

Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES are but little appreciated, we believe, in this province; and but few of the benefits they are calculated to confer on farmers are the result of their existence. These long winter evenings present fine opportunities for meeting together to consider the numerous subjects which belong to farming, and which can be discussed with advantage only by practical men. An interchange of opinion on the best modes of treating cattle under various circumstances; the most effective and economical application of manures suited to each locality; the advantages of different farming implements; and a host of other matters, which would strike every thoughtful man, might be made the subject of discussion or of brief essays on each evening of meeting and would supply interesting matter for reflection, as well as generally tend to improve the pockets of all concerned.

There is no part of Nova Scotia we believe where the soil is made to yield what it might, by the skilful application of all the improvements and discoveries which have been made in this department of knowledge.

No farmer who has 20 acres of land, could give his attention to Progressive Agriculture during one winter, but would be able to make it yield something, perhaps 25 per cent. more than it hitherto has without such thought. Our climate has many advantages over some others, perhaps that of having a considerable portion at this part of the year, in which the mind may be occupied in considering what improvements have been made, and others that may be suggested, is not one of the least valuable of such advantages.

We shall be glad to learn from any of our friends if anything of this sort is being done in their locality, and if not what barrier there is to the formation of such Society. Notices of such meetings and the best mode of conducting them would interest many of our readers. We believe as much in the first clause of the motto on our first page, "Not slothful in business," as we do in the second, "Fervent in spirit."

Churning Milk or Cream alone.

The following report of an experiment by Mr. Zoller, a dairyman of St. Lawrence county, is from the Transactions of the Massachusetts State Agricultural Society for 1859:

Mr. Zoller's cows are what are called native, crossed with Durhams.

We desired Mr. Zoller to make an experiment as to the two modes of making butter, so as to furnish us the result. He has done this, and the result is as follows:

Sept. 10.—Took 208 quarts of milk and strained into pans—set till the cream had thoroughly risen—skimmed and churned cold—produced 17½ lbs. of butter, ready for packing.

Sept. 11.—Took 208 quarts of milk, strained into the churns, stood till sour, but not loppered, churned and treated in the same manner; gave 19½ lbs. butter ready for packing; being a gain of ten per cent. over churning the cream.

This, Mr. Zoller believes, is about the fair difference between the two methods; and if uniformly this result is secured, it certainly is an important advantage.

It will be seen by this experiment that 10 62-72 quarts of milk produced a pound of butter, which is a much less quantity of milk than the average returns of our dairies. Mr. Zoller is of the opinion that this is about the average amount of milk required under his system, under ordinary circumstances; but the trial, during the entire season, would probably alter this average.

We think there is enough furnished by this experiment of Mr. Zoller's which has been continued for some time past, to lead others carefully to test this practice. If 10 per cent. can be secured over the ordinary method of churning the cream, and if an equally good quality of butter can be made, it will need little urging to induce our dairymen to give attention to it.

MILK BEFORE CALVING.—Mr. J. E. Hazelton, of West Newton, has a heifer two years old last spring, which began to give milk about two months ago, and has continued to yield from three to four quarts per day, to the present time, Nov. 10th, when she dropped her first calf, which is in fair condition, and likely to thrive. The heifer is half-blood Jersey, and was raised by Judge French. A similar instance occurred in the stock of the editor of this paper, in which case the calf was dropped about four months after the heifer commenced giving milk.—N. E. Farmer.

PUMPKIN PIES.—Instead of stewing the pumpkin bake it in large pieces with the skin on it in the stove or oven; then scoop out the pumpkin and treat it as if stewed. The labor and care is very much diminished, and the pie improved in quality.

LARGE CHEESE.—A cheese weighing 1,620 lbs. was exhibited at the Wisconsin State fair.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Cape Breton: its Churches and people.

A LETTER FROM REV. DAVID FREEMAN.

