

REPORT OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR 1855-6. ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

Tuesday, the 10th instant, the day appointed for your Society's Annual Exhibition of Grain, Dairy Produce, and Home Manufactures, was excessively cold; and the roads, particularly in the back settlements, were almost impassable; yet, there was a fair display of nearly all the more important articles for which the Society had offered prizes, and a very respectable if not a very large assemblage of spectators.

The place selected for the Exhibition—the Hall of the Sons of Temperance, Chatham, is admirably adapted for the purpose. Besides being warm and comfortable, it affords ample room for the full exhibition of every sample entered for competition and for the accommodation of a large concourse of spectators. Is it not, therefore, strange that a much greater number of persons do not avail themselves annually of so favorable an opportunity of examining the manufactures of the County in which they reside, and with whose interest they are all more or less identified. Persons not present on these occasions, may rest assured, that the samples exhibited, would bear a favorable comparison with the finest grains and dairy produce of older and more advanced countries. By comparing the weight of the grains exhibited the other day, with the weight of those exhibited at the World's Fair, held in London, New York and Paris, it will be found that the difference (if any) will be small indeed. At the Grand Exhibition at Paris—not yet closed—a sample of Canada Wheat took the first prize. Yet, the statistics furnished by Professor Johnston in his Report on the capabilities of this Province, show that the average weight of Canada Wheat, and the return per acre of root crops are less than those of this County; and as these statistics were collected from the same sources, in both places, they must be nearly correct as far as the relative weight of grains and return of root crops are concerned.

The Judges of Grains were Messrs. John Hea, Alexander Jessamin and Henry Wyse.

The prizes were awarded as follows:—

GRAINS. (price and prize both included).

Best sample White Bald Wheat, 2 bus., Michael Searl, 68 lbs.	£1 15 0
Second best do, do, Rich. Coultard, 65½ lbs.	1 10 0
Best sample Red Bald Wheat do, Wm. Morrison, 64 14-60 lbs.	1 10 0
Second best do, do, Geo. Johnston, 64 lbs.	1 5 0
Best sample Black Oats, do, Geo. Johnston, 43 2-14 lbs.	0 15 0
Second best do, do, Wm. Simpson, 41 8-16 lbs.	0 12 6
Best sample White Oats, do, David Steel, 48 6-16 lbs.	0 15 0
Second best do, do, John Porter, 44 lbs.	0 12 6
Best Sample Barley, do, Geo. Johnston, 56 12-16 lbs.	0 15 0
Second best do, do, Rich. Coultard, 52 4-16 lbs.	0 12 6
Best sample Peas do, John Porter, 68 10-16 lbs.	1 10 0
Second best do, do, James Brown, 68 2-16 lbs.	1 5 0
Best sample Timothy Seed, 1 bus. Thos. M'Graw, E.D.V. 43 10-16 lbs.	1 15 0
Second best do, do, inferior not weight,	0 10 0
Best sample Red Beet 2 lbs. William Scott,	0 10 0
Best sample Swedish Turnip seed, 2 lbs., Michael Searl,	0 10 0
Best sample Buckwheat, 1 bus., D. Baldwin, 49 14-16 lbs.	0 15 0
	£16 7 6

DAIRY PRODUCE, (prize only.)

Best sample Butter, 30 lbs. Geo. Johnston, Napan,	£0 15 0
Second best do, do, Jas. Gray, do,	0 10 0
Third best do, do, Donald M'Kay, North Esk,	0 7 6
Best sample Cheese, 20 lbs. Geo. Johnston, Napan,	0 12 6
Second best do, do, Daniel Steel, do,	0 7 6
	£2 12 6

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURE, (prize only.)

