

# 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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## REPORT Of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, For 1849-50.

[Concluded.]

**Wheat**, although of late years a somewhat precarious crop, owing to casualties to which all other places are subject, was last year a most abundant one; and proved of more real value to this County, than the discovery of much gold could have been,—for *Flour is food*, while *Gold* is but the representative of other property; a commodity used for convenience, and which has had many substitutes in by-gone days.

**Oats** is a sure and most productive crop. The meal manufactured from it is found to be equal in quality to any that is imported; and in flavor and freshness decidedly superior.

It may be well to remark that *Oat Meal* is now universally acknowledged to be favorable to muscular strength, health and longevity; and is extensively used, not only in Scotland, as is foolishly supposed by many, but in England, Ireland, France and America.

**Barley** is found to answer our soil well. It is a crop that seldom fails, and is probably as productive as any crop that is sown by the Farmer. There are several circumstances that should induce our Farmers to attend more to the growth of this grain than they have hitherto done. 1st—It arrives at maturity in a shorter space of time than either Wheat or Oats. 2nd—As an article of food it is wholesome, used either alone or mixed with flour; and, 3rd—Pot or Pearl Barley cost this county annually a very large sum of money, which might be saved, were a greater quantity of Barley produced in it, and hulled for family use.

The disease by which the *Potatoe Crops* were so fearfully devastated of late years, has at length—thanks to an all-merciful Providence—almost wholly disappeared. A few cases, indeed, of its supposed reappearance in this and the adjoining Counties, were eagerly seized upon last fall, to occasion alarm. But they appear to have been of a very doubtful character.

It is truly gratifying to discover that in the face of bad crops, and all those evils with which we are said to have been contending, our agricultural operations have continued to advance. That we have been all along bettering our condition, if not rapidly, at least steadily, by increasing our productions, and thereby lessening our importations, will appear from the fact that there were imported by us in

	1838	1844	1849
Flour,	20,090 bbls.,	—	10,714 bbls.
Wheat,	6,030 bus.,	4,426 bus.,	911 bus.,
Barley,	5,694 “	891 “	129 “
Oats,	44,504 “	47,589 “	23,283 “
Oat Meal,	—	2,525 bbls.,	1,259 bbls.,
Beef & Pork,	—	2,287 “	693 “
Potatoes,	3,090 bbls.,	5,000 “	1,011 “
Biscuit,	3,504 cwt.,	1,536 “	959 cwt.,

In nothing, however, would the change for the better appear more evident, than in articles of the Dairy. The Board, however, have it not in their power to show this in figures.

Whatever be the nature or reality of the grievances so loudly complained of by the disaffected among us, or whatever be the sources to which these may be traced, one thing is plain. It is this—Without greater energy and enterprise on the part of many of our merchants, and minded men, and greater economy and industry on the part of all, we never need hope to prosper as a people; nor should we presume to place our condition in juxta position with countries that are distinguished by these characteristics. That there are many grievances that need to be redressed, is no doubt true; but the greatest grievance of all, is unquestionably this—*our own indolence and extravagance.*

Let us only contrast for a moment the habits of the people of this county, or if you will, of the whole Province, with the habits of the people of the United States, and the wonder that we are poor, and poverty-stricken, while they are well-off, contented and prosperous, must speedily vanish. While we are grumbling about bad times, poor soil, long winters, and other evils that have existence only in the imagination, Brother Jonathan is hard at work fixing notions for us in the shape of Home Manufactures, for which we have discovered nothing as yet wherewith to pay him, but dollars or doubloons. While we, male and female, are pampering ourselves on *superfine* flour, with *superfine* cloth, and *superfine* everything; the Yankee farmer, his better-half, and all the little Yankees, are content with their Indian Meal, Buckwheat, Oatmeal, Rye Flour, and Homespun dresses. While the American farmer prides himself in his occupation, and despises the lazy daddler that grubs it at the expense of others, too many of us reverse the picture, and look down upon the horry lands, and manly occupation of the farmer. While the American loves his “Eagle,” his country, and its institutions, and boasts profoundly of himself and these things; we, with advantages equal to his, and with institutions—inferior, the fault is our own—are content to *grumble* on, year after year, in stoical subjection to evils, which are, to say the least of them, more the effect of our own folly, than the fault of any other party. But it is asserted that however willing or energetic we might be, we have not the *wherewithal* to go ahead, which they, the Yankees, have. Let us then enquire, how or by

what means the neighbouring, or Eastern States of the Union, have arrived at their present enviable position.

Less than half a century ago, these States were in pretty much the same state in point of improvement, and stood in a predicament very similar to that in which this Province now stands. A whim, resembling the California and Far West fever of our day, had seized the settlers of these States, and off they started in droves to the Western Districts of the Union. But like many of our money hunters of modern times, they found, that even in the sunny West, “gold does not grow on the trees.” And to their cost they discovered also that a luxuriant soil and hot sun, with the loss of bodily health and mental vigour, are but poor exchanges for climate, which at times severe, yet healthy, and salubrious, braces the muscles, and stimulates the mind to action, for

“The Sire of Gods and men with hard decrees,  
Forbids our plenty to be bought with ease;  
And wills that mortal men, inured to toil,  
Should exercise with pains the grudging soil.”

*Dryden's Virgil.*

Thus soon reasoned the strolling Yankees, for with greater alacrity than they had left their homes in the East, back they came, with purses seriously lightened, and constitutions sadly shattered; but with hopes as to gold hunting mightily humbled, and their qualifications as farmers vastly improved. New life—such as was imparted to many of our settlements by the calamity of 1825—was now imparted to the farming operations of the Eastern States; better modes of culture were adopted; improved Stock imported and preserved; an Education suited to their circumstances brought within the reach of all; and now they who were once so fickle and fond of gold-hunting (or their descendants), have become, if not a very rich, at least a very contented, happy, and prosperous people.

