

necessity the best or most skilful farmers, for as the old saying is, their crops may have cost more than they came to. The true art of Farming consists, in producing the largest amount of crop, at the least possible expence. When, therefore, your Committee direct public attention to particular instances of large returns, and these instances are found among our more wealthy producers, it must not be taken for granted, that therefore, they are the more skilful farmers, or that their mode of culture is superior to that practised by their humble competitors. In the instances just named, however, there did not appear to have been any extraordinary outlay of manure, or excess of culture. The crops were just such as, under ordinary treatment, the soil was capable of yielding for centuries.

One of the greatest hindrances to the agricultural advancement of this County, has been, the desire to unite, in the same class of persons, the occupations of Farming and Lumbering. The employment and habits of the Farmer and Lumberer, are so widely different, that for the same individual to be *successfully in both*, implies an utter impossibility. A striking illustration of the truth of this remark may be found in the condition of our Black River settlement. The "would be" farmers and lumberers of that fine district, could scarcely be designated, till lately, as belonging to either occupation. Owing to this circumstance, Black River has continued to lag behind all the neighboring settlements. For several years past, however, the loss of credit with the merchant, the reduced prices of lumber, and the great distance it had to be hauled, have compelled most of the settlers to lay aside the axe and boat-hook, and take up the spade and plough; to quit the woods altogether, and attend to their farms; and already a happy change has taken place, in the appearance of the country, and the prosperity of the people.

The Board cannot but express their gratification, at being enabled to speak, for the first time, in terms of commendation, of the agricultural advancement of Black River. Last season, the crop in that quarter was excellent, and in many instances, abundant. On the farms of Donald McNaughton, Esq., his brother Malcolm, and several others, the potatoe crop yielded about 20 returns; and on the excellent farm of Mr Patrick Fitzgerald, the crop of turnips equalled, if not excelled, in point of size, that of any other in the County.

It will not be denied that *extravagance*, generated by lumbering habits, has been another sad hindrance to the agricultural advancement of this County. By way of enforcing the necessity of greater economy, both in food and clothing, the Board of last year contrasted the cheap, plain food, and cheaper, plainer clothing of the American farmer, with the expensive food and clothing of us, Northumberland Farmers. Your Committee, however, have just learned with the utmost gratification, that many of our farmers have begun to see the folly of such extravagance, and not only to see it, but also to correct it.

By a letter received last evening, from Mr George Jardine, Napan, the Board have been informed that Mr J. had wove, for the Napan settlement alone, from the month of September, 1849, till last spring, no less than *one thousand six hundred and sixty six yards of cloth*; and Mr Jardine is of opinion that the number of yards manufactured this winter by himself and Mr William Coultard, will very much exceed the quantity made the preceding one.

The Board cannot close this Report without acknowledging the receipt of several copies of the first and second annual journals of the New Brunswick Society. While in his quarter last fall, during the session of the Supreme Court, David S. Kerr, Esq., a leading member of the New Brunswick Society, availed himself of the opportunity, to explain before sundry meetings, convened at Chatham and Newcastle, for that purpose, the constitution and leading objects contemplated by that Society. Through the medium of those journals, and the information afforded by Mr Kerr at these meetings, it may be presumed that the members of this Society are familiar with its constitution, past history, and purposes. To collect facts, and to disseminate information, after the manner of the Highland Society of Scotland, concerning the available resources of the Province, to encourage individuals in all laudable attempts, to develop them; "to bring together, in short," says the preface to the last journal, "for the common weal, the talents, experience, and influence of all who desire to promote the object of Agriculture, Home Manufactures, and Commerce throughout the Province," are a few of the leading objects contemplated by the New Brunswick Society.

The New Brunswick Society was incorporated during the last Session of the Legislature, with an annual allowance of two hundred pounds, on condition that one hundred pounds be raised by subscription throughout the Province, in favor of its funds.

The Board would therefore invite your attention, to the adoption of such measures as may have a tendency to advance the interests, extend the influence, and augment the funds of the New Brunswick Society; and this they do with a view to the promotion of unity of purpose, among the Farmers of the Province, the concentration of their talents, and the dissemination, as from a common centre,

* The column headed "Chatham" in the above, and that headed "closing of Miramichi," in the preceding table, have been kindly prepared by John Smith, Esq., Teacher of the Madras School, Chatham, from a Register kept by him, with his accustomed accuracy.

of all the most useful agricultural knowledge that can be procured.

