

# THE GLEANER:

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OLD SERIES]

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

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## Agricultural Journal.

From the Fredericton Head Quarters.  
SPEED THE PLOUGH.

We would earnestly direct public attention to the advertisement of the Secretary of the York County Agricultural Society, which appears in this day's paper. The Society offers premiums for the best Stock, Agricultural Produce, Agricultural Implements, and specified articles of Domestic Manufacture exhibited at the Agricultural Show, to be held in the Messrs. Taylors' grounds, in the rear of Saint Paul's Church, Fredericton, on Tuesday the 10th day of October next, at which time a Ploughing Match will also be held, and prizes awarded to the best and second best Ploughmen.

The Secretary, in the concluding paragraph of this notice says, that 'the time has arrived when public attention must be directed to agriculture as the principal resource of the country,' a sentiment in which almost every rational man in the community will cordially concur. It is a great misfortune, we had almost said, a heavy curse, upon the country, that the money, the labor, the intelligence, and the energy of the great bulk of the people of this Province should have been so long and so perseveringly diverted from the cultivation of the soil, to be expended in pursuits which, with the exception of tolerably good roads, have been productive of no permanent benefit to individuals or to the public.

There are numbers of intelligent and enterprising men in this country who do not hesitate an instant to embark thousands upon thousands of pounds in the perilous speculations connected with timber and lumber, who would have strong misgivings in advancing so many pence to be expended in Agricultural pursuits, yielding a slow but sure profit. Every year we have examples of men reputed cautious and considerate, who would not, under ordinary circumstances, peril a single shilling on a doubtful speculation, but who, in the lumber trade will hazard the earnings of a long and active life, and deeply involve themselves in debt besides to place the whole at the bazaar of a fluctuating and always uncertain market, and we regret to add that almost every year some such men are effectually ruined. This gambling propensity is not confined to the principals, but unfortunately extends through all the ramifications of those connected with such operations, and induces among the hardest and most valuable portion of the population, habits of recklessness and extravagance, which unfit them for the quiet pursuits of rural life. Let any one reflect for a moment what this country might have been had the same amount of money, of skill, and of persevering labour been bestowed on the cultivation of the soil which has been absorbed in the employments connected with lumber, and ask himself if we should, at the present moment, be within a few pounds of a system of barter with an exhausted treasury, a ruined trade, and a population depending on foreigners for the bread which they eat. Of a truth the time has arrived when public attention must be directed to Agriculture—when we must contrive to raise our own bread, or cease to eat it within the Province, for the produce of the forest will no longer afford the means of paying foreigners for farming for us. There is a respectability, we should rather say, a dignity, attached to agricultural pursuits in almost every civilized community which we are sorry to say seems to be but sparingly accorded to the Farmers in New Brunswick. To belong to one of the learned professions, to be a ship owner, a merchant, or a master lumbarman, is to be *somebody*, but to be *only* a Farmer seems to be held of but little account. This is a vicious state of public feeling, and one which the sooner the people of this or of any other country rid themselves the better for all concerned in the welfare of its society. To teach the youth of this Province that the cultivation of its soil is the most honorable as well as the most independent pursuit in which they can be engaged, is only to

teach them a lesson which is inculcated on the inhabitants of the mother country from the prince to the peasant.

This fact was well illustrated at the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, held at York on the 14th ult. where Prince Albert and many of the principal nobility of the realm were present: nor were the attendance confined to natives of the soil, for we notice that Mr Brancroft, the American Minister was also there, and delivered a speech which does honor to his head, to his heart, and to the country that he represents.

