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Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se filagignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Agricultural Journal.

REPORT OF THE CARLETON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Among the important employments which mankind are engaged in, the prosecution of Agricultural pursuits ranks high; inasmuch as to the diligent culture of the soil, all are indebted, not merely for the enjoyment of luxuries but for possession of the necessities of life. It may be justly regarded as a branch of business affording ample scope for the exercise of man's mental, as well as physical energies. Though frequently reduced, in the opinion of cursory observers, beneath the level of respectable occupations, yet the wisest of our fellow men are disposed to look upon it, not only as a source of wealth, frequently unattainable by other means, but as well calculated as other pursuits to bring into vigorous and active exercise the powers of the human mind.

In former ages of the world Agriculture occupied its proper position in the estimation of man, and by those who lived in days past, and even before the Christian era, its importance was fully recognized. Among the Ancient Hebrews, as well as the Chaldeans, Egyptians, and Romans, the culture of the soil was considered an employment of estimable character, and prosecuted with persevering assiduity, and in a knowledge of this art, these and other nations arrived at considerable eminence. So far from being regarded as disreputable it was considered highly honourable, and Statesmen and Poets alike employed their pens in its praise. But in our day the scene has changed, and he who earns a livelihood for himself and those whom providence has placed in his care, by the sweat of his brow—whose sun-burned hands afford evidence of toil in the field—whose clothing is the product of his own labor—and whose daily food has been raised from the soil cultivated by his own hand, is looked upon with indifference, not because of the useless character of those employments in which Agriculturists are engaged—not because the industrious farmer possesses fewer characteristics of a man than his lordly neighbours, but because the cultivators of the soil by truckling to the erroneous opinion of prejudiced men, have themselves evinced an apparent consciousness of inferiority.—Shall such a state of things continue longer to exist? We answer no! Let our Farmers awake to a sense of the value of their occupations, and by a proper course of action exhibit to the world, the fact undeniable, that the calling of the Agriculturist is equally as useful and efficient as that of him who is following either of the "learned professions."

The advancement of Agricultural interests is also impeded by the listlessness of those whose only dependence is on the soil. Many are content with a bare subsistence drawn from the surface of the earth, when by proper attention and prudent management abundance might be obtained.

An acquaintance with the most approved modes of prosecuting farming operations in Countries more advanced than our own—careful preservation of manures—proper application of these to the soil for which the various kinds are best adapted—and changes of seeds as circumstances seem to require, would accomplish much in the way of improvement. This knowledge can only be acquired either from our own experience and observation or that of others. An unreasonable prejudice exists in the minds of many persons against what is termed "Book Farming," but we are assured that the day when a man is prized on account of his ignorance is rapidly passing away. The experiments of those who have farmed their Lands successfully, cannot fail of being profitable to others, and there is no better method of diffusing the information attained than by means of the press.

"The science of Agriculture" is replete with interest, and though Agricultural writers may occasionally indulge in unsatisfactory theories, yet among late authors we find much practicable good sense and desirable information. Chemistry

has rendered many and great services to agriculturists and can render more; the two sciences ought not to be considered as having no relation to each other; on the contrary, practical Farming is only conducted upon rational principles when directed by chemical science. Hitherto it has fallen in with the humour or bias of only a few scientific men to enter upon such enquiries. Sir Humphrey Davy, the greatest chemist of his age, devoted his efforts, not only laboriously but most usefully, to the prosecution of Agricultural chemistry; and the recent views and discoveries of Liebig will do much to economise Agricultural operations, as well to direct the farmer to the easiest and shortest mode of doubling his crops. But generally the appreciation of such efforts on the part of learned men has been so small, the reception of scientific results and suggestions by the farming tenantry so ungracious, that little wonder can exist, that so many have quitted the field in disgust, and that the majority of chemists should studiously avoid it. Hence it has happened that the analysis of the soils has rarely been undertaken. This state of things is however, undergoing a rapid change both in Europe and America; and the day is not far distant when scientific farming will become general. We cannot allow the present opportunity to pass without endeavouring to impress upon your minds, the importance of obtaining some of the many valuable periodicals that are now being published; and among these may be noticed, *The Farmer's Manual* published at Fredericton by Mr. Phillips, at the low price of *Five shillings* per annum, a work which promises to be serviceable.

