lived some summers and winters in the world, and it would be odd indeed if he had passed through them all without picking up a little wisdom from his experience.—Now, if you will adopt my plan, you will reap much advantage; but if you will not, you will pay too dearly for the things you obtain.

DRILLING MACHINE.

The annexed is a correct drawing of a Drilling Machine manufactured by Messrs. Robinson & Wallace, of the village of Yorkville, one mile north of this city, and may be attached to any plough; the price of which is on'y £1 15s. It can be so arranged on the plough that the seed may be deposited in the furrow between the plough handles, on the crown of the furrow, or on its centre. This Machine presents many advantages, such as depositing the seed a good depth, and distributing an equal quantity in the ground, and also in giving the plants a uniform appearance; in addition to the above, the plants, by being in rows, will admit of the rays of the sun, and a free circulation of air, which will tend to prevent the straw from growing too gross, and lessen the probability of mildew to the plants. Grain of any description may be sown with this Machine at any desired quantity per acre.



THE CULTIVATOR for this month makes its appearance a few days later than the usual publication day, for which we beg to apologize to our readers. The number for MAY will be published as soon as possible, and will contain much seasonable and practical matter on every branch of agriculture and horticulture.

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PERSONS authorized to receive Subscription for *The British American Cultivator* are—All Postmasters throughout British America—all Newspaper Publishers—and all Secretaries of Agricultural Societies. In addition to the above, we kindly solicit all Country and Village Merchants, and Farmers having influence in their respective neighbourhoods, to procure Subscribers.

LLOYD'S PATENT IMPROVED CANADIAN PLOUGH:

Manufactured at the Agricultural Forge, Lot-street, near Yonge st., next Door to the Toronto Factory—PRICE £3.

THE above Plough is well worthy the attention of the Agricultural Community; and is, in fact, considered by those who have them in use, to be equal to the Scotch Plough in doing good work. On new Farms they are superior, being lighter to draw, and from their peculiar formation, much easier to hold or handle; and also, from their strength, durability, and cheapness, the Farmer will find them unsurpassed.

The Manufacturer is confident, that when they become known, they will take precedence of others now in use; he therefore solicits a liberal share of patronage, and at the same time begs to assure the Agriculturists, and public generally, that no endeavour will be wanting on his part to give entire satisfaction to those who may favour him with a call. A liberal discount will be made to Merchant and Wholesale Dealers.

J. LLOYD.

Toronto, February 24th, 1843.

EXTENSIVE SALE OF VALUABLE FARM STOCK, AND OTHER EFFECTS.

THERE will be Sold by Public Auction, at the Farm on Queenston Heights, on Tuesday, the 25th of April next, and the following Days, the whole Farm Stock, Farming Implements, and a quantity of Household Furniture, the property of Dr. HAMILTON, of Queenston Heights, consisting of 3 powerful Work Horses; 1 do. do. Filly; 1 Saddle or Harness Horse; 1 Pony Mare and her Filly; 14 very superior Cows, and 30 Young Cattle, composed chiefly of the thorough-bred Short-horned Durhams, with correct Herd-book Pedigrees, and imported Ayrshires, well worthy of attention; Berkshire Pigs; a small flock of good Sheep, principally South Downs; Waggon, Carts, Sleighs, Iron Ploughs, (Scotch.) Harrows, Roller, Household Furniture, and whatever else may appear.

The Sale will commence at Eleven o' Clock, and Liberal Credit will be given on approved security.

THE FARM,

(Two Hundred Acres under cultivation,) is to be Let for a term of Years.

Also one thorough-bred Horse, and one thorough-bred Mare; (the Mare was imported by Mr. Summons of Ancaster,) the property of W. H. Dickson, Esq.

No Letters on this subject will be received unless free of Postage.

Queenston Heights. 6th March, 1843.

DURHAM BULL.

A PURE-BRED Improved Short-horn, or Durham Bull Calf for Sale. For Pedigree and particulars apply to

JOHN WETENHALL,

Nelson, Gore District.

April, 1843.

ST. CATHARINE'S NURSERY.

THE SUBSCRIBER continues to cultivate, and has now on hand for Sale, an extensive assortment of choice FRUIT TREES, and he assures purchasers that every effort will be made to meet their wishes.

He would also state that he has good reasons for reminding correspondents of the necessity of paying their own postage.

C. BEADLE.

St. Catharines, Feb. 8th, 1843.

TORONTO MARKETS:

For the Month ending 17th April, 1843.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Flour Farmers', in barrels.....	17	6	a	23
Oatmeal.....per barrel.....	12	6	a	15
Wheat.....per bushel.....	3	0	a	3
Rye.....do.....	2	6	a	2
Barley.....do.....	1	3	a	1
Oats.....do.....	1	2	a	1
Pease.....do.....	1	6	a	1
Timothy.....do.....	3	6	a	5
Clover Seed.....do.....	30	0	a	35
Pork.....per 100lbs.....	16	3	a	17
Beef.....do.....	15	0	a	20
Mutton and Veil (qr.).....per lb.....	0	2	a	0
Pork.....do.....	0	2	a	0
Butter.....do.....	1	0	a	1
Turkeys.....do.....	3	0	a	4
Geese.....do.....	2	0	a	3
Fowls, per pair.....	0	10	a	1
Ducks, per pair.....	1	3	a	1
Eggs, per dozen.....	0	10	a	1
Potatoes, per bushel.....	1	10	a	2
Hay, per ton.....	60	0	a	70
Straw, do.....	25	0	a	33
Salt, per barrel.....	11	0	a	12

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