Dear Editor,

My last was from Port Hood where I met a good congregation on Sabbath morning, and drove on to Mabou in the afternoon. The fact that no definite arrangement was made nor meeting held on the Sabbath indicates either that the people in Mabou have been disappointed on former occasions and had learned not to credit similar appointments; or else that the cause of religion was so low that they had no interest in the matter. A few assembled to hear a sermon on Monday evening and a lecture on Tuesday evening. For many weeks the church had had no meetings of any kind. Some of the brethren have become so much engaged in hunting silver mines that they have little interest in the gospel, and little means to support it. The state of things in Mabou reminds one of Bunyan's Pilgrim. "Now at the further side of that plain was a little hill called Lure, and on that hill a silver mine, which some of them that had formerly gone that way, because of the rarity of it, had turned aside to see. But going too near the brim of the pit, the ground being deceitful under them broke and they were slain. Some also had been maimed there, and could not to their dying day be their own again." But there is this difference. When "Christian heard Demas calling him to the mine he refused alledging that he had heard how many had been slain there and hindered in their pilgrimage" but his example is not followed in every case. Another difference is that that was real silver; whereas this consists of nuggets of lead or some base metal. Still there are some encouraging signs in Mabou. On Wednesday Dec. 19 I went to Margaree a distance of 35 miles. The journey could have been easily performed if the day had not been the most boisterous which this winter has yet produced. The wind roared terribly through the forests and far away over the mountains. In some spots the road was bare, in others the snow was drifted several feet deep, compelling the traveller, in order to avoid the banks, to leave the highway, to tear down fences, unhinge gates, and commit sundry other depredations on private property. But there was no avoiding it. I was glad to arrive in good time, and enjoy the genuine hospitality of brother Shields the pastor and Ross a member of the church. The faithful here are stemming the tide of drunkenness and sin that is bearing down upon them. Some young men from whom we have reason to expect better things having embarked in grog selling, and the pastor having very properly rebuked these abominations, his life was publicly and privately threatened. We felt called upon, in language as strong as we could command, to sustain the admonitions given, both in the pulpit on sabbath, and on Monday evening at a temperance meeting which was convened to form a Temperance Society. About fifty of all ages enrolled their names, and it is to be hoped pledged themselves in a crusade which will not cease till the beautiful mountains and valleys of Margaree shall be freed from the contaminating influence of drunkenness.

The pastor appears to be doing well and is esteemed by the people. The church are determined to move forward in financial matters and to sustain the gospel among them. A meeting was called on Monday at ten o'clock, when after a discourse by the college agent, an auxiliary to the Home Mission was formed to facilitate the support of the missionary. Bro. Shields performs a mission now and then along the North and East coast for a distance of one hundred miles from Margaree. And it seems to me that he should be sustained in these labors. The church in Margaree pay him for his services among themselves; but when he goes abroad, he must be aided from some other source. The Home Mission Board by granting this aid will at the same time enable him to give the residue of his labors to Margaree, which is the largest church in the northern part of the island.

Also if the pastors of the larger churches in Nova Scotia could take a summer or winter vacation, travelling, perhaps partly on foot, around these and other destitute shores, such tours might be a benefit to all parties, and especially to hundreds of those famishing souls.

The church in Margaree intend building a new house of worship. They have already procured the timber, and purchased a convenient and

beautiful site. I hope they will secure a good model, and build their house in architectural style, and thus save the next generation the expense of tearing this down also. Some of our churches have built the third or fourth meeting-house before they have given any attention to style of Architecture. The consequence is that they have wasted thousands upon thousands of pounds. They have thrown their money away in building chapels after the barn and "nasal order of architecture," which being offensive to correct taste, have been subsequently removed as public nuisances, and their place supplied by others, of more modern structure. For several generations this process has been carried on until at last in a few cases they have arrived at a permanent style. A little professional advice sought at the first would have obviated all this needless trouble and expense. In building a house for God we cannot violate the laws of architecture with impunity, any more than we can trample upon His moral law. There are models which cannot be impaired by time, and any deviation from these will be visited with destruction sooner or later. It would be well if all the churches would give attention to this matter. Avoid all quackery in the plan of your meeting house, as you would in a medical prescription. Better pay a little more money for a good plan than to waste it all in executing a bad one.

Thirty miles from Margaree in a southerly direction brought me to Upper Baddeck. Here was once a good church. But the candlestick has been removed. Bro. McPhee, lately from the College, is laboring here, with good acceptance, trying to "gather the fragments together," to rear the broken columns, and to "strengthen the things that remain." He has a noble field to cultivate, and if by the blessing of God he succeeds, he need not die without the consciousness of having done some good. It is a noble idea to go into the moral wilderness, and convert a corner of the field into a fruitful vineyard. To cut down the thick branches, to clear away the rank and poisonous foliage, so that the beams of the Sun of righteousness may penetrate the dark shades of ignorance and sin and unbelief, warm the cold humid soil, and cause it to bring forth "first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear." The few friends and brethren here are doing what they can, and are looking somewhat imploringly to the Home-Missionary Board. This feeble interest is surrounded by a vast population and should be nursed.

This is the day of the election for Victoria county, and many are going to and fro with anxious brows. It is comforting to reflect that while man is perplexed and harassed with corroding anxiety, there is one who sits serenely on His throne guiding all things according to His will. One of whom it is said "He will cause the wrath of man to praise Him, and the remainder of wrath He will restrain."

Yours, &c.,
D. FREEMAN.

Baddeck, Dec. 27th, 1860.

* Prof. Chipman.

For the Christian Messenger.

United States Correspondence.