The Treasurer's Account, an abstract of which is hereto appended, was audited by a sub-committee of the Board, and found correct and satisfactory. It shows a balance of cash on hand at this date of £48 6 4.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES CAIE, Secretary.

ANNUAL MEETING.

William Loch, Esq., was called to the Chair. The Report of 1850-51 having been read by the Secretary, it was moved by Peter Mitchell, Esq., seconded by John M. Johnson, Esq., and

Resolved unanimously, that the Report now read by the Secretary, being highly satisfactory, and creditable to this Society, be adopted; and that the same be handed to Mr Pierce, for publication in the Gleaner, newspaper; and with a request that he prepare for the use of this Society, 200 copies of said Report in pamphlet form.

After some complimentary remarks regarding the zeal and ability with which John Wright, Esq., has presided over the Northumberland Agricultural Society, since its formation in 1838—it was moved by John M. Johnson, Esq., seconded by John Porter, Esq., and

Resolved unanimously, That John Wright, Esq., be President of this Society for the ensuing year.

LIST OF DIRECTORS FOR 1851.

John Wright, Esq., *President.*
John M. Johnson, and John Porter, Esqrs., *Vice Presidents.*
George Kerr, Esq., *Treasurer.*
James Caie, *Secretary.*

Daniel Elkin, Napan, D. McKay, N. West,
A. Goodfellow, M. Searle, Napan,
R. Coultard, D. Wetherall,
J. Mackie, Chatham, J. Wyse, Douglstown,
Peter Mitchell, W. Loch, Newcastle,
G. Johnston, Napan, F. McDiarmid, Napan,
James A. Pierce, Chatham.

JAMES CAIE, Secretary.

European News.

From *Wilmner & Smith's EUROPEAN TIMES*, January 4.

IRELAND.

The Flax Movement.—The progress of the experiments in Lancashire, on the practicability of adopting flax to some extent as a substitute for cotton, has been watched with the deepest anxiety in this country; and the favorable result cannot fail to impart a further impulse to the increased cultivation of flax by the Irish farmers. In various parts of the county of Cork district meetings are about to take place, and arrangements are in progress for the establishment of scutching mills and of local markets for the accommodation of the farmers in the sale of their flax. At Roscrea, county of Tipperary, subscriptions to a considerable amount have been paid in, and a large whiskey distillery in the town has been converted into a concern for the preparation of flax.

The Irish Land System.—The great change, which circumstances had rendered inevitable, is gradually and quietly progressing. Without legislative intervention, landlords and tenants are entering into new arrangements on an equitable principle; and rents, pretty generally in many of the counties, have been reduced very nearly to the scale that existed before war prices and protective duties had forced them up to more than double the letting value of land at the beginning of the present century. A very important principle has been established in the concession of Mr Griffith, who has the control of the new and general valuation of property in Ireland, that a suitable reduction must be made in the valuation, in consequence of the fall in agricultural prices and the depreciation in the market-value of land since the famine.

TURKEY.

The Hungarian Refugees.—The Gomer Polski announces that the affair of the Hungarian refugees has been finally arranged, America has offered them an asylum which they have accepted, and has undertaken to provide for their wants; the Ottoman Government pays their expenses to Liverpool, and the English Government their expenses from thence to America. This arrangement was proposed by the Ottoman Government and acceded to by England and America.

THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.

During the recess the workmen have been actively engaged in constructing a permanent roof to the new House of Commons.—The original roof having rendered the speakers inaudible, several temporary roofs were tried, one of which was found to answer very well, and the new permanent roof is on that model. It rises from the middle of the windows with a high pitch to nearly the height which the first permanent roof was. On each side of the house new galleries and division lobbies are being prepared, and an elegant waiting room is in course of being fitted up in the cloisters. The new house is permanently to be taken possession of after the Easter recess. Several important alterations are being made in the approaches, which when finished, will give a pleasing appearance to the Commons portion of the new Palace.

PASSAGES OF THE ATLANTIC STEAMERS.

