

THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND WESTGLOUCESTER
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SERIES]

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

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES

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Miramichi, Monday Evening, November 4, 1850.

No. 2.

PROSPECTUS.

He who, speculation on the British Constitution, should omit from his enumeration the mighty power of Public Opinion, embodied in a Free Press, which pervades and checks, and perhaps, in the last resort, nearly governs the whole, would give but an imperfect view of the Government of England."

Conceiving that the free exercise of the Press is the foundation stone of the Constitution under which we live, and one of the many and invaluable blessings emanating from that source of all our grandeur and glory, Magna Charta, we shall endeavor to show how highly we value the one by preserving the other, in our regard, free and unfeigned. Conceiving it to be the grand channel of communication—the main conduit through which all useful information flows—and the arena for the discussion of all matters of a public nature—our columns shall be open to all and influenced by none; and we shall hold ourselves indebted to such persons as shall favor us with their correspondence, to which we shall gladly give publicity, so long as they exercise their talents with propriety, and upon such subjects as will be conducive to the benefit of Miramichi, or the edification of our readers.

Our most strenuous exertions shall be used to render it the guardian of private rights, the redresser of grievances, the protector of the oppressed, and the terror of the oppressor, and therefore shall publish all communications intended to bunt down public vices by public exposure, to canvass public opinion by fair discussion, and to review public measures by just and honorable criticism; thus rendering our publication, as far as we are able, "a terror to evil doers, and a praise to those who do well."

Newspapers are the great engines that move the moral and political world, and are infinitely powerful to establish the character of a people, as well as to preserve their liberties. They are the great bulwarks that protect the natural rights of man, and while the great body of the people read, reason and reflect, the enjoyment of those rights will be unassailable, and while the Press is liberally supported, "the voice of the people will be as the voice of God."

We do not presume to compete with other publications, for circumstances render us inadequate to the task; nor are we so vain as to imagine that the benefits we have enumerated will result from our Journal, but we shall spare no pains to render it as useful as possible, and for this reason we request the favor of all those whose talents and local knowledge qualify them to co-operate with us—but we wish it to be distinctly understood, that our insertion of communications is not to be construed into our approbation of the opinion, or our concurrence with the sentiments of our correspondents; so long as our contributors write in an admissible style we will feel bound to insert their favors; we will not curb the natural powers of the Press to gratify our own private feeling; no, that shall be subject to the opinion of the public.

The above extracts are taken from our Prospectus on issuing the first number of the Gleaner twenty-one years ago, and we do not think we shall be accused of egotism when we say, that we have endeavored faithfully to discharge the compact we then entered into with our readers. If we have made any deviation therefrom, it was more from a desire to serve the interests of the public than to gratify any feeling or desire of our own.

In the above it will be seen, that in inserting communications, we distinctly wished it to be understood, that we did not by so doing, adopt or coincide with their sentiments—but how often have we been called upon to bear their transgressions, and mixed up with their lucubrations, when we had no interest in the matter, and were only performing an act of duty. These literary conflicts we admit are too frequently indulged in, and often too acrimonious and personal; but they are mainly owing to the unnatural state of our society. When politics, as they are termed (or petty local feuds, as they should be more correctly termed) ran high, how frequently have we found ourselves in the same predicament as the sons of Ishmael are, that the hands and voices of both contending parties were raised against us, and for a while were placed out of the pale of their society. These things we have withstood, if not with stoical indifference, at least with some degree of philoso-

phy, knowing from experience, that when the cause of excitement passed away, they would come to their senses, and a majority of them at least, would then judge us aright.

We remember once, while one of those fierce conflicts were waging, a correspondent in handing in a communication which contained some severe strictures on us, said, that he would erase them if we wished: we replied—that he could please himself, to us it was a matter of indifference. He then said "he presumed we were like the Eels; we had got so often skinned that we were accustomed to it, and thought nothing of the process." Now, however much we felt disposed to be skinned occasionally, with composure, we cannot afford to be fleeced as we have lately been, and now find it necessary to turn over a new leaf. As this is the first number of a new volume, and not wishing to take our subscribers and correspondents by surprise, but to deal fairly and honorably with them, we state below the course we intend to pursue in conducting our Journal.

The Law says we are solely responsible for all matters appearing in our paper, and a verdict of a Jury comprised of freeholders of the county, has declared that they hold us to the very letter of the law. We of course consider this the opinion of the people; it therefore behooves us to take care of ourselves—and as the Press is not considered public property, and authors not responsible for their writings, we must in future keep a more vigilant surveillance over our paper.

