

would be demolished, many of the excesses of fanaticism would be rectified, many of the difficulties which perplex earnest Christians would be removed; and the Scripture, interpreted by common-sense, would be found to be at one with itself, with the laws of the human mind, and with the best interests of the human race.

For the Christian Messenger.

Four hundred fold!

Dear Brother,

The subjoined statement is taken from the *Kentish Gazette* (England) of the 8th, ult:—

AN EXTRAORDINARY CROP OF WHEAT.—Mr. Elgar of Wingham Court, has recently harvested an extraordinary crop of wheat, a sample of which, in the ear, was shown in the Canterbury market on Saturday. The sample consisted of 12 ears, the average length of which was nearly 7 1/2 inches. The yield of four acres, and from one bushel of seed, is 50 quarters, or 12 1/2 quarters per acre. The wheat is of the description known as "pedigree," and for the bushel of seed used Mr. Elgar paid, we believe, £1 1s. The seed was dibbled in by women and children.

This is truly a marvellous yield. The English quarter, as you are aware, contains eight bushels. Here, then, are a hundred bushels per acre—a hundred bushels from a peck of seed—which is four hundred fold!

The "dibbling" referred to is just dropping a single grain into a hole made by a pointed stick—the holes being probably about six inches apart. Doubtless the seed saved pays for the extra labour, and the grain has plenty of room to tiller out.

If our farmers would drill in their grain instead of sowing it broad-cast, they would raise larger crops, and keep the land in a cleaner state.

Yours truly, J. M. CRAMP.

Oct. 7, 1863.

P. S. Wingham, where this extraordinary crop was raised, is about fourteen miles from my native place. Mr. Elgar is an old inhabitant of Wingham, and is well known as an excellent farmer.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 14, 1863.

Agriculture, — Agricultural Exhibitions.

A large portion of our readers are farmers. Many of them belong to the most enterprising and successful of that class of the community, and of course take an interest in everything which tends to the advancement of agriculture. The regular appropriation of a portion of our columns to this subject is not a mere experiment, or done by accident, but knowing that all progress is based on the proper cultivation of the soil, and the development of our resources and capabilities, in these respects, we have placed before our readers, from week to week, for several years past, whatever has come under our notice which would be of service to them and awaken more attention to this most ancient of the Sciences.

We have reason to know that this feature in our sheet is highly appreciated, and by its suggestions has awakened in many families further enquiry in the same field, so that the practical results and fruits of our labors are seen in the improved cultivation of the land, as well as in securing the general intelligence of the communities, wherever the Messenger is taken to any considerable extent.

The Agricultural Exhibition held last week at Kentville, being intended for parts of the province where our patrons reside in considerable numbers, we feel called upon to devote as much as possible of our space to an account of what was said and done there.

The Castle Show was on the grounds of M. Rand, Esq., in front of the Kentville Hotel. The fruit, vegetables and cereals were at the Court House. On the ground adjoining were erected about 500 feet of tables for the display of the productions of the various competitors. A range of spruce trees surrounded this enclosure which was entered by a neat and tastefully constructed arch of evergreens and boughs of the beautiful foliage of the maple and oak. In the central part of the exhibition were several trees transplanted in boxes with the fruit still upon them, and a box of the tobacco plant in the leaf, grown by Mr. L. V. Parker, of Bridgetown. Bundles of flax were placed in front of the building. Butter in tubs and rolls, candies made of wax, of tallow, and of bayberry were displayed. Cheeses there were of all sizes, and honey in the comb and in jars; also a hive of bees. The display of fruit was much admired. Apples in almost every variety and of the finest description were here brought together from the fine

orchards of Annapolis and Kings Counties. There were also many varieties of pears, quinces, plums, apricots, grapes, &c., such as some persons have supposed could not be produced in a Nova Scotia climate. In the centre of the table of apples were two immense bouquets in the form of cones from the gardens of Mr. Thos. Leahy, of Halifax.

The display of horses comprised a number which were not remarkable for size or beauty. A few, however, were handsome, and were much admired. The two and three year old colts called forth general admiration, and were said to be equal to ordinary ones of five and six years.