Precisely as in the instance of the Royal Mail Steamship *Europa*, last week, the *Asia*,

from the season and the nature of the weather was not expected, on her run homeward, to effect more than a fair average passage. Her splendid capabilities, however, have on this occasion enabled her to accomplish a run unquestionably superior to any of those celebrated and unrivalled feats of steaming which have so often been recorded in our columns during the current year, in connection with the fine fleets of the Royal and United States' mail services. Her run of last summer to the Mersey, on which occasion she steamed past the Rock Lighthouse at midnight on the Saturday, had previously stood unrivalled, being one hour and twenty minutes less than the finest run of the United States' mail steamer *Atlantic*; but the *Asia* has now beaten even herself, fully justifying her claim to be considered the fleetest existing ocean steamship. From New York, on the 18th inst., she cleared precisely at mid-day, but shortly afterwards stopped her engines to repair damage received by her wheels during a collision with the wharf. Fifty-five minutes were thus lost; and she finally started on her voyage shortly before 2, p. m. During her subsequent passage she experienced variable weather, with frequent strong breezes from the westward, and on Friday morning at ten o'clock made Cape Clear, having steamed from land to land in little more than nine days. Holyhead was passed unobserved by the marine telegraph, at four p. m. on Saturday, and at half-past nine o'clock her guns saluted the town, exciting general surprise and universal gratification as regards the celerity of her passage. The *Asia* throughout effected very high average speed per diem. On three days she steamed a distance seldom equalled, hitherto, in the annals of ocean steaming, running on the 25th, 26th, and 27th ult. respectively 328, 321, and 300. Her passage, reckoned according to mean time, and deducting forty five minutes lost off New York repairing floats, may be recorded as ten days four hours and five minutes, or two hours and fifty five minutes less than her fastest summer passage, four hours and fifteen minutes less than the United States' mail steamers' fastest passage eastward, and about five hours and twenty minutes less than the remarkable summer run of the *Pacific* out to New York.

Colonial News.

Novascotia.

Amusements of the Season.—Winter is to many a season of relaxation; the inclement weather, and the quantity of snow on the surface of the earth, as well as the paucity of business, limit, if they do not altogether suspend, many out of door avocations. Amusements must therefore be substituted for labor. The grave lecture room, the gay assembly, the tandem club, the princely pastime of hurling and curling, the quiet drive into the country, where the inner man may be soled with the creature comforts of the season, are eagerly sought by the respective votaries of pleasure, according to their several tastes. Among a host of illustrations of this nature, the Firemen of this city, imitating the example of their more favored Brethren of the United States, and the other British Provinces have decided on devoting Tuesday next, for the "big sleigh ride" and Dinner, to come off at Pollock's Hotel, Eastern Road.

Lunatic Asylum.—The allusion to this Institution, in the speech of the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Provincial Parliament, reminds us that overtures have been made for the purchase of the "Studley" Estate, at present owned by M. Richardson, Esq., for that purpose. The locality in question is one of the most desirable in the vicinity of Halifax. Those who have seen the celebrated McLean Asylum, near Boston over which the philanthropic Dr Bell has long presided with honor to himself, and the unqualified approval of every person acquainted with the admirable economy of that famous institution, cannot fail to be impressed with the striking similarity that exists between the site of Studley and that place. Any attempt that we can make towards the Establishment of a Lunatic Asylum, must of necessity be a very humble imitation of those of older countries. But there is nothing like making a beginning, and we are exceedingly glad to chronicle the fact, that a move has been made in the right direction.

Good Again.—We are happy to learn that the munificent sum of thirteen hundred pounds has already been subscribed towards the erection of the Wesleyan Chapel, on the site of the old cemetery belonging to that respectable denomination. We trust that a truly magnificent edifice may be put up on that really beautiful locality.

The Asia's Passage.—The Cunard steamer *Asia*'s recent run from New York to Liverpool, has excited no little astonishment. She left the former port at noon on the 18th December, but owing to the floats having been damaged, she was detained one hour for repairs, and arrived in the Mersey at half past nine o'clock on the evening of the 28th December. Reckoned according to mean time, and deducting fifty five minutes lost in repairs, her passage occupied ten days, four hours and five minutes, being two hours and fifty five minutes less than her quickest summer passage, four hours and fifteen minutes less than the United States' Mail steamer's fastest passage Eastward, and about five hours and twenty minutes less than the remarkable summer run of the *Pacific* out to New York! A previous passage of the *Asia*'s to Liverpool last summer, was one hour and

twenty minutes less than the shortest made made by the United States' steamer *Atlantic*. The *Asia* has therefore beaten herself and all competitors.