FROM OUR BOSTON CORRESPONDENT.

In my last letter I stated that South Carolina would secede from the Union. So far as can be done, she has accomplished her withdrawal, and declares herself an independent government. The Governor, in whom the appointing power is vested, has appointed a Secretary of State, Secretary of War, Secretary of the Treasury of the Interior, and all other officers of the Cabinet, thus throwing off all connection with the general Government. Major Anderson, a brave and decided man, who was in command of the Forts at Charleston, learning from the best authority that the populace would make an attack upon him, suddenly and secretly retired from Fort Moultrie, an untenable position, to Fort Sumpter, which is believed to be impregnable. This caused the most intense excitement to the people in Charleston, and ever since his act, they have been fortifying and strengthening their position, having seized the other forts, and are intending to try their power in driving out the United States troops. They keep their courage up, by incessant military displays, and the women are making bandages and mattresses, and scraping lint in preparation for the wounded. It is said, however, by those who can get any information that is reliable, that the City is in the hands of the mob; that the leaders in the movement, like their prototypes of the French Revolution, are beginning to be terrified at the fruits of the seed they have sown; that the mass, infuriated

through the efforts of the politicians, are pushing on their captains and lieutenants into the very midst of the danger.

Any one who reads the debates of the Charleston Convention, in which the secession culminated cannot but see that the men who control that Convention are anything but statesmen; that they have no arranged plans; seem not to have thought of the morrow; that their whole design originated and is carried on in hate to the Union; and all their words and actions show them to be indiscreet, inexperienced, almost, if not quite, lunatics. They are deciding now, in order to prevent the armed navy of the United States from entering their harbor, to take up all the buoys, to destroy the lighthouses, and all other means of safety, which have been made along their very dangerous coast; forgetting that they are thus virtually destroying their commerce and excluding all trading ships as well as ships of war; filling their harbor with obstacles, while they defy the general government, they are starving themselves. Outside of the State they have no credit. Bonds have been offered in New York and Boston, and nothing could be raised upon them; not a broker, however favourable to the South he might be, could be found, who would advance a cent upon them; Indeed their precipitate course, in refusing to await the action of the North, but at once plunging the country into all the perils of a civil war, has alienated the sympathies of a large number who had hitherto remained their steadfast friends; and the whole northern and western country are united now, as they never were before; party names are merged in the great danger, and men will stand shoulder to shoulder in defending their common country, government and union. There will certainly be war. You are aware there has been a disruption of the Cabinet of Mr. Buchanan. Several members of his Cabinet and of the Senate are acknowledged traitors to the Government; have urged on the secession movement; one of them, Mr. Toombs, telegraphed to Georgia, urging the state authorities to take the forts; and the order of the Governor to that effect was prompted by his despatch; imagine the seizure of public property and rebellion against the government counselled openly from the Senate. The Cabinet tried to impeach Toombs, but he was saved by one majority; this one being Mr. Thompson, who is implicated in stealing bonds to the amount of a million of dollars from the Indian Trust Fund. Another Cabinet Minister, the Secretary of War, has for some time been removing, quietly, all the arms and ammunition of the general Government from the North to the South, thus leaving the North defenceless. Another is strongly suspected of being at the head of the movement to seize the City of Washington, to prevent the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln. These facts coming to light, have compelled the President to a change of policy, and more energetic action is now taking place. But I have already written too long a letter; you must excuse it, however, for we are all politicians now. Yet Christian people are feeling more and more their dependence upon God, and are seeking by earnest prayer, and fasting, and supplication, to obtain help from on high. Like the disciples in the storm, after toiling at the oars, and still finding themselves in imminent danger, they are striving to wake up the Master, saying, "Lord, carest thou not that we perish." The Fast recommended by the President was very generally observed, and fervent prayers were offered to "the Lord who reigneth."

The minds of the people being so absorbed in public matters, I have little to say that is interesting, with reference to religion. Some of our Churches are enjoying revivals. The Church at Watertown, with which Mr. Earle, an evangelist who was for some time in St. John, N. B., is laboring, are being refreshed from on high, and some have been converted to God.

I am interested in the movements of my brethren in the Provinces; and endeavour to keep posted up in their affairs. I hope the plan of opening the advantages of the Horton Academy to young women, will succeed. All the public schools in Massachusetts have, from their commencement, adopted that plan, and it answers admirably. I wish I had time and space to write a little more about it.

I hope your readers will excuse my hasty letter. I have not time to condense it. Events thicken upon us so rapidly here, that possibly before you receive this, the telegraph will tell you of actual collisions between South Carolina and the United States. I will write again soon.

CHEBUCTO.

January 9, 1861.

Adversity is the trial of principle; without it, a man hardly knows whether he is honest or not.