

Agricultural Journal.

REPORT OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This is the sixth year of the existence of the Society, during which few years, it is not too much to affirm, it has done much for, and has had a highly beneficial effect on the Agriculture of the county—in directing the attention of Practical Farmers to facts connected with the soil and climate—the cultivation of the soil—the procuring and application of Manures—and to the necessity there exists of stricter Rural Economy being pursued by all classes. Also, in the importation of Field and Garden Seeds, and the introduction, at great trouble and expense, of Live Stock of the most approved Breeds, from Britain, which, in almost every instance, has proved in the highest degree successful.

For the last year or two, the Society has had to struggle on in attempts to effect general and individual good, which has been too much overlooked and neglected by that class of individuals whose interests were more immediately incorporated in the successful operations of this society. Hardly could they procure annual subscriptions sufficient to enable them to draw even a moiety of the bonus awarded by the Legislature for the encouragement of Agriculture. That times of unparalleled depression and stagnation of business, which has prevailed for the last few years, may have mainly contributed in producing this apparent apathy, the board will fully accord; while they at the same time are deeply sensible of the fact, that these circumstances ought to have had a contrary effect, and given a stimulus to Agricultural pursuits. Men naturally direct their attention to those pursuits from which they are capable of deriving their surest returns, and greatest advantages. The soil properly cultivated, holds out such a prospect. Upwards of thirty years experience should teach the inhabitants of this county the importance of Agriculture, for on its extensive adoption the permanent prosperity of the country must in future depend. What would Northumberland now be in comparison to what it is, had an equal, or but half the attention been paid to Agriculture that has been devoted to Lumbering pursuits? Other countries have been enriched with the means which should have been permanently invested here, and so will it continue to be until an adequate supply of Bread Stuffs, and other necessities of life, be raised in the county. What may be inferred from the fact, of one Lumberer during the past season, being supplied by his merchant, for consumption in the woods, with Oats to the extent of *one thousand nine hundred bushels*? Let Farmers shew that they are capable of producing from our soil, not only Oats, but Potatoes, Flour, Beef, Pork, Butter, and the other necessities of life, and they need not look abroad for a market.

Statistics have frequently been given in the Reports of this society, showing the enormous drain of cash caused by the neglect of this branch of national prosperity. The society, therefore, deeply impressed with the absolute importance of Agriculture, would deem it an abandonment of the vital interests of the county, were they to discontinue their exertions to promote the cause in every way they consider most desirable. The tillage of the soil must become the main-stay of the county, and the sooner this truth is made manifest the better. This society has been among the first, if not the very first, to take the field in the northern section of the Province. Other counties have followed with laudable ardour, and have organized similar societies, from a conviction of their importance. This society, as is well-known, has hitherto been kept up by the indefatigable exertions and attention of a few Gentlemen of intelligence and public spirit; but changes have occurred to deprive it of the advantages of the services of some of those individuals, which can only be replaced by the united and cordial co-operation of Practical Farmers, and friends of the institution throughout the county. It is a very mistaken idea, that a few individuals can long sustain any institution in a state of efficiency, with any gratuitous exertions they may be capable of extending. The Board therefore, makes sure of the zealous co-operation and countenance of Agriculturists generally, and of those friendly to the cause.

The society looks forward with interest to the period, which their trust is not far distant, when the county will not only have to boast of its Annual Show of Live Stock,—of Grain, of

articles of Domestic Manufactures, of the Produce of the Dairy, and of Plowing Competitions, but also to its Annual or Semi-Annual Fair, where the above may be profitably disposed of, or exchanged, as may best suit the convenience or wants of the possessors, and as a Trysting place for Farm servants.

Your committee would beg to recommend the formation in every district in the county, of Agricultural Associations, governed by its own local regulations, to co-operate with this Board. This measure is perfectly practicable, highly desirable, and would be productive of infinite advantages. As for instance, Auxiliary Branches in Glenelg, Tabusintac, Burnt Church, the upper districts of Northesk, upper part of Nelson, Blackville, Ludlow, and Blissfield; all of which districts could participate in the grant from Government in proportion to their respective subscriptions contributed; and the members would once a year have an opportunity of meeting for purposes of mutual advantages, alternately at Newcastle and Chatham, with specimens and samples from the several districts. Thus, a spirit of keen competition and commendable rivalry would be the result—animating and cheering to the respective competitors, and profitable to the county at large.

NIEL McLEAN, Secretary.
Miramichi, May 3, 1844.

THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF LONDON.

