

particulars relating to which have not been communicated,) show what might be done by the adoption of that system of agriculture which has been pursued with such astonishing success in Great Britain and some other Countries.

An important part of that System is the accumulation and proper use of manures, of which, not a third part is made, that might be made in this Province; and the little we have is almost invariably spread over too great a surface. We have the power of correcting these errors, by increasing manures to any desirable extent, and by cultivating no more land than we can till and manure well; and if one acre so cultivated, will produce more than two badly managed (of which there can be no doubt) how much better would it be for the Farmer, who has a large extent of cleared Land, and a comparatively small stock, or limited means of accumulating manures, to pasture his Cattle in a portion of that cleared Land, until he can bring the whole of it under a generous course of cultivation, than to turn them, as is generally the practice, into the woods or uninclosed Commons where food is scarce, or of inferior kinds, and where much time is spent in looking for and in driving them home which might be much better employed on the Farm.

In this, as well as in some other countries, farmers loose more, perhaps, than they are aware of, from the want of proper receptacles for manure; much of which is exhaled by the sun, washed away by the rains, or absorbed by the loose under strata of the site on which the heap may be placed. This impoverishing waste, may at no great expense be prevented by adopting the plans recommended by the most eminent practical agriculturists of the present day, and proved by experience to have realized to the fullest extent, all the beneficial results which they had anticipated. It has been averred by high authority on agricultural affairs, that every Farmer wanting such a protection for his manure, loses in a few years by the rains and the sun, tenfold as much as the cost of making a proper receptacle; which should be water tight at the bottom and sides, and covered at the top, so that below, nothing should be lost by drainage, and above, nothing shall be carried away by evaporation. An Excavation, of an area of from ten to 30 feet (according to the quantity of manure) and of a or 3 feet deep, which is in stiff, tenacious clay, and requires no further preparation: but which if in loose or gravelly earth should be well cased or planked, (unless the proprietor choose to go to the expense of finishing it more substantially with brick or stone and lime) — with sloping sides—a roof overhead to exclude the action of the Sun, and to shed off the rain, so that no more moisture fall upon the heap, than the farmer chooses, and this he regulates at pleasure by means of spouts. It is almost unnecessary to add, that the quantity of manure may be greatly increased, by throwing into this receptacle, that filth which is offensive, and those weeds, which are too frequently left to ripen and to scatter their seeds over the lands of the Farmer.

If it be thought that too much has been said on this subject, let it be remembered, that it is one of no trifling importance—that in Agricultural operations, generally, and in this department of it in particular “it is the liberal hand that maketh rich,”—that in proportion to the manure which the Farmer bestows upon his land, and which costs little, so will be his crops, which will sell for much. He will also find that liberality in providing implements of husbandry, saves both time and labor, for, the more perfect they are, the more expeditiously and the more easily will that work be performed, in the execution of which, those implements are to be used—and that as regards his stock, the most perfect of their kind, is ever the most profitable.

It is no wonder that in a new country, whose first Inhabitants (many of whom are yet living) had to struggle for existence in what was a few years ago, a gloomy wilderness; and where the Fisheries and the manufacture of Timber have always employed so considerable a portion of its population, the more improved modes of farming have but in a few instances, been practiced. Enough however has been done, to dispel those clouds of uncertainty, that until of late, had dimmed the prospects of the agriculturist. The goodness of Providence has cast our lot in a highly favored land; and all that is requisite on our part to secure increasing and durable prosperity, is the

general adoption of that industry, of which, in various parts of the Province, there are many honorable examples, and that Industry differently, and more judiciously applied. “It is not by great and splendid particular improvements” says a distinguished Agriculturist “that the interests of Agriculture are best subserved; but by a general and gradual amelioration. Most is done for Agriculture when every Farmer is excited to small attentions and incidental improvements: Such as proceed, for example, from the constant application of a few plain and common principles. Such are—that in farming nothing should be lost, and nothing neglected, that every thing should be done at the proper time, and every thing put in its proper place—every thing executed by its proper instrument. These attentions, when viewed in their individual effect, seem small; but they are immense in the aggregate. When they become general, taken in connexion with the dispositions which precede, and the consequences which inevitably follow, such a state of improvement, they include in fact, every thing.”