Colman in speaking of the high degree of importance which attaches to Agricultural pursuits, remarks:—Agriculture is the art of all arts, the foundation of true wealth, a source of rational pleasure and useful occupation, and the great conservator of morals. Its indispensableness must be universally acknowledged. It is necessary to human subsistence. Gold and Silver are the mere exponents of wealth; and a man might command the mines of Golconda and heap upon his accumulations of money as high as the Andes, and yet starve in the midst of them. Agriculture is the source of many of the luxuries of life. It is favorable to morals.

If the Sentiments here advanced be warranted in truth, and they are evidently of more than doubtful correctness, how necessary that due attention be paid to that which is so highly conducive to human happiness.

In this Province we are frequently plying with an argument drawn from the disadvantageous character of the soil and climate, as a reason for that apathy to which reference has been made. But who that properly acquaints himself with the properties of our soil but will discover that the true cause of complaint, although carefully and studiously kept in the background, is referable more to an ardent thirst for engagement in other and apparently more lucrative pursuits than to the cause assigned. It has been asserted, that no section of country short of the Mississippi equals New Brunswick and the Saint John River, especially, for extensive fertile Intervals; and few countries can present superior upland to that which is found in all parts of the County of Carleton. The brief duration of Summer, affords, in the opinion of some, a substantial reason for emigration to the South; but it must be conceded even by these, that if the season of vegetation be short, its progress is proportionally rapid. Look for instance at the present year, during which the extreme of heat to which we have been accustomed has been almost unmet; the warm season of only ordinary length, and yet crops of all kinds have been abundant. Oats, Potatoes, and Buckwheat, are superior in quality, and exceedingly plentiful in quantity. The Wheat crop has been injured to some extent by the Weevil; but we have yet to learn that the ravages of this destructive insect are peculiar to this Province or to this country. It has migrated from the Southward, and it is highly probable that in a few years we shall be freed from its

attacks. It is generally believed that a small sized fly deposits an egg while the head is forming, which in due time produces a very small worm known by the appellation of "the Weevil" and of these a number have sometimes been found in one kernel. Notwithstanding the prevalence of the Weevil in this county, the Wheat crop may be safely rated at two thirds of an average. The quantity sown far exceeded that of any former year, and the uninjured grain is of an excellent quality. Various means have been suggested as remedies among them we notice the following: while the grain is heading and when it is in milk, mix Tar and Brimstone together, and set the mixture on fire; then before sunrise pass along on the windward side of the grain, and allow the smoke to settle upon it, while wet with dew. The Editor of the *New Brunswick Farmer's Manual* says he has been credibly informed that this method has proved effectual. The proposed remedy is certainly a cheap one, and well worth a trial.

In view of the bounties of Providence which are showered around us, we instead of repining at those apparently adverse circumstances under which we are sometimes called to suffer, ought to exhibit our sense of gratitude to Him who crowns the year with his goodness, and in humble reliance upon his protection, exercise a spirit of contentment with the lot assigned us.

The present anniversary closes the fourth year of our Society's existence, and your Committee cannot allow themselves to doubt that, although its operations have been met with opposition, both of a direct and indirect character, it has in some degree, at least, succeeded in effecting improvements, the full value whereof, future years can alone determine. For the last two years especially, a degree of lassitude in relation to the objects we have in view, seems to have been strikingly evinced, and although proper means have been employed to bring the claims of the Society beneath the notice of the public, these efforts have been in some instances treated with scorn, and in others with the utmost indifference. But those who are desirous of seeing the resources of the county fully developed, and endeavour to accomplish their purpose by the adoption of such means as have elsewhere proved successful, are not disposed easily to be deterred from the prosecution of their design, and they are well assured that the lapse of years will dissipate the prejudices of many who at present are unwilling to lend their aid.

