

THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE
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OLD SERIES]

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

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Agricultural Journal.

HARVEST HYMN.

BY MRS SIGOURNEY.

God of the year! with songs of praise,
And hearts of love, we come to bless
Thy bounteous hand, for Thou hast shed
Thy manna o'er our wilderness;—
In early spring-time Thou didst fling
O'er earth its robes of blossoming,—
And its sweet treasures day by day,
Rose quick'ning in Thy blessed ray.

And now the whiten hill and vale,
And hang from every vine and tree,
Whose pensile branches bending low,
Seemed bowed in thankfulness to
Thee,—

The answer with all its purple isles,
Is answering to Thy sunny smiles,
And gales of perfume breathe along,
And lift to thee their voiceless song.

God of the seasons! Thou hast blest
The land with sunlight and with show-
ers,

And plenty o'er its bosom smiles,
To crown the sweet autumnal hours:
Praise, praise to Thee; Our hearts ex-
pand

To view the blessings of Thy hand,
And on the incense breath of love,
Go off to their bright home above.

Fredericton Head Quarters, Oct. 3.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

We have very great pleasure in recording the marked improvement in public feeling which has taken place within the last few years, with respect to the benefits of Agricultural Societies, and the growing respect which manifests itself for the person and employment of the Agriculturist. We have been taught by bitter experience the disasters which follow a failure of the potato crop, even in this thinly peopled country, and if the privation and suffering of the last three years shall have imbued the minds of the population, generally, with a thorough appreciation of the true dignity and vital importance of the pursuits of the farmer, the severe lessons of the past years will not have been too dearly purchased.— This season a wise and merciful Providence has crowned the labours of the husbandman with an abundant harvest, and everywhere throughout the Province samples of agricultural produce, and shews of stock, are taking place, which should impress on the minds of all reasonable men the value of New Brunswick as an agricultural country, and teach them to be thankful for the many blessings which we enjoy in this highly favored Province.

The Executive Government have set apart Thursday the 11th instant, as a day of Thanksgiving for an abundant harvest and we are satisfied that all ranks and denominations of christians in the country will cheerfully and thankfully comply with the requirements of the Proclamation. A variety of circumstances have heretofore tended to withdraw the attention of a large portion of the population of the Province from the cultivation of its soil, and divert the industry of the country into other and much more unprofitable channels; but a change of opinion and of pursuits has now been forced upon us, and the industrial energies of the country are more generally directed to farming pursuits. All that now seems wanting to insure the onward march of agricultural improvement in this country is the continuance and steady efforts of agricultural societies to obtain and diffuse scientific and practical information throughout their respective districts. This done, confidence in the capabilities of this country, for farming purposes, will be gradually but certainly restored, and the crude notions of the vast superiority of other regions, as a field for the operations of the agriculturist, will give place to just pride in the fertility of our own.

Occasionally we meet with an article which does justice to New Brunswick, as a farming country, and the last Saint

John "Courier" contains a letter from the Far West, received by a gentleman in that city, from his brother, who has resided for the last nine years in Illinois which we subjoin:—

TRIVOLI, PEONA COUNTY,
ILLINOIS, 28th Aug. 1849.