In future all communications treating on public abuses, or arraigning public men for derelictions of duty, or unseemly conduct, before the bar of public opinion through our Press, must be accompanied with the names of the authors, and a guarantee to shield us from any pecuniary loss we may suffer by their insertion: but should these terms be complied with, we shall not feel ourselves bound to publish their articles. We know that many persons will consider these terms very stringent, as they will prevent the free discussion of public measures, and shield men in office from correction. We admit the truth of these remarks—they have already had that effect. But who caused us to adopt them—the PEOPLE. They cannot expect us to allow them to make use of our periodical for their advantage, and when they bring us into difficulty, leave us to the tender mercies of the Law. "A burnt child dreads the fire," is a trite and homely phrase, and as we have been scorched considerably, we intend in future to avoid the danger.

Literary compositions, or articles recording events of the day, will be thankfully received as formerly.

We tender thanks for the patronage hitherto extended to us, and shall in our future career, with the restrictions named above, which circumstances have forced upon us, endeavor to render our publication as useful as possible.

Agricultural Journal.

From the Halifax Nova Scotian.

AGRICULTURAL FAIR AT TRURO.

An Agricultural Fair and Cattle Show under the patronage of the Central Board, came off at Truro on Tuesday the 8th inst. The locality selected for the exhibition of cattle, vegetable productions and domestic manufactures, was a field of Mr Dodson's near the Common. The Yeomanry of the district and adjacent settlements made a respectable muster, and there was a goodly sprinkling of strangers from the Capital, including members of the Central Board a couple of members of Government, and the usual accompaniments of the Supreme Court which was in session. We observed a few ladies on the ground, but we regret that the fair sex generally did not lend their countenance to the exhibition. We believe the attendance of the

better portion of society would have been much larger if the day had been finer, and if the Committee of Management had judiciously separated the live stock from the articles of domestic manufacture. The official examination of the various animals and articles on view, commenced at 12 o'clock, and the following list of prizes was reported to the Board during the day.

Premiums have been awarded to the following persons.

Mares and Colts—1st prize Ebenezer Munroe, 2nd do. F. R. Parker.

Yearling Colts—1st prize, David Wilson, 2nd do. Isaac Christie.

Two Year Colts—1st prize, David Carlisle, 2nd do. John Ross.

Three Year Colts—1st prize, Ebenr. Fulton, 2nd do. D. McCurdy.

Rams—1st prize, Simon H. Blair, 2nd do. Isaac McCurdy.

Ewes—1st prize, D. McCurdy, 2nd do. D. C. Smith.

Ewe Lambs—1st prize, Isaac McCurdy, 2nd do. Isaac Christie.

Breeding Sow—1st prize, D. McCurdy, 2nd do. Geo. Cook.

Fat Hog—1st prize, I. C. Burnyeat, 2nd do. Isaac McCurdy.

Boars—1st prize, John Barnhill, 2nd do. John Ross.

Plough—1st prize, Richd. Craig, 2nd do. Sydney Crowe.

Farm Roller—1st prize, Sydney Crowe, 2nd do. A. Christie.

Hayfork—1st prize, Richd. Craig.

1st prize, Cultivator, Sydney Crowe.

1st prize Harrow, Sydney Crowe, Cloth, all wool not decided.

1st prize, not felled, A. Christie, 2nd do. J. Henderson.

1st prize, Woman's Weir, A. Kent, 2nd do. J. Henderson.

1st prize, all Wool Flannel, J. McCurdy, 2nd do. A. Kent.

1st prize, Bro. Top Hats, Mrs Begg, 2nd do. A. Kent.

1st prize, Bro. Top Bonnets, Mrs Begg, 2nd do. H. Hemming.

1st prize, Woollen Hearth Rugs, E. S. Blanchard, 2nd do. J. Henderson.

1st prize, Roy Rug, E. S. Blanchard, 2nd do. J. F. Blanchard.

1st prize, Carpet, D. McCurdy, Miss E. McCurdy.

1st prize, Woollen Socks, D. McCurdy, 2nd do. J. D. Blair.

1st prize, Blankets, J. D. Blair, 2nd do. A. Kempt.

1st prize, Wheat, 65 lbs., E. S. Blanchard, 2nd do. 64 lbs. J. Dickson, Junr.