Halifax and Galway.—From an interesting conversation with the first engineer of the United States Mail Steamer *Arctic*, we have gleaned a good many curious facts in reference to the steam navigation between the Old World and the New. We learn that a vessel of the *Aretic*'s class consumes about seventy five (?) tons of coal per diem; and that the Engines of the ship were never stopped from the time she left the Mersey up to the hour when a pilot was taken off Halifax harbor. Possessed of rare intelligence, that gentleman assured us that by making Halifax and Galway the extreme points of the *Atlantic Ferry*, a saving to such an extent would be effected as to enable ocean steam ships to carry passengers for one hundred dollars each, and even at that rate a greater profit could be realised than by taking them from Liverpool to New York at one hundred and seventy five dollars per head. This he so satisfactorily demonstrated to us, by facts and figures, as to leave no room for controversy. He also clearly proved that it is in several points of view not only desirable, but profitable also, to include Halifax as an intermediate packet station. The success of the Cunard line when the vessels were much smaller and less powerful than at present, was freely canvassed, and in the estimation of our friend, was clearly attributable to the fact of Halifax having been made an intermediate station. In short, the gentleman in question has, by his arguments, clearly and comprehensively substantiated, convinced us that, it being the interest of all parties to shorten the distance by sea between the continents of Europe and America, there no longer remains a doubt that the period is by no means remote, when the proprietors of the ocean lines of steamships will find it very much to their advantage to adopt Halifax and Galway as the great ferry-houses of the Atlantic; as self-interest is the motive power which controls the actions of men everywhere, we may expect that they will speedily take notice and govern themselves accordingly.—*Novascotian*.

New Brunswick.

We believe that Woodstock can now boast of a goodly number of as active and efficient Parish Officers as are to be found anywhere in the Province. Since their appointment the firewards have carefully examined every building in the place in which a fire is kept, causing all to fulfil the requirements of the law in this respect, and taking such other steps as in their opinion were necessary for the prevention of fires. They also offer a premium of four dollars to the first person who shall, on the alarm of fire, arrive on the spot with a hoghead of water, and two dollars to the second. Hogheads for this purpose are to be kept in good order in some convenient place, of which notice will be given. The Overseers of the Poor have not been idle, and have made a great improvement in the mode of furnishing food to paupers. Such articles as are required for this purpose being now furnished by contract. This we consider a good plan and one that will give general satisfaction.—*Woodstock Sentinel*.

Canada.

The Mayor and Town Council of Port Hope have unanimously passed a resolution expressive of their entire approbation of the laudable efforts now being made to establish Railway Communication between the cities of Toronto and Montreal, and pledging the Council to afford such pecuniary aid to this important and indispensable work as may be consistent with their financial resources.

Mr William Kennedy, of Kingston, formerly of Saugwine, has proceeded to New York on his way to England, at the request of Lady Franklin, to assist in the search for her husband. Mr Kennedy some time ago proposed a plan of search which it appears has been at length adopted. From his experience in Arctic journeying, and his vigor of both body and mind, and remarkable firmness of character, we think the choice could not have been better made. May his labors be attended with success.—*Quebec Gazette*.

United States News.

The Mormon Country.—A correspondent of the *Rockford* (Ill.) *Forum*, writes from Salt Lake City in these terms, touching the country, its products and prosperity:

I must say a word about wheat. For wheat this climate beats everything that I had ever heard of dreamed of. From one bushel sowing, they have raised as high as 169 bushels; it was sowed in drills and covered four acres. Fifty bushels here, is about a fair yield to the acre. You need not think there is any gammon about this; the wheat tells larger stories for itself than the inhabitants. I never saw the like in any country. It is like Egypt in the seven plentiful years—the land yields by handful. Corn does not do well, it being too frosty; potatoes, peas, beets, carrots, onions, and vegetables generally, do well. I have seen a great many melon vines, but think they will not accomplish much without something to shelter them from the cool night air.

I am writing at a table in the city, and the great valley lays out like a level plain before me, from 20 to 40 miles wide, extending something like 200 miles from terminus to terminus, and thousands upon thousands