The anniversary dinner of the Highland Society was held last evening at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, it being the anniversary of the battle of Alexandria, rendered memorable to all Highlanders by the conduct of the Scotch Regiments under Sir Ralph Abercrombie. Previous to the banquet the Society held a general court, at which the minutes of the former meetings were read by Mr G. Bain, the Honorary Secretary. The attendance was very numerous; above a hundred gentlemen sat down to dinner. The scene was a most brilliant one, from the number of naval and military uniforms, and the display of the picturesque costume of the Highlands, some of the individual specimens of which were of the most magnificent description. The gallery, too, was filled with elegantly dressed ladies, who remained as spectators during nearly the whole of the proceedings. The band of the Coldstream Guards was in attendance, and played several of the most favourite Scotch airs and popular pieces during the dinner, its performance being varied by the skill of McKay, the piper to the Highland Society; and of the pipers to the Duke of Sutherland and Her Majesty.—Every arrangement was made that could conduce to the comfort, the hilarity, and the amusement of the company, and as a display of national feeling, looking with pride upon the deeds of the past, and forward with hope and kindness to the future, nothing could exceed it. The number of visitors of "Saxon," as distinguished from "Celtic" blood, was alluded to during the evening with every happy effect, as a proof that there is not that antipathy and estrangement existing between them which has been too often stated to exist. The dinner was an excellent one, and the wines unexceptionable, and all the arrangements gave the utmost satisfaction.

Lieutenant General Sir James Macdonnell presided.

On the removal of the cloth grace was said in Gaelic by the Rev J Lee, the Chaplain of this Society and the Caledonian Asylum.

The Chairman then severally gave the toasts of "the Queen," "the Queen Dowager," "the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," which were drunk with every mark of loyalty and enthusiasm.

The Chairman next gave, "His Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Chief of the Highland Society."

The toast was drunk with Highland honours and tumultuous applause.

The Chairman said he had now to propose the health of an illustrious individual, the mere mention of whose name would, he was sure, make the hall resound with applause. He gave then the health of his Grace "the Duke of Wellington,"—(cheers)—and he had to inform them, at the same time, that his friend, Sir J. Macdonnell, the Adjutant General, had been charged to deliver to them a message from his Grace.

The Noble Duke's health was drunk with the warmest applause. Air, "See the conquering hero comes."

Sir John Macdonald, Adjutant General, replied to the toast. He said he was desired to convey to them individually and collectively, an expression of the great and sincere regret which his Grace the Duke of Wellington felt at not being able to meet them here to-day. He was prevented from attending by the pressure of his parliamentary duties, which were of such a nature on this evening to call for his particular attention. That circumstance must be his excuse for not meeting them. They might well suppose that the Duke of Wellington would have been desirous of meeting with the members of a Society of Highlanders who had always been remarkable for their attachment to the Crown. It was a great source of disappointment to the Noble Duke that he was not able to mingle with the members of a Society, of which the consort of their beloved Queen—(cheers)—had that evening been announced as their Chief. (Cheers.) He would also have been most anxious to do honour to

the merits of the distinguished officer whom they, as Highlanders, must be proud to see in the chair. (Loud cheers.) That gallant officer was one who had acquired, not merely high, but the very highest, and the proudest distinction in his profession; on the most eventful day that had distinguished the Noble Duke's career. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) At the battle of Waterloo, their Chairman had the good fortune to be called to defend, if not the most difficult, certainly a very difficult post of the British position; and he defended it with the greatest bravery, and the most consummate military ability and judgment. (Cheers.)

The Chairman then gave "The Army and Navy."

Sir Andrew Greene replied to the toast, on behalf of the Navy, paying a high tribute to the gallantry of their chairman.

Sir Fitzroy Maclean acknowledged the toast on the part of the Army. He referred to the high estimation in which the officers of both services were held abroad, and stated that it was the constant endeavour of the officers of the army to cultivate a good understanding with the officers of the other great branch of her Majesty's service.

The Chairman gave, as the next toast, "The Memory of Abercrombie, and of the heroes who fell with him in Egypt." The toast was drunk in solemn silence, and the band played, "The Dead March," which contrasted with great effect with the previous festivity.

The Chairman said they were favored with the presence of several officers. He regretted that their number was small who were survivors of the celebrated battle of Alexandria.—(Cheers.)

Sir John Macdonald, in acknowledging the toast, said it could not be otherwise than gratifying to him and his brother officers to find the last toast so well received. There could be no doubt that the services of the army in Egypt were most important to the nation, while they were rendered memorable by the fall of the commander in the glorious struggle in which he was engaged. As one of the survivors of that battle he returned them his thanks for the honor they had done him and them.

The Earl of Cardigan rose to give the next toast; he was received with applause, not, however, without some expressions of disapprobation. He said that, at a moment's notice, he had been desired to perform a duty, which however agreeable, he still felt some hesitation in undertaking. That duty was to propose the health of their gallant and distinguished chairman, Sir James Macdonnell.—(Cheers.) That toast ought to be proposed in a manner worthy both of the gallant officer and the society with whom he was then sitting, but he felt himself incompetent to do justice to it. Nor was it necessary that he should dwell upon the gallant services he had rendered his country, for they were well known to every individual present. He was covered with honours and wounds gained in the service of his country. He begged to connect with the health of the gallant officer some mention of the charitable exertions of the Highland Society itself, which had been productive of much good among the children of soldiers.