At that exhibition the Prince and the Peer met the practical Farmer to compete for the premium on stock and produce: and when the business which had called them together was concluded, upwards of 1,200 persons sat down to dinner under an immense pavillion, prepared for the occasion, the company comprising all classes connected with the landed interest of the country, by occupation or otherwise. Of course Agricultural exhibitions in this country are as yet, and must be for many years, exceedingly small affairs, when compared with those of England, but that is no reason why they should not be encouraged, supported and countenanced by all classes. The principle in both countries is precisely the same, and we must recollect that as the largest oak in the forest was once an acorn, so the magnificent agricultural combinations of England were at one time as insignificant as those of New Brunswick at the present day. There is, however, this difference between Agricultural Associations in their infancy in England and in this country. In the former they had the light of reason alone to guide and encourage them to persevere; in the latter we have superadded the splendid example of their unparalleled success, and the warrant of a great nation's experience to demonstrate their usefulness. We are well aware that it is up hill-work to attempt in this country to create any further interest in agricultural affairs than is absolutely forced on the people from the sheer necessity of adopting that pursuit, as the means of existence, and on that account the efforts of this and similar societies are the more entitled to the gratitude of the public. It is by far too common for the youth of this country to prefer being perched in a shanty dignified with the name of 'store,' where there is barely room enough to swing a cat by the tail, and scarcely goods enough to furnish a decent pack for a stout pedlar, rather than turn their attention, and bestow their time and labor on the cultivation of a farm. This is accounted for by the false estimation which has by some means or other, crept into society, of the relative respectability of these employments. It is not an unfrequent occurrence, that some of those shanty-bred boys will give themselves airs of superiority over an honest farmer, for which they deserve to have every bone in their sickly bodies broken on the wheel; but so long as society tolerates such arrogance, and refuses to support the farmer, and honor his honest toil, so long will such jackanapes be found presuming to tell him

—Beside his plough—  
When he shall speak, and where, and how.

But if we are not much mistaken, a change for the better is at hand. Necessity—that universal teacher—is now at our doors to aid Agricultural Societies and encourage Farmers. Those deaf to the voice of reason, and dead to the force of example and experience in other countries, will be obliged to listen to the teachers which she brings in her train, and it will not be many years before the people of New Brunswick will discover that they have been blest with one of the finest Agricultural districts in the world. The cry of long winters will for a time continue to ring in the ears of the timid, and there will still be some who will deny the possibility of raising wheat in this country; but a few examples of successful enterprise in cultivating that grain, will dissipate the delusion, and good husbandry and a fruitful soil, will amply

compensate for any disadvantages of climate.

We have already said more on this subject than our limits can well afford, and must therefore conclude as we began, by earnestly recommending the efforts of the Agricultural Society to public notice and support, heartily wishing that Providence may 'Speed the Plough.'

## European News.

THE CHOLERA.

From a late number of the Military Medical Gazette of Russia, it appears that since the appearance of the epidemic, there were seized at St. Petersburg from the 30th June to the 21st July, 19,772 persons, of whom 4834 recovered, and 11,068 died. In the whole of Russia since the first appearance of the cholera the 28th October, 1846 to the 5th of July 1848, 290,318 persons were seized with the epidemic, and 116,658 died. On the 28th July there were at St. Petersburg 2396 cholera cases: in the course of the day 137 fresh cases occurred: 211 recovered and 82 died. On the 29th there were 2,240 sick, 132 new cases; 188 recovered and 68 died. On the 30th there remained 2116 cases under treatment. We learn that at Berlin four cases of cholera have appeared. At Munich the ministry are taking active preparatory measures in the event of the appearance of the cholera in Bavaria. At Konigsberg two cases have occurred; in consequence of which a committee of health was sitting in that city to take measures against the spread of the epidemic.

Letters from Malta of a late date state that the rapid approach of Asiatic Cholera to our island has once more compelled the authorities of the health office to pay attention to the safety of the island. For this purpose new regulations as to the duration of quarantine on vessels from Egypt, Syria, Constantinople, the Dardanelles, Smyrna, and all other Ottoman ports or islands, have emanated, and were published.

The number of deaths in London during the week ending August 5 was 1038, the average 972. Of this excess 21 deaths are ascribed to cholera, and 97 to scarlatina—the average deaths from the latter being 37. The most noticeable fact, however, in this last return of the registrar general is the great increase of mortality from diarrhoea and dysentery. During the last three weeks in May the deaths from these diseases were only 12, 15 and 16, respectively; during June they had increased to 37; and now for the week ending August 5, we find they have risen to the serious number of 154, which is more than double the average of the season. It should be remembered that diarrhoea was the forerunner of cholera when that scourge made its last visit to London: and no time should be lost in making sanitary preparations for the impending visitation.