Many years must pass away before we can rival older countries, in which capital, science, and cheapness of labour, have all contributed to the advancement of Agriculture. The progress of this act is necessarily slow, because those who exercise it have more various labors to perform, and have fewer opportunities to send and profit by the discoveries of others, than almost any other classes of the community. The division of labor, that great principle by the application of which, the wealth and comfort of mankind have been increased, cannot, especially in a new country, be applied to the works of Agriculture (which are not simultaneous,) except in a very limited degree. The Farmer, who in the Spring directs the plough, must at other seasons use the sickle, the sythe, or the hoe—or wield the flail or the axe. That superior degree of skill, which is attainable only by constant practice of the same kind of work, cannot therefore be expected in the generality of Farmers.

But much has been done, and we have the power of doing much more towards the improvement of the most important and useful branch of Industry. In this fine Province, the field of agriculture, though new, is fertile—extensive—inviting; it promises much to the well directed industry of man, and its promises will not prove illusive. In this field, we are not left room in conjecture; for the well cultivated spots here and there, attest beyond all possibility of doubt, that rewards which ought to satisfy any reasonable man, ever await the industrious, enlightened, and systematic Farmer.

In this, and in most new Countries, the early system of cultivation appears to have been an exhausting one. Farmers frequently speak of the alarming inferiority of the product of some of our first settled, and naturally most fertile districts, compared, to what it was for many years after the labor of man had cleared away the original growth of Timber; without, perhaps, always considering that from these fine soils covered with a rich vegetable mould, which had been accumulating for ages, the nutritious principle had been extracted by nourishing successive crops, the growth of which received no aid from artificial manures.

No land is proof against this exhausting system, even the richest alluvial soils must fail in the lapse of time, unless annually refreshed like the banks of the Nile, by the hand of nature, or enriched and nourished by the skill and industry of man. With these older and overworked lands, reduced almost to a state of barrenness by constant cultivation—a system of renovation should be pursued, and their lost fertility would soon be restored, by invariably leaving them in better heart in the fall, than they were in the Spring.

In mentioning the errors of those who have preceded us in the field of Agriculture, it is but fair to state some of the causes that have produced them, and which were beyond the controul of the founders of this Colony. They had to encounter obstacles, presented by the character and condition of the Country, which time alone could overcome. A people placed in an illimitable wilderness, out of which there future farms were to be carved; without the benefit of those modern works on Agriculture, which impart to us the experience of older and better cultivated Countries—with

scanty means of collecting measures, and laboring under privations which are unknown in those times, would naturally work the first patches of land which they had cleared of the natural growth, until they were deprived of their original fertility, and then leave them for other portions to be cultivated in a similar manner.

But notwithstanding the operation of causes so unfavourable to the early adoption of a liberal and enlightened system of rural economy—causes peculiar to the state of this, as well as of all new Countries—much has been done while the Forest is gradually falling before the axe of the Settler, and the bosom of the earth is opened to the genial influence of the Sun, great improvements have been made in the modes of cultivation, especially in the vicinity of St. John—improved implements of Husbandry have been introduced into almost all parts of the Province—rotations of crops, and the liberal use of manures, have succeeded, the old practice of cropping and exhausting—stock of acknowledged excellence have been imported from the Mother Country—and that ardent desire for the improvement of our Agriculture which can only proceed from a deep sense of the importance of the art, is becoming more and more general throughout the Province.

It will be admitted that for many of these improvements we are indebted to those Agricultural associations, which founded by a Governor who watches with unceasing solicitude over all our interests, and directed by patriotic and intelligent individuals, in various parts of the Province, have infused fresh life and energy into this most interesting branch of Industry. Much however remains to be accomplished, and judging from the past, we have good reason to look for still more important results from the future.

On motion of the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Resolved that the thanks of the Meeting are due to the Secretary, for the Report which has just been read; and that the said Report be printed.

The Meeting then proceeded to the Election of Office Bearers for the ensuing year, when the under mentioned Gentlemen were unanimously chosen, viz.