The Chairman (Sir J. Macdonnell) acknowledged the toast in a feeling speech, expressive of his sense of the condescension of the Duke of Wellington, in having taken notice of them on this occasion, and thanking the noble Earl for the kindly manner in which he had introduced his health. Alluding to what had been said respecting the share he took in the battle of Waterloo, he said, in the defence of Hougoumont, the instructions given to himself and his companions were briefly these—to defend the post to the last.—(Cheers.) They eventually succeeded; and in doing so, he could assure them, he laid claim to no greater merit than of having done his duty to the utmost.—(Loud cheers.) On such a subject they would excuse him from saying more.—(Cheers.)

[To be continued.]

*The farm of Hougoumont, on the field of Waterloo, was several times during the day the point against which the fiercest of Napoleon's attacks were directed.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 15, 1844.

ARRIVAL OF THE SOUTHERN MAIL.—The Southern mail reached the Post Office, on Monday evening, at 6 o'clock. We went to press to-day at two o'clock.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—We have made a few additional extracts from our files of British papers.

THE SEASON.—The weather has been very propitious for the operations of the Farmer and Lumberer. The fine dry weather at the close of last month, enabled the farmer to prepare his land, and sow his grain; and the rain which has fallen during the last ten days, while it has but very slightly retarded the operations of the husbandman, has enabled the Lumberer to drive his timber to market.

THE GREAT BRITAIN, STEAMER.—A gentleman who came passenger in the Hibernia from Liverpool, informs us, that it was report-

ed just as he was leaving, that intelligence had been received from Bristol, that the Dock committee had consented to allow the gates to be removed; and it was expected that the noble vessel would be launched that evening.

THE NOVA SCOTIAN.—Joseph Howe, Esq., has resumed the Editorial management of this paper, assisted by Mr. Annand.

WEST INDIES.—On the 16th of April a severe shock of an Earthquake was felt in the island of Porto Rico. At St. John's the buildings were much damaged, and the inhabitants were more severely felt,—a number of houses were thrown down, and others very much injured. The Custom House at Guayama was cracked in several places. No loss of life is mentioned.

MILITARY ROAD.—The Quebec Gazette of 1st instant says that Sir James E. Alexander, and Mr McGill, assistant surveyor, crossed over to Point Levi that morning, to commence the survey of a military road of communication between Quebec and Halifax.

UNITED STATES AND TEXAS.—The St. John Courier, furnishes the following paragraph in relation to the subject of the annexation of Texas to the United States:—

"This subject is still creating discussion at Washington, although it is positively asserted that the Treaty stands no chance of being sanctioned by the Senate of the United States, and will therefore go for so much waste paper as present. The Washington Correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce, under date of May 2nd, states that the treaty of Annexation will meet with the assent of the Mexican and every other government except that of Great Britain, Mr Pakenham having already remonstrated against it. General Almonte, the Mexican minister at Washington, is stated to have expressed himself as having no power to do anything in the matter, except to declare the annexation of Texas to the United States tantamount to a declaration of war with Mexico, yet, that he was individually in favor of the treaty, and thought that his country would not lose the opportunity of making a good bargain with the United States, in the business, particularly as it might be done without compromising the national pride of Mexico. Mr Clay, Mr Van Buren, General Benton, and other American opponents of the annexation, lay their main objections upon the relations of Texas with Mexico."

THE EAGLESHAM ESTATE, in the west of Scotland, lately belonging to the Earl of Eglington, has been sold to A. Gilmour, Esquire, for £217,000.

SAINT DOMINGO.—The following paragraphs, the first copied from the Philadelphia Gazette, and the second from the New York Commercial Advertiser, gives a frightful account of the wretched state of anarchy and confusion which prevails in that Island:—

"By the schooner Orrallo, arrived this morning from Cape Haytian, we have received the following letter of the 10th instant: "Every thing throughout the island is in anarchy and confusion—every one in doubt as to the stability of the present government, as it is completely without resources, little or no money in the treasury, and no means of remedying the evil. Troops and officers in all the departments without pay or rations. The Spanish part of the island seems determined, as it has declared it will do, to put itself under a separate government. A few days before we left, a large detachment of troops, some twelve or fifteen thousand, marched into the Cape, having been defeated near Santiago by a small body of Spaniards. The negroes, declaring that they would not fight, threw away their ammunition, and commenced an immediate retreat,—threatening their officers, most of whom are mulattoes, with destruction, if they attempted to stop them."

"Most of the troops on their arrival at the Cape, are disbanding themselves, and going to their homes, saying that it is no use to fight, and that the disturbance is only an excuse of their officers, who are most of them mulattoes to have the troops, who are mostly blacks, killed off. The mulattoes are very fearful of an insurrection of the blacks. The last account that was had of the President was, that he was marching upon Saint Domingo city, at the head of 25, or 30,000 troops. There was a good supply of all kinds of American produce in the market, sales very dull, very little or no coffee, or any kind of produce coming into market, there being no one to bring it, the people having, most of them, been forced into the army."

"These accounts are confirmed by the captain of the schr. William Wilson, from Aux Cayes, who sailed on the 5th instant. He reports a battle near Aux Cayes, in which the Government troops were defeated—probably the same as that mentioned in the Philadelphia account. The insurgents had almost entire possession of Aux Cayes, and much distress and terror prevailed. The women and children had taken refuge on board the American and English vessels in port. It was supposed that