Thirty-five pairs of working oxen were entered. These were very good. The bulls, too, were considered handsome, but the cows were quite inferior—many to be seen around Halifax being far before them. There were also some good specimens of sheep—particularly rams—and of hogs, looking as if well cared for.

The Agricultural Implements' department comprised ploughs, harrows, rakes, &c., &c., from the neighbouring counties, and some even from Colchester.

The gathering of people was, perhaps, as fine a sight as any other feature of the exhibition. It is supposed that not less than 3500 persons visited Kentville on the occasion. Great difficulty was experienced in getting accommodation and a sufficient supply of food.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government General Doyle and suite, arrived on Wednesday afternoon, and were entertained at the Kentville Hotel in the evening at a dinner, at which about fifty persons were accommodated, comprising the Hon. Attorney General, the Hon. S. L. Shannon, and the Commissioners of the Exhibition, the judges, secretaries, &c., &c. Hon. S. L. Shannon presided on the occasion.

After dinner the usual patriotic toasts were given, and one of our contemporaries informs us they were "drank with all the honors—the glasses being filled with the clear liquid of the rocky spring." His Honor General Doyle arose and responded to the toast respecting himself in a very sensible speech, which we copy from the *Sun*:

I beg leave to return my best thanks for the honor you have conferred upon me in drinking my health. I am aware that it is owing to the position I hold more than to any merits of my own, but I accept it as it is intended. It has given me great pleasure to attend this meeting, and to find myself surrounded by the gentlemen farmers of Nova Scotia; and having come amongst you, I hope you will allow me to make a few observations with reference to the object for which we are here assembled.

I must honestly acknowledge that the profession of a soldier is more congenial to my tastes than the pursuits of a farmer, and that I am more capable of deciding upon the merits of a tented field than of a field of oats or turnips, although I believe I know something of them too; but, however wedded I may be to my own profession, I am bound to admit that although we soldiers are useful in protecting your agriculture and your homes, it is to the Farmer and the Mechanic, and not to the soldier, that the country looks for its present, as well as its future prosperity, and I must also acknowledge that, in these "piping times of peace" nothing can be more useful than the sciences of agriculture and horticulture, for the promotion of which we are assembled here to-day.

It is not requisite that I should be either a farmer or a gardener to make me fully alive to the very great advantage to be derived from important meetings and exhibitions such as this over which I have now the honor to preside.

One of the first originators of this movement was that energetic Governor and my brother soldier, who I am proud to call my friend, Sir Gaspard LeMarchant, to whom, if for this alone, the country owes a deep debt of gratitude. Last year, under the administration of the Marquis of Normanby, who I know, was deeply anxious for its success, a bill was brought forward in the House by the late Government of the Province calculated to be of great public interest, entitled "An Act to provide for Agricultural Exhibitions, and the improvement of Stock," which divided the Province into six districts, fixed where the exhibitions should be held, and how conducted, and voted a sum not exceeding \$4,000 to carry out the project. I wish it had been more, but in financial schemes we are obliged to cut our coat according to our cloth.

It is fortunately one of those subjects wholly unconnected with politics, in which all parties in the House were unanimous, and the bill received the entire support of the present Government then in opposition, who I have the opportunity of knowing are doing all in their power to promote and encourage its objects; and I trust these meetings will continue to receive the support of the people of the Province themselves, being eminently calculated to produce an honest rivalry and emulation amongst its agricultural and horticultural inhabitants,—and emulation, we know, begets improvement.

I have in my official and military capacity travelled over a considerable portion of this Province, and I can bear testimony to its great capabilities, for where agriculture or the green fields for pasturage do not flourish, gold mines do

The French have a saying which I recommend to your notice. It runs thus: "Aidez vous et le ciel vous aidera," which I beg to translate for the benefit of those who do not understand the French language: it means, "Help yourself and God will help you."

The Almighty has indeed been bountiful and done wonders for you, but as the French saying implies, he expects you to assist yourselves by your own exertions, mentally as well as physically—much is to be done by studying the works of those successful experimentalists who have given the benefit of their labors to the world. I would implore you then to study, and also to bring to your assistance all the latest mechanical improvements which have been invented, and believe me if both are properly applied by willing hearts, it requires nothing but a long pull, a strong pull, and beyond all, a pull altogether, to make this fine province what nature has intended her to be, a flourishing and a happy land.