- The Hon. Judge Bliss, President.
- “ “ Judge Botsford, & Harry Peters Esq. } ViceP's.
- The Hon. Judge Chipman, } Members of
- “ “ S. P. Hurd, } the Central
- Peter Fraser, Jedediah Slason, } Committee.
- W. Crane, J. C. Vail, }
- Samuel Scovil, F. P. Robin- }
- Peiers, Harris Hatch, & Geo. }
- F. Street, Esquires. }

It was then resolved that the Honourable Judge Botsford, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Crane, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Vail, and M. R. Simonds, be a Committee to report at the adjourned Meeting upon the number of kinds of Stock, to be imported next summer.

The ordinary business of the day having been dispatched, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to honour the Meeting with his presence. The President briefly stated the proceedings of the Meeting, and the Annual Report having been again read, His Excellency addressed the Meeting in the following words:—

“IN the present situation of the Inter-Colonial Trade, and renewed transactions with certain Sister Colonies, we perceive that a more abundant growth of Agricultural produce becomes a matter of great and immediate importance, and we may congratulate ourselves that we have already organized and put into full and successful operation those Institutions which have already done so much, and by the agency of which, the progress of our agricultural condition may be so much accelerated.

“The report and transactions which have just been read are highly satisfactory, and afford me the greatest gratification, and I

desire to express the cordial sense I entertain of the services which have been rendered to the Country; by the liberality of the Legislature; by the zeal and ability of the President, Vice Presidents, and Officers of the Institution; and all the Sub Societies which have co-operated to bring this important system into good works and high repute. I concur entirely in the vote of thanks which has been made to the very able and zealous Secretary to the Central Society; and in acknowledging the services performed by the Secretaries of the County Societies, I desire particularly to notice the Gentleman holding that Situation in St. John, who in his residence at that Port to which Emigrants first resort, has performed very signal services to the Institution in settling Emigrants, and improving the Emigrant Districts. He has devoted so much of his time to those duties, that I wish it were in my power to award him some remuneration for his services, and I hope the state of the Funds of the Society will be such as to allow this to be done.

“It was always my intention, whenever these Societies should come into successful operation, to bring under consideration the expediency of engaging their attention and agency to encourage certain species of Manufacturing industry, which I think ought to be promoted, (not forced into special Establishment by Bounties), but commended and encouraged by the countenance of this Meeting, and by some small premiums awarded by this, or by the Sub Societies, to act upon domestic industry, frugality and economy: and I am strongly inclined to think that the agricultural condition of the Country, even in its present state, may, in its domestic circles, be made to combine with and act upon manufacturing industry in a manner highly beneficial to the People and to the Country.

“It is well known in what manner agriculture and manufactures act and re-act upon each other, mutually and beneficially, wherever they co-exist. Many persons consider that this is only applicable to a very advanced state of cultivation, population, and diversified industry; and that it would be greatly premature to attempt to apply this theory in any way to so young a Country as this.

“A country should certainly be left to acquire a very advanced degree of agricultural condition and productiveness, an abundant rural, and considerable Town Populations, before any attempts to form Manufacturing Establishments should be made; for, until labor become so plenty as to be able to produce manufactured articles at a less cost than that at which they might be imported, it were absurd to force these productions, by Bounties, protecting or prohibitory duties.—Such measures would only tend to tax the People, by all the excess of the cost of home productions, over the prices of importation.

“New-Brunswick is far from having attained to such a condition as this; and we must for many years confine our attention to the clearing of new Lands, improving the cultivation of those already opened, and augmenting our agricultural productions by improved modes of cultivation. The population of this young Country is by no means sufficiently numerous to answer the demands for labor which these great primary objects present; and under such circumstances it would be absurd to force Manufacturing Establishments into existence, though it might be proper, under particular exceptions, to aid some that may have been formed. Our population will increase in greater number, in more robust strength, and in more solid wealth, in the agricultural industry of the Country, than by attempting the manufactures of goods which would, in general, be of an inferior quality, and certainly of a higher price, than that at which they may be imported.