Best Homespun Cloth, all Wool, 10 yds., Donald M'Kay,	£0 15 0
Second best do do do Wm. Morrison, B.C.	0 10 0
Best do Cotton & Wool, do, John Porter,	0 15 0
Second best do do do, Wm. Morrison,	0 10 0
Best Flannel all Wool, do, Jas. Brown,	0 15 0
Second best do do do, Wm. Morrison,	0 10 0
Best do Cotton & Wool, do, do,	0 10 0
Second do do do, Wm. Simpson,	0 5 0
Best Woollen Socks 6 pairs, Donald M'Kay,	0 7 6
Second best do do, Wm. Morrison,	0 6 0
Best Mitts do, do, Donald M'Kay,	0 7 6
Second best do do do, Wm. Morrison,	0 5 0
Best Plaid Tartan, all Wool, 10 yds. Donald Kay,	0 12 0
	£6 8 0

A special reward of five shillings was voted to Mr William Morrison, Burnt Church, for a worked rug exhibited by him. The figure of a Kilted Highlander playing the bagpipes, was handsomely wrought in the centre of the rug.

The Judges of Dairy Produce and Domestic Manufactures, were Messrs. Geo. H. Russell, John Burke, and Kenneth Forbes.

The Treasurer's Account, an abstract of which is hereto annexed, having been duly audited was found correct and satisfactory. Balance in the hands of the Treasurer £112 2 8.

ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNT

1855. Guano and Bone Dust imported	£90 15 5
Oats and Potatoes to supply for seed	50 0 0
Premiums Paid	48 10 6
Printing	9 12 0
Contingencies and expenses of Management	16 16 10
1856. Jan. 24. Balance on hand per Account Audited	112 2 8
	£327 17 5
Jan. 1855. Balance on hand	£39 14 1

Provincial allowance for 1854	75 0 0
Bounty for Stock imported	97 10 0
Proceeds Guano and Bone Dust	61 17 5
Seeds sold	12 1 0
Reaping Machine, in part	9 2 10
On Account Seed, Oats, &c.	10 3 9
Donations and Subscriptions	22 8 4
	£327 17 5

1856. Jan. 24. By balance down	£112 2 8
--------------------------------	----------

CONCLUSION.

In the absence of all scholastic means of acquiring agricultural knowledge, there is a subject which it may be well to bring under the notice of the Society, as deeply affecting the interests of the Farmer. It is the propriety, of some of our more experienced and intelligent Farmers becoming what may be termed

CAUTIOUS EXPERIMENTALISTS.

An experiment in practical agriculture, means such a change in his practice, as shall enable the Farmer to raise larger or better crops, at a cheaper rate than formerly, without permanent injury to his land. To the practical man, therefore, nothing should be recommended which, if properly executed, would not be the means of putting more money into his pocket.

The adoption of a system of experimenting cautiously, and on such a scale, that if all his experiments should fail, would not seriously affect his pocket, is a duty which cannot be too strongly urged on Farmers.

There is unquestionably a wide distance between the condition of our agriculture and that to which it might be brought by the prudent application of even our present knowledge; but that knowledge cannot be diffused among—cannot be acquired by our farmers all at once, besides what they learn from books and similar sources, they will naturally hesitate to adopt until they see it actually applied, and actually causing more profitable crops to grow upon their land. It is therefore by experimenting that general faith in this or that method of improvement will be obtained.

The distinction between the man who is content to stand still, and do as was done in days of yore, and the man who wishes "to go a-head" and improve, is this:—While the former plods on, in the old trail, the latter endeavours to acquire information, and having obtained it, —much or little,—correct or incorrect—manifests a disposition to make use of it, and to make trials of the methods of advancement as his as his knowledge may suggest.

The maker of agricultural experiments, therefore, is the man who is acquiring knowledge, is thinking how he can apply it most usefully to himself, and in testing the views, and recommendations he may have read, and heard, by such practical means as his farm affords.

The improving farmer does good in two ways. He not only puts more money into his own pocket, but by the influence of his prudent and successful example, induces others around him, to follow in his steps, and put more money into their pockets also. He is a true patriot.

Thus the Agricultural Experimentalist—the judicious—not the hasty or improvident one—is a most valuable member of Society, and it is unquestionably the duty of all, but especially of Agricultural Societies, to respect and encourage him.

