

# THE GLEANER.

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*Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.*

No. 32.

Miramichi, Saturday Evening, April 29, 1843.

## Agricultural Journal.

### NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

On Wednesday the 12th instant, the Annual Meeting of the Northumberland Agricultural Society took place in Wetherall's Hotel, Newcastle, JOHN WRIGHT, Esquire, President, in the Chair.

The following Report for 1840 was read by the Secretary:—

The committee of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, at this fifth Annual Meeting, have to state that, owing to the heavy and protracted depression of trade, and consequent scarcity of money, the income and operations of this Society, during the past year, have been materially affected. Nevertheless they see nothing, either in the times, or the circumstances of the country, that should occasion despondency. While the inhabitants of this section of the Province have, in a variety of ways, felt the prevailing commercial depression, it is matter of satisfaction and of thankfulness to know that there has been comparatively little scarcity of the necessities of life experienced by the working classes of this community, and that the difficulties under which we have been labouring have led to the prosecution of Agriculture with increased vigor and success. Your committee have reason to believe that the quantity of Wheat raised in Miramichi during the past season was at least double of that produced in it during any previous year, and they are happy to say the quality of the grain was excellent. The Oat crop also, last year, was both abundant and good, and from the superior description of Mills erected in various parts of the county, the quality both of Flour and Oat Meal manufactured in the district, has been quite equal to any thing of the sort heretofore imported. The general freedom of the Wheat from smut in this quarter is, no doubt, in part owing to care taken in having pure seed, and in washing and liming previous to its being sown.

The Potatoe crop in Miramichi last year was abundant and generally of excellent quality, and it is believed will be quite sufficient to meet the wants of the community. It was pleasing to observe the extensive preparations made during last summer against the approaching season, by the clearing up of a large quantity of new land, in the application of Lime, and the preparation of Compost. The experience of last three or four years has afforded a convincing proof of the capability of the country, with proper industry and management, to produce an adequate supply of those necessities of life, which we have been heretofore to a large extent, in the habit of importing from other places, and which was the means of draining so much cash out of the country.

The pressure of the times, although severely felt in passing, has had the effect of leading our population to rely more upon their own resources, and less upon foreign supplies, and in this way it is hoped our present difficulties may ultimately prove a decided

benefit to us. A revival of commerce in Britain we trust, will be followed, at no distant period, with the revival of the staple trade of this Province, and thus secure for the Agriculturist a ready and advantageous market for his surplus produce.

Your committee are happy to think that the labours of this Society should have contributed to give an impulse to the cultivation of the soil, and to effect the favorable change they have just noticed in the state and prospects of this community. They have remarked with pleasure the great improvement that has of late taken place in Miramichi, in ploughing, upon which the successful cultivation of the soil so much depends, and the improvement is no doubt attributable, in a considerable degree, to the premiums offered by your Society from year to year, for competition in this important branch of industry.

The committee are happy also to say, that the Stock imported by this Society at various times, have tended still further to improve the breed of domestic animals among us. The polled Aberdeenshire Cattle have proved remarkably hardy and well adapted to the climate, and are becoming decided favorites. The Ayrshire kind is now generally diffused throughout the county, and is highly esteemed both for appearance, and for dairy purposes; whilst the Sheep and Pigs in Northumberland will bear a comparison with those animals in any county in the Province. As a means of improving Farm Stock, and at the same time increasing the fertility of the soil, the committee would earnestly recommend increased attention to be given to the raising of Turnips, especially of the Swedish variety, which can be preserved in root houses until June, and which is not so apt to be attacked by the Fly as some of the other sorts.

The extensive importation of Timothy, Clover, Turnip and Garden Seeds made last season, are sold to members of the Society, at costs and charges, thus effecting a considerable saving to them.

The committee would impress upon the public the great importance of maintaining this Society in an efficient state. They have observed with pleasure the exertions of kindred societies in other counties, in promoting the cause of Agriculture; and they would respectfully recommend to their successors in office (when the funds of the society permit) to offer a number of Premiums for Grain, dairy produce, and home manufactures; and as Farmers are the parties who are to reap the chief advantages of this Society, they earnestly hope that this valuable class of the community will extend to it a greater share of patronage than heretofore. Having been the first to revive these useful institutions in the Province, we trust that the inhabitants of Northumberland will sustain this society in such a manner as to enable it still to hold an honorable place among the Agricultural Societies of New Brunswick.

The following statements will shew what returns of Wheat Miramichi is capable of producing. Mr Alexander Jessiman, of Douglstown, in the

Parish of Newcastle, in the fall of 1840, broke up a field of five and a quarter acres, principally new land, a small patch of which he put into Potatoes with manure next Spring, and in the summer cross-ploughed the remainder, and harrowed it, and in the fall laid on twenty-two and a quarter barrels of unslacked Lime to the acre, and ridged it up, and in the Spring of 1842 sowed all with Wheat, and the crop when reaped in the fall, and thrashed, yielded 175 bushels, weighing sixty two pounds per bushel. Mr J. states that the part of the field which had been in fallow gave the best Wheat.