IRISH AMELIORATION SOCIETY.

A few days ago a public meeting to form a society under the above title, was held at the Hanover square Rooms, London. Lord de Mauley presided, and in opening the proceedings expressed the pleasure which he felt in coming forward to submit to the assembly a project for the establishment of a society for ameliorating the condition of the Irish people, and his regret that the pressure of public business prevented the attendance of many Irish members of Parliament.

The following resolutions were proposed and adopted, after which the meeting separated:

That this meeting is of opinion that the discontent in Ireland is greatly attributable to the miserable condition of its people, and that the most effectual mode of removing it is by providing them extensively with the means of remunerative labour.

That remunerative labour may be found for the Irish peasantry by employing them for cutting the peat for its conversion into charcoal, for agricultural, domestic, sanitary, and manufacturing purposes: while the removal of the peat

will render the land fit for immediate cultivation.

That the principle on which the Irish Amelioration Society is founded will afford practicable means for the continuous employment of the Irish peasantry; and that this meeting pledges itself to give it every assistance, whether by subscription to the amelioration aid fund, by taking shares, or inducing others to do so.

Died—on the 9th instant, at Langham, Norfolk, after a long and painful illness, Captain Marryat, R. N., C. B., author of Peter Simple, and many other naval stories.

At the Wesleyan Conference, Dr. Bunting announced his retirement from the ministry, and requested to be placed on the list of supernumeraries.

On the 11th instant the Railway was opened from Bangor to Holyhead, which latter place will be the future station of the Dublin mail boats.

Mr Crosse, the galvanist, is said to have succeeded in rendering sea water as pure and drinkable as that from the best spring.

Mr F. Baring, a Protectionist, was elected without opposition, on the 3rd instant, as member for Thetford, in the room of his brother, the Hon. F. B. Baring, now Lord Ashburton.

THE CROPS.—The writer has this week been over a considerable surface of country, and it is with regret that we admit it now appears we have treated too lightly, the ravages of the disease in potatoes. We do not yet consider it of that serious nature that some represent: the disease appears in a milder form, penetrates more slowly, attacks more partially, than in the years 1845 and 1846. When there are diseased specks they do not appear to spread to other tubers of the same root: and those diseased are not bad for immediate use. Still the disease is more widely spread than we supposed; it affects more particularly cottage gardens, and other small plots, where there is not a free circulation of air. It has not yet appeared extensively in field-grown potatoes, except in some localities. It is bad in parts of Somersetshire, and we are told also in the Fyle country lying north of Preston. From the character of the disease it may be hoped the farmers' anticipation may be realized, viz., that the crops that come latest to maturity will generally escape its ravages, unless the weather should prove favourable to its propagation and extension.

The wheat crop has advanced greatly in filling and ripening the ear, so much so as to give fair promise of an average yield by the acre in many, perhaps in most of our counties, especially those of the centre and north of England. But we have this week passed through some counties where the produce will be defective. Below Monmouth the wheat crop may prove tolerably satisfactory; but from Monmouth to Ross, thence to Hereford and Kingston—in the two first sections of which route a large breadth of wheat was sown, and a considerable quantity in the last—we should not estimate the produce of wheat from the present crops higher than 18 bushels to the acre on an average. The majority of the crops are deplorable. The barley throughout this district promises a full fair yield, but it will be gathered late, nearly all being perfectly green, nearly untinted by the slightest hue of ripeness. The breadth is considerable. On the other line, from Hereford through Ledbury to Gloucester the wheat crops are much better, and may on the whole approach to an average in their yield.

FRANCE.—Accounts from Lyons speak of disturbances having broken out in that city, the troops showing a disposition to fraternize with the people.

Five hundred of the insurgents of June, sentenced to transportation, were transferred on the 5th instant by railroad to Havre. Having been embarked in the Ulloa steam frigate, they were to have sailed on the following morning for Brest, where they were to remain confined on board a hulk until the executive power should have fixed their destination.