To this Society the Public are indebted for those facilities, which have been, and still are afforded, of obtaining Seeds, Implements &c., of the most approved description, at such prices as place them within the reach of all. Sales of articles have been always made to Members at prices, never exceeding the actual cost and charges of importation; and in some instances which might here be named, at a saving to the consumer of from thirty three and one third to fifty per cent, and the only equivalent required is the Annual payment of *Ten Shillings*. In making purchases your Committee have ever sought to obtain such articles as appeared most useful; and have taken especial pains that their imported seed should be free from foul and noxious weeds. Some inconvenience may have been felt during the past year in consequence of this principal being firmly acted upon, but we are well aware that of two evils the greater one has been avoided.

BIOGRAPHY.
We give below from the *New England Farmer*, an extract from the report of the committee on Swine at the late meeting of Essex Agricultural Society. We presume it is from the pen of the chairman, F. Poole, Esq. If the tribe of "sus aper" don't get immortalized, it will not be for want of comic humor in the histories and descriptions of him by the wits of old Massachusetts. It is apparent now that the lamented Lincoln left his mantle behind him. Linnton has her share of swinish honours, derived from the extraordinary merits of a single individual of the race,

of whom the committee have it in their power to present a biographical sketch. We are indebted to Mr. John Alley 3d under whose patronage this individual was reared and educated, for some particulars of his life.

"Of his origin we know but little, except that he was the son of his mother, who died suddenly when he was a few months old and left him an early orphan. He became remarkable for his rapid growth and the excellence of his appetite and soon arrived at that middle age of swinehood, when his lordship appeared a living epitome of good nature and good living. He continued to expand in size until he became a Daniel Lambert of the race, and possessed "great weight" in swinish society. He was a "solid" character, and his specific "gravity" was only equalled by the "gravity" of his demeanor; indeed, there was nothing wagish about him—but his "tail." He now became a worthy member of the I. O. of Fat Fellows, and attained to their highest degree. His corpulency prevented him from travelling, and although he had never been to *ROMA* (Rome), he was familiar with the rich stores of ancient and modern *GREASE*. The state of the money market gave him no concern, and he cared little for the rise and fall of "stocks"—except "corn-stalks" which he always appeared anxious to "get down." He early acquired a disgust for party politics, by observing the greediness with which some partisans have thrust their snouts in to the public swill pail. He even thought that some aspiring individuals had much better have a sty in their eye than the White House at Washington. In his political views there seemed to be something like inconsistency. He was in favour of protection and was a ravenous advocate of home consumption. He also favored large corporations, and at the same time was a strong advocate of retrenchment, and delighted in cutting down "celleries." He never was a candidate for any public station; and it is believed that his modesty would have prevented him from accepting the offer of any office, from that of Committee on Swine down to the President of the United States.

"Notwithstanding he was ten feet long," from extremity to extremity, the event proved he was not "long" for this world, and in his last extremity no friend was found to save him from the hand of the assassin. He was rapidly increasing in size until the time of his departure, which was in November last, at the age of two years and six months. At the post mortem examination of his remains, it was found that his enormous bulk had reached the weight of more than "twelve hundred pounds!" What prodigality of fatness was there! What a mass-meeting of pork concentrated in a single individual? The county of Essex challenges the world to produce his equal. Mr. Alley informs us, with apparent sincerity that he subsisted mainly on raw Indian meal and potatoes—but the committee had supposed it more likely that he lived on green turtle soup and pound cake, with an occasional meal of boiled salmon and canvass back ducks."

Politics and Agriculture.—A very sensible article, written expressly for a class of politicians who attend agricultural meetings and societies, exhibitions, and make long and clamorous speeches, to create capital for their respective parties, deserves a place in our columns; but, for want of space, cannot give it insertion. For the sake of the welfare of our highly favoured country, we trust that the Canadian politicians, from the highest to the lowest of all parties, will lay aside their exclusive feelings, on all such occasions as require the joint co-operation of parties, who differ from each other on religious and political subjects. The slightest indication of a breach upon neutral grounds, at agricultural meetings, dinners, and exhibitions, shall receive our fullest disapprobation. We feel almost confident, that the sterling good sense of the Canadian people will be so strikingly portrayed, on all neutral manifestations of public opinion, that none will deserve reprimand from a humble Editor of an Agricultural Magazine.