1st prize, Barley, 54 lbs., E. S. Blanchard, 2nd do. 43 lbs., J. McCurdy.

1st prize, Oats, 48 lbs., E. S. Blanchard, 2nd do. 43 lbs., J. Bishop.

1st prize, Beans, 65, W. Copeland.

1st prize, Hay Seed, E. S. Blanchard, 2nd do. D. McCurdy.

1st prize, Apples, E. S. Blanchard, 2nd do. H. Bishop.

Mangold Wurzel—1st prize, A. G. Archibald.

1st prize, Turnips, J. McCurdy.

1st prize, Carrots, G. Reading.

1st prize, Cheese, S. H. Blair, 2nd do. J. Dickson, Junr.

Stock—1st prize, Fat Oxen, A. Christie, 2nd do. Ebenr. Fulton.

1st prize, Working Oxen, S. H. Blair, 2nd do. E. Fulton.

1st prize, Three Year Steers, E. Fulton, 2nd do. J. Christie.

1st prize, Milch Cow, C. R. Person, 2nd do. D. C. Smith, 3rd do. S. Craig.

1st prize, 2 Year Steers, Abner McNutt, 2nd do. J. Barnhill.

1st prize, 2 Year Heifers, R. Hamilton, 2nd do. W. Copeland.

1st prize, 1 Year Heifer, J. D. Blair, 2nd do. J. D. Blair.

1st prize, Bull, E. Fulton, 2nd do. Danl. Eaton.

1st prize, Heifer Calves, E. S. Blanchard, 2nd do. J. McCurdy.

1st prize, Bull Calf, D. C. Smith.

1st prize, Yearling Bull, M. McCurdy, 2nd do. J. Dickson.

The show of live stock was large, but we are constrained to remark that, although the swine were tolerable, the sheep were inferior, and the cattle and horses, by no means creditable to the country. For little attention has hitherto been given by the farmers of Colchester, and other Eastern Counties to the improvement of live stock, and in this branch of rural economy, they are far, very far behind the Agriculturists of Hants or Kings. The domestic Animals might be immensely improved by the importation of superior animals, and a judicious system of breeding. For our own part, we would like to see a few enterprising Farmers set themselves resolutely to work in this department of rural economy. And we do not hesitate to say, that besides being public benefactors—causing two pounds of beef, mutton, pork &c., to grow where only one grew before, they would largely benefit themselves.

The samples of grain were respectable, and the carrots mangold wurzel, and ruta baga very superior. But by far the best articles exhibited, were the handiwork of the ladies. Colchester stands as deservedly higher in the production of the loom, and in the manufacture of Hearth Rugs, Straw Bonnets, Hats, &c., as she is as far behind other Counties in the growth of stock. Some of the rugs were really handsome both as regards pattern, material and finish, and would have graced any Drawing Room. As for the Hats and Bonnets (made from the common brown top grass of the country) they were truly beautiful specimens of domestic manufacture, and equal in every respect to the best English and foreign production.

The business of the day over, an Agricultural Dinner came off in the evening, at which about 50 gentlemen, including a number of guests sat down. The Dinner was excellent, and the speeches delivered by the President of the Central Board, Hon. Provincial Secretary, Hon. G. R. Young, Judge Haliburton, James Irons, Esq., and others, appropriate to the occasion.

TO MAKE HENS LAY PERPETUALLY.

Hens will lay eggs perpetually if treated in the following manner:—Keep no roosters (cocks): give the hens fresh meat, chopped up like sausage meat, once a day, a very small portion, say half an ounce a day to each hen, during the winter, or from the time insects disappear in the fall, till they appear again in the spring. Never allow any eggs to remain in the nest for what are called nest eggs. When the roosters do not run with the hens, and no nest eggs are left in the nest, the hens will not cease laying after the production of twelve or fifteen eggs, as they always do when roosters and nest eggs are allowed; but continue laying perpetually. My hens lay all the winter, each from seventy-five to one hundred eggs in succession. If the above plan were generally followed, eggs would be just as plenty in winter as in summer. The only reason why hens do not lay in winter as freely as in summer is the want of animal food, which they get in summer in abundance, in the form of insects. I have for several winters reduced my theory to practice, and proved its entire correctness.—*American Paper.*

A Pennsylvania farmer states, in a late American journal, that the water in which potatoes have been boiled, sprinkled over grain or garden plants, completely destroys all insects in every stage of existence, from the egg to the full-grown fly.