While our American neighbours, under less propitious circumstances, have thus been growing rapidly, not only in agricultural importance, but in the production of Home Manufactures, and in the cultivation of every element of national wealth, at which they could grasp, we have only begun to entertain the question—What must we do to improve the country, and better our condition? Get us plenty of capital, say some. Without money we can do nothing, say others. Now, although the state adage, “money makes the mare to go,” may be true in its application to that animal, it will not always apply in its truthfulness to the farmer. That money placed within the reach of the cautious, economical, and industrious, yet needy farmer, would be beneficial in enabling him to carry out more extensively—perhaps more remuneratively—the details of his farming operations, is unquestionably true; but that capital placed at the disposal of the thoughtless and indolent farmer, would be likely to prove advantageous to him, is equally untrue. From what source did the most independent farmers of this County derive the capital with which they commenced farming? Ask, and they will tell us that some 15 or 20 years ago, most of them set to work to stump and clear their lands just with the same advantages which the farmers of Maine had done shortly before, that is, with a stout heart and sturdy arm; or, as one of our now independent Napoleon farmers said, in reply to a question put to him by Professor Johnston—“I had nought else when I began, but *two carts*, that I brought out *frae hame* with me, and *two* or three sacks of Oatmeal.”

For their present enviable condition then, our most independent farmers are mainly indebted to their own industry, economy and perseverance, and not to the aid of that capital, the lack of which is deemed by many to be an insuperable obstacle in the way of our agricultural advancement.

The Board are, however, not forgetful of the fact that Scotland is perhaps more indebted for its present advanced state of Agriculture to the peculiar system of Banking—established during the last century in that country, for the benefit of the farmer—than to any other cause.

The North of Scotland, at that time in a comparatively degraded condition, has since risen in point of agricultural importance to a position little inferior to that of any country on earth. Now, it is not denied that this rapid improvement is mainly attributable to the judicious pecuniary aid afforded by Banks to the cautious and frugal Yeomanry of that country. Here, then, the grave question meets us, are we, who have but lately laid aside the broad axe and boathook, in order to take up the spade, and hold the plough, in circumstances similar to those of the farmers of Scotland, fifty to eighty years ago?

If our habits of economy, industry and frugality are equally high-toned and genuine, then it may be presumed we are prepared for a similar influx of capital, to aid our agricultural operations. If not, as well might we expect that an asylum of maniacs would be benefited by placing within their reach an ample supply of Razors, as that a district of extravagant, indolent, or improvident men—assuming the title of farmers—would be benefited by placing money plentifully at their disposal. The discussion of this subject belongs, however, more properly to the halls of legislation than to the sphere of duty assigned your Committee. They shall therefore pursue it no further. There, it will receive that grave consideration, no doubt, which its importance demands. A time there was, indeed, when the Representative who ventured to bring on the carpet of the House of Assembly, any scheme for the improvement of agriculture, was, for his pains, rewarded by the gibes and

sneers of his compeers. But that time has now gone by. The truth has at length forced itself upon us, that there is really no interest of such vital importance to the prosperity of the Province—and consequently none which can have a deeper claim on the time and attention of the Legislature—than that of agriculture.

Influenced, no doubt, by this belief, our Government have acted wisely in securing the services of Professor Johnston one of the most celebrated Geologists and Agricultural Chemists of the day. The Board hail this measure as the first bold step put forth to advance the agriculture of the Province—augment its population—and develop its resources. And while they thus proudly express their appreciation of this step, they would strongly advise our farmers, and all who have the welfare of the country at heart, to peruse and re-peruse most carefully, the forthcoming Report of Professor Johnston. And in order that the truth, as it respects the soil, climate, and resources of this fine Province, may be known, not only to ourselves, but throughout the length and breadth of the mother country, and the American States, the Board recommend that all who can obtain copies of the Professor's late Lecture at St. John, forward them to their friends in these countries. The Lecture has been published in most of the Newspapers of the Province, and it can be transmitted to the United States by the pre-payment of one penny postage, or to Britain free of any charge whatever.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES CAIE, Secretary.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

The Secretary having read the preceding Report, it was moved by Wm. Carman, Jun., Esq., seconded by Alexander Goodfellow, Esq., and

Resolved unanimously, That the Report now read by the Secretary be received and adopted by this Society; and that a written copy thereof, signed by the President, and countersigned by the Secretary, be transmitted to the office of the Provincial Secretary, at Fredericton, as the Report of this Society for 1849-50.

Resolved unanimously, That the Report just adopted by the Society be published in whatever form the new Board of Directors may deem the most likely to ensure its widest circulation, and most general perusal.

The Treasurer's Accounts—audited by the Board, and found correct and satisfactory—were now submitted. The following is an abstract thereof:

Dr. Abstract of Treasurer's Account, from 17th January, 1849, to 24th January, 1850. Cr.

To paid for 70 bags Seed Wheat, imported from Quebec,	£125 19 7	Balance on hand as audited,	£253 12 9½
Twenty copies Toronto Cultivator,	2 14 10	Bounty from Treasury,	26 2 0
Prizes for Stock exhibited,	12 17 6	Subscriptions and Donations,	32 15 5½
“ “ Ploughing Match,	£9 7 6	Received for Seeds, and other property sold,	68 15 3
“ “ Extra Premium,	1 12 6		
“ Dairy Produce and Domestic Manufactures,	16 19 6		
Printing,	8 1 0		
Expenses of Secretary, Treasurer, and Comptingencies,	22 18 8		
Balance,	125 0 2½	Balance in Treasurer's hands,	£125 0 9½
			£253 12 9½