Mr. Charles Marshall, in an adjoining field of five acres, similarly treated with the above, produced 133 bushels. It ought to be stated however, that one acre in Mr. M.'s field was wet and not in good condition for a Wheat crop, otherwise the return upon the whole would have been considerably greater.

Mr. Matthew Lamont, also residing in the same district, from a small field measuring one and a half acres, and twenty nine poles, produced 49 bush. of Red Bald Wheat, weighing sixty four pounds per bushel, and yielding 47 lbs. 3 oz. of Flour per do., exclusive of one tenth deducted for toll.

Mr. Hugh Hamill of Newcastle, on four acres of land (three acres of which in the previous year had been in Potatoes and one in Turnips) produced 134 bushels of Wheat, which weighed 67 lbs. per bushel.

According to the above statements

	Bush. per acre	Weight
Mr Jessiman's field gave	33 1-2	62 lbs.
Mr Marshall's do	26 3-5	[perb.
Mr Lamont's do	30 1-4	64
Mr Hamill's do	33 1-2	67

The above returns, both as to yield and weight of grain, as compared with the returns in Canada and the United States, are highly favorable to this Province, and shew what may be done by our soil under a judicious system of Agriculture.

The Report having been unanimously approved of, the following Gentlemen were appointed Office Bearers for the ensuing year, viz:—  
JOHN WRIGHT, Esq., President.  
JOHN A. STREET, Esq., Vice President.  
JOHN T. WILLISTON, Esq., Vice President.  
Geo. KERR, Esq., Treasurer.  
REV. MR. SOUTER, Secretary.

COMMITTEE.  
Henry Cunard, John Porter, Charles Peters, Alexander Davidson, and Wm. Carman, Esquires. Messrs. John Wyse, Charles Marshall, Robert Cate, George Johnstone, Napan, Gavin Rainnie, D. Wetherall, John Renny, James Johnstone, Tabusintac, and David Steel.  
NIEL McLEAN,  
Assistant Secretary.  
Miramichi, 12th April, 1842.

### From an English paper. STEAMING POTATOES.

The whole mystery consists in suffering the steam to escape, and at the same time keeping the potatoes hot. When the cook throws off the water, under the jurisdiction of the cooking book, what is she to do next? The steam rushes out, and she places the vessel opposite the fire; but, fearful that the potatoes may cool in the meanwhile, she puts on the cover. Thus she undoes one process by the other, for the steam no sooner escapes from the potatoes, than being confined by the lid, it condenses rapidly, and falls back in water upon the vegetables. And thus, through the igno-

rance and obstinacy of our cooks, we are perpetually served with what are familiarly called wet potatoes—a sort of vague excuse, which helps to throw the fault upon the season or the gardener, or any thing or any body rather than the real culprit. The Irish peasant woman, wholly ignorant of science but with instinctive sagacity, gets rid of the difficulty by the simplest process imaginable. Placing the vessel without the cover in a slanting direction opposite the fire, so as to hasten the process of steaming by the action of the external heat, she throws a napkin over the potatoes, which receives and retains so much of the steam as does not effect its escape, while it performs the equally essential office of preserving the heat to the vegetables below.

### From the British American Cultivator.

#### WATERING HORSES.

The watering of the horse is a very important, but disregarded portion of his general management. The kind of water has not been sufficiently considered. The difference between what is termed hard and soft water, is a circumstance of general observation. The former contains certain saline principles which decompose some bodies, as in the curdling of soap; and prevents the solution of others as in the making of tea—the boiling of vegetables, and the process of brewing. It is natural to suppose that these different kinds of water would produce somewhat different effects on the animal frame, and such is the fact. Hard water freshly drawn from the well, will frequently roughen the coat of the horse unaccustomed to it, or cause griping pains, or materially lessen his power of exertion. The racing and the hunting grooms are perfectly aware of this, and so is the horse, for he will refuse the purest water from the well, if he can obtain access to the running stream, or even to the turbid pool. Where there is power of choice, the softest water should undoubtedly be preferred.

The temperature of water is of far more consequence than its hardness. It will rarely harm if taken from the pond or running stream, but its coldness when recently drawn from the well has often been injurious. It has produced colic, spasms, and even death. It should therefore be exposed for some hours, if in summer, in the stable or some tank; and if in winter, it should be heated to the proper temperature.

There is often considerable prejudice against the horse being fairly supplied with water. It is supposed to chill him, to injure his wind, or to incapacitate him for hard work. It certainly would do so if immediately after drinking his fill he were galloped hard, but not if he were suffered to quench his thirst more frequently when at rest in the stable. The horse that has free access to water, will not drink so much in the course of the day, as another who, to cool his parched mouth, swallows as fast as he can, and knows not when to stop. When on a journey, a horse may with perfect safety be more liberally supplied with water than he generally is.