I may now be permitted to wander for a few minutes to my own profession, and express the pride and satisfaction I feel, as a British subject, and especially as a soldier, knowing that, although Farming and Gardening are the chief occupations of a large proportion of those who I have the honor to address, and I should also add the Fishermen of the Province all have come forward with alacrity and given unmistakable proofs, in the Militia movements which has recently been so successfully inaugurated by Lord Normanby in this province, of their readiness in the hour of danger to exchange their scythes, reaping hooks, and fishing tackle, for swords and rifles for the protection of their homes—a matter of no small interest to one whom our Gracious Sovereign has entrusted with the defence of these Lower Provinces.

I now beg to call your attention to a few statistical points connected with the object of this meeting which may be interesting to those who have no opportunity of reading the Agricultural Reports made to Government.

I wish the Mother Country knew more about us than she really does, for Nova Scotia has been frequently represented as a country whose soil and climate are not congenial to agricultural pursuits. A glance at the returns however, as furnished by the Census will reveal the fact that 37,897 or nearly 1/4 of the entire male population, style themselves farmers, and 9387 are classed as farm laborers, while in Upper Canada, which may be regarded as emphatically an agricultural country, but 1/4 of the male population claim to be so considered in the census of 1851, and New York in 1855 returned 321,830, or about 1/3. With regard to agriculture as in most instances, the heads only of families have given their occupation, there must be a great number of male adults and others engaged in farming pursuits, (the families in the rural districts being large) and could an approximate calculation be made of the number it would be found that a very considerable proportion of the total population of the country depends upon this occupation as a means of subsistence.

It appears by the Census that the land in cultivation in the Colony in 1861 was 1,028,032 acres, 188,716 more than in 1851; but while the cultivated land has increased one fourth, the products therefrom, consisting principally of potatoes, turnips, hay, wheat and oats have increased about three-fourths, from which it may be argued that the mode of farming has improved, and a much greater amount of capital and labor than before is now expended upon agriculture, in proof of which I will read an extract from a comparative table of the agricultural produce of Nova Scotia, as shown by the Census for the years 1851 and 1861:—In 1851 the country produced 287,837 tons hay, 297,157 bushels wheat, 196,097 bushels barley, 1,384,437 bushels oats, 1,986,789 bushels potatoes, 467,127 bushels turnips. In 1861—334,287 tons hay 312,081 bushels wheat, 269,678 bushels barley, 1,978,134 bushels oats, 3,824,864 bushels potatoes, 554,318 bushels turnips.

Nova Scotia is particularly celebrated for her potatoes, and they produce a higher price in the States than any other kind. Other roots flourish equally well—mangold wurtzel, carrots, parsnips and onions are all productive to a large extent. The soil of Nova Scotia is equally favorable to the growth of cereals, from rye to the finest wheat. But in nothing does the excellence of your climate appear so conspicuous as in the growth of fruit. There is, perhaps, no country in the world, the States of the American Union not excepted, better fitted for the growth of apples and pears than three or four of the Western Countries. There is scarcely a county in the province that is not capable of producing good apples and pears, if they receive ordinary attention in propagating and fertilizing.

According to Dr. Forrester, the soil of Nova Scotia, its natural manures and its facilities of drainage are all proofs of its agricultural capabilities.

Permit me to say the grand business of the farmer is, first to ascertain what food the plant requires, and then whether that food is in the soil or not; in other words, he has to provide the very food that the plant requires for its growth and fructification, and that food is just what passes under the name of fertilizing manure.

It is with the adjustment and application of these that he has mainly to do; the manure or compost heap is his capital, his Bank, with which, if he would prosper agriculturally, he must keep the best possible credit.

Fault is, I know, found with the farmers of Nova Scotia respecting their grievous neglect of what is after all the best and surest of manures, the stable yard, both solid and fluid. It has been computed—and we believe that computation is less than reality—that Nova Scotia loses annually \$100,000 by inattention to and by not securing by proper means, the volatile and solu-

ble parts of the stable yard manure. It is no doubt encouraging to observe in many districts of the country the improvements that are being made in this respect: I wish to impress upon the farmers generally where the true secret of their strength lies.