"In regard to moving to New Brunswick, I see no disadvantage likely to arise from such a step, for in mere farming, a nice years' experience has satisfied me, that even with unremitting labor, nothing beyond a living and a home can be expected. The crops, particularly of wheat, are here very uncertain, the winter killing it out, two years out of three, and the excessive heats and droughts of summer, being frequently equally fatal to the spring wheat. Last year I burnt off seven and a half acres of wheat, unfit to cut, besides three and a half acres that scarcely paid for harvesting. This year I have had twelve acres of winter wheat killed, and ten acres of spring wheat has only yielded ten bushels to the acre, so that what I principally depended on last year and this for raising a little money, has failed me. My corn crop this year, about twenty five acres, looks well, and if early frost does not set in and kill it, I shall have over 1000 bushels. The wheat crop throughout middle and southern Illinois this year, is a great failure, and certainly will not yield half an average. I certainly think favorably of moving to New Brunswick, and I shall give you my reasons: In mere farming I see no reason why one should not do as well there as here, for if Illinois has certain advantages, such as the ease with which wild land can be brought into cultivation, and the ease, comparatively, with which the land can be cultivated, yet it is very expensive fencing, building, &c. and the crops, excepting corn, from the variable-ness of the climate, are very uncertain; the climate too is very trying to the constitution, and I think there is a difference in favor of England (and I doubt not of New Brunswick) of at least 15 years in the duration of life, besides a greater degree of health in both the latter climates. Another advantage I should anticipate in New Brunswick, would be a kind of society nearer to what I have been accustomed to, for I dislike the people here as well as their habits, and, generally, their institutions. Again I should prefer New Brunswick as being nearer home, nearer the sea, affording better and cash markets, a better price for farm produce, and better price for what you require to purchase, with the advantage of being able, occasionally at least, to profit by my former knowledge of business, which at present is as utterly useless to me, as if I had been brought up a Socker on the prairies all my life; for business here, if it deserves the name, is a mere peddling, where the greatest and most successful cheat makes most and stands highest."

WOODSTOCK 29th Sept., 1849.

DEAR SIR,—Thinking that your readers would be interested in hearing how we are getting along in this section of the Province, I hand you the following items which, if deemed worthy of a place in your columns, are placed at your disposal.

This, so far, has been rather a busy week among the good folks of this community. Monday last was the day appointed for the Cattle Show, as well for the exhibition of Agricultural Stock and Domestic Manufactures of every description. From the interest that appeared to be manifested some time previous to the exhibition, it was anticipated that the display would exceed anything of the kind in this county, and the result has certainly exceeded the most sanguine expectations. Horses of a superior description were on the ground; the Bull, the working and fat Ox, the beef and milch Cow, the yearling Steer, the Heifer, and the Calf were exhibited by our farmers in greater numbers than on any former occasion, and under such evidently improved circumstances, as regards sire, condition, and general appearance, as could not fail to attract the attention of any person who had taken the least interest in our yearly exhibitions. The exhibition of

Sheep, as is usual in this county, was of a satisfactory description. There were but few Hogs shown, but those few were superior to anything of the kind ever offered before. One, only eighteen months old, was estimated to weigh six hundred as it stood; there were two others, about four months old, and were supposed each to weigh about two hundred weight.— The general appearance of those hogs did not bode that any particular pains had been taken with their feed; and I have no doubt that should our farmers devote more attention to this department of their stock, they would soon supersede the necessity of any importation of Canadian or American pork, to which we have been obliged to resort for lumbering and other purposes during many years. Domestic manufactures of almost every variety were offered in ample abundance. Home-spuns, twilled and plain, Flannels, Socks, Mittens, and every species of agricultural implements, necessary for the culture of the soil, were freely exhibited, manufactured in such style as must have satisfied the most sceptical, that were the people of this country protected for a few years in their domestic manufactures, now that they have turned their attention more exclusively to agricultural pursuits, they would soon be perfectly independent of their neighbors, and, I have no doubt, could successfully compete with the most favored countries in the manufacture of such articles as must necessarily conduce to the comfort and convenience of agricultural populations. Specimens of produce such as have been rarely seen, not for years at least in this county, were exposed to view. The superior quality of grains, seeds, and vegetables of all kinds, not forgetting the Potato, the poor man's friend, reminded one of by-gone days, and could hardly fail to stir up emotions of gratitude to the "Lord of the Harvest," who had so bountifully blessed the labors of the husbandman, and caused the earth to yield its fruits so abundantly. I must not forget to mention that the products of the Dairies were also subjected to inspection, and received their due share of commendation. Fastidious indeed must have been the taste that could not appreciate the labors of our farmers' wives in their excellent specimen of Butter and Cheese.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held on the afternoon of the same day, in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, when a goodly number of our farmers were present, and manifested a more than usual interest in the proceedings. A short but concise report was read by the Secretary, Mr James Robertson. My space will not allow me to give scarcely an outline of it. A contrast was drawn between the present and the past year, after which it was stated that, from observation, and all the information that could be obtained on the subject, there was no doubt that Carleton had raised this season breadstuffs, of various kinds, sufficient for two years consumption. Attention was directed to the interest which had been taken in the subject of agriculture by the New Brunswick and Imperial Legislatures. The former had made liberal grants to promote its further development, and the latter, with a parental care, had sent out a professional gentleman to make a personal examination of our soil and its probable capabilities. The Secretary rather facetiously remarked, that he would not exactly liken Professor Johnson to a spy, such as the children of Israel sent out in olden times to view the land of promise, but he hoped, nay, he doubted not, that that gentleman would make a "goodly report of the land." True he could not say that it was a land flowing with milk and honey, but he had no doubt he would tell the people of England that New Brunswick possessed immense resources, and that she had a soil capable, if properly cultivated, of supporting a large and hardy population. The Society then proceeded to the election of their officers, when Colonel John Dibble was declared President, Henry E. Dibble, Esq., Secretary, and James Frower, Esq., Treasurer. Ten Vice Presidents were elected from the ten Vice Presidents of the county, in agreement with the Act of Incorporation.

The farmers of this county have long entertained some unaccountable prejudice against the "Carleton Agricultural Society." Some preconceived but fallacious idea, has been afloat for several years that the affairs of this society were managed by a set of officers solely and exclusively for their own individual and pecuniary gain; and entertaining such erroneous views, it may readily be conceived that our farmers, although the parties more immediately interested, would look with no very favorable eye upon the efforts of a body of men against whom they conceived the voice of suspicion had been raised. Had they taken the least trouble, however, had they taken the least pains to inform themselves, they could easily have ascertained that all the official duties of the Society, with the exception of those of the Secretary, have been performed gratuitously, and that by a body of men who were not only interested in the welfare of their own county, but were devoted to the development of its agricultural resources, the only sure basis of the prosperity of any country.— It is gratifying, however, to find that these prejudices are nearly broken down, and that our farmers begin to take a right view of their own interests. Thanks to the perseverance of the officers, and the few members that belonged to the society, that such is the case. The proceedings of last Monday, which were of a highly gratifying character, abundantly prove the correctness of my position.— The quantity and quality of the stock exhibited, double that of any former year; the amount and superior description of all kinds of produce, sufficiently indicate that our people have turned with earnestness to the cultivation of the soil, and that they are determined to unite in friendly competition, the most effectual method of carrying out the object of the society. I am inclined to think, and in this opinion I am borne out by several strangers who were present at the exhibition, that Carleton, recently as it has been settled, can compete, and that most successfully, in her agricultural stock and produce, with any county in the Province.

An agricultural Society has been recently formed in the Parish of Simonds; its first Cattle Show and exhibition will take place the 15th of October.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

From the Charlottetown Islander.

The Cattle Show came off pursuant to advertisement, and under the direction of the Agricultural Society, on Wednesday last, the 26th September, on the Market Square in Charlottetown. An unusual number of Colts and Fillies, of a decidedly superior stamp to any exhibited for some years past, were presented for competition. The improvement in this description of Stock, may be attributed, in a great measure, to the services of the Blood Horse *Saladin*, imported in the year 1845, and the Clydesdale Horse *Columbus*, imported in the year 1839, by the Society by means of Legislative Grants.

For the premiums offered for Horses and Mares of any age, several very fine animals were exhibited— particularly Mares.

The Bulls and Heifers, though few in number, were good. In the class "of any age," the Bull (an imported one) belonging to His Honor Judge Peters, is a very fine animal of the Ayrshire Breed. The Cows were all very fine animals, and elicited very warm approbation from the Judges—most of them including the one to which the prize was awarded, were of the Durham Breed. One Galloway Cow, imported by Judge Peters, and a fine Cow imported from Cumberland, Nova Scotia, by Mr William Hyde, Elliot River, were exhibited. For "Durhams," the Island is chiefly indebted to the importation made by the late John Grubb, Esq., and to the great skill and care taken in the rearing of Stock by his Farmer, Mr John Thorne. A very fine 17 months old Bull, a cross between the Durham and Ayrshire, owned and bred by the Hon. C. Heasley was on the ground.