I fear I have detained you rather unreasonably in addressing you at such length, but when statistics are introduced the matter must be more or less lengthy and dry to those who happen not to be individually interested in them. However, as our meeting to day has been chiefly for the benefit of those who take a great interest in it, it is scarcely necessary that I should excuse myself for having thus trespassed upon your time. I feel I should not properly perform my duty where I sit, before I sit down, to express my best thanks on the part of the community at large, to the Hon. Mr. Shannon, for the trouble he has taken upon the present occasion; also to Dr. Forrester for the vast exertions he has made both on this and the other side of the Atlantic, and the great amount of talent he has brought to bear upon the subject of agriculture and horticulture, as shown particularly in his Agricultural Report for the year 1862, from which I shall have to borrow some observations, but I shall leave the details to himself to communicate to you. Dr. Hamilton, President of the Horticultural Association and the other members of that body merit also our most favourable consideration for the admirable arrangements they have made for successfully carrying out the objects of this meeting—and our thanks are equally due to Richard Starr, Esq., and other contributors to the present exhibition who have so materially assisted in bringing into notice both the Agricultural as well as the Horticultural productions of Nova Scotia, by forwarding specimens to the Royal Horticultural Society.

I sincerely hope that these meetings now in their infancy may arrive at a mature old age. I would urge you to increase your exertions to compete for honorable prizes such as it will be my privilege to present to the successful competitors, and I have only to say in conclusion I trust the Almighty may protect you and grant you very many prosperous seasons and golden harvests, and that you may reap the benefit of them.

Dr. Forrester spoke at some length and referred to the efforts of Sir Gaspard LeMarchant, for the improvement of the agriculture of the country,—to the great advantages of such exhibitions as that now being held, and the hope that it would stimulate their zeal in future years. He advised the successful competitors to give statements of their culture, mode of feed, &c., for the benefit of others—thus exhibitions would be made beneficial by scattering their seed over the whole province. After the great exhibition at home he (Dr. F.) had procured about 300 different kinds of seed,—his difficulty now was, how best to have them tested; he thought much benefit would result from a grant by the Legislature for the establishment of an experimental garden, by which it would be ascertained how far seeds could be improved. He impressed upon the farmers the necessity of cultivating largely the turnip, and assured them of increased riches if they would give more attention to that vegetable; this he contended was the experience in the old country, where much care had been given to it, the advantage of it was shown in the wintering, and spring feeding of stock.

The Chairman then called on Dr. Hamilton, who offered a few observations.

He referred to the present exhibition as the greatest of the kind ever held in the Province; and remarked that when we look to the original apple and the crab, and compare them with the "Emperor Alexander" and other monster apples it shows us what may be done by cultivation. He spoke of the advisability of planting young trees of best sorts, and of attention to the selection of the best kinds of seeds. Having been placed at the head of the Horticultural Association, he endeavored, as far as possible, to make it a success; and he hoped the good effects of the present exhibition would be shown hereafter. He referred to the improvement in Horticulture during the last 15 or 20 years; the large expenditure of money sent to the States for trees, &c., and the necessity of keeping this money at home, by propagating for ourselves. The poor stock of apples is fast disappearing, and no one would think, when they were gone, of crushing up Gravensteins to make cider.

A. Longley, Esq., was called on. He remarked that while he would not detain or weary them with any remarks of his, he could not refrain from expressing his pleasure at the events of the day. The subject of Agriculture and Horticulture were most interesting, and he was delighted to see the interest manifested in them, particularly in Kings County. He regretted, he said, that in his own county they were rather behind them,—but he hoped for better things. Annapolis, he said, had but few members belonging to the Association, while in Kings county there were a large number. He was glad to see Kings county progressing, and hoped his county would not long lag behind. He trusted they would all be benefited by the activity displayed in this exhibition.

We intended to have given the names of the successful competitors, with the list of prizes, as published by some of our contemporaries, in our present number, but as we have been requested by the Secretary to defer doing so till next week, for the purpose of getting it completed, and adding the names of the adjudicators, &c., which he had unfortunately left at Kentville, and, further, as we shall be glad to have our record as perfect as possible, we must request our readers to wait till our next issue for this catalogue of "honorable mentions."