When any improvement has been made, and proved to be advantageous, it next becomes the duty of the discoverer, to make public the nature and details of his discovery, in order that others may reap the benefit of it. It is by this means that facts are accumulated, knowledge is advanced, and mankind benefitted. From the facts discovered by one man, men of different minds, are enabled to add other facts, and in this way science continues to progress.

Will some of our spirited Farmers commence a system of experimenting cautiously but continuously, and favor this Society from time to time, with the result of their investigations.

DEATH OF PROFESSOR JOHNSTON.

This Society in common with mankind generally, deeply lament the death of that most eminent friend of Agriculture, Professor J. F. W. Johnston.

This event took place at Durham, England, on the 18th September last.

Few men ever devoted the talents with which Heaven had endowed them, more successfully to the benefit of their race than Professor Johnston has done. Of all other Professions or pursuits, certainly agriculture is to the human family the most interesting and important, for upon it they mainly depend for food and clothing, yet it is an extraordinary fact, that while all other Professions were making rapid strides towards perfection, agriculture continued to stand still, a solitary exception to the general rule. To remedy this great evil, or in other words to make the farmer like the merchant and manufacturer—master of his business, by placing within his reach, the means of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the science of Agriculture, and leading him to view his farm as the field for the exercise of his philosophy, was the great aim and object of Professor Johnston's life, and well has he succeeded in his benevolent design. Through his instrumentality, thousands of acres, previously deemed sterile and useless, have—in many countries—been converted into fertile fields, which now yield luxuriant crops; and lands esteemed as the richest and most valuable, have been made to yield one third more than they ever did before. The farmers of the Mother Country, instead of being ignorant alike of the ingredients which constitute their soils, and in the substances with which they should enrich and sustain them—are now a class of practical men—many of whom understand the science of Agriculture, and all of whom have within their reach the information necessary for enabling them to cultivate their farms on scientific principles. These men not only know the annual deterioration in their soils, occasioned by cropping, but they know the infallible remedy to be administered to restore them.

Everything relating to the life and writings of such a man as Professor Johnston, must be interesting to the intelligent Farmer; but within the limit assigned to this report, nothing more can be attempted than merely to name a few of his most celebrated works.—Among the earliest of his writings was an admirable Report "on the state of Chemistry," which appeared in the 1st Volume of the Reports of the British Association, about 20 years ago. The next was an able article in the Edinburgh Review, "on A. K. Johnston's well known and valuable Physical Atlas." His next, and perhaps his greatest work, was his "Lectures on Agricultural Chemistry," first published in Blackwood, and now regarded as a standard production of the highest value; his "Elements of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology;" his "Notes on North America, and Elements of Common Life," in 2 volumes, did much to increase his celebrity by their clear and masterly exposition of scientific facts and reasonings, which had never before been submitted to the public in a form so clear to the comprehension of the unscientific reader. But of all his works, that which brought Professor Johnston most conspicuously into notice in this country, was his Report on the Agricultural capabilities

bull, as it is to respond in kind to the ravings of a mad man, or, pardon me, ladies—of a mad woman. Stoop! gracefully, deferentially, amid the pauses of the wind, throw in the "soft words that turn away wrath," when reproved for an error you have committed, for a wrong you have perpetrated, for a neglect chargeable against you, stoop! Do not justify or palliate a palpable fault. This only intensifies and aggravates the wrong. This excites direr indignation. Stoop! If you say mildly, I know I was wrong, forgive me, you have stolen away all your complainant's thunder. I have seen this tried with the happiest effect. A friend came to me once with a face black with frowns, and he all bottled up ready for an explosion, because I had failed to fulfil some promised commission. I prognosticated the storm, and took both his hands in mine as he approached, simply saying, "I am very sorry I forgot; pardon me this time." What could the man say?—He kept the cork in his bottle, and I escaped a terrible blast. How much more easily and pleasantly we should get through life, if we only knew how and when to stoop!

But when tempted to do a mean thing, or a wrong thing—when solicited to do evil by your associates or even circumstances, then don't stoop! You may give up your own personal rights if you will; you may give "coat and cloak" to an unjust demand; sometimes even this is necessary to stoop in silence to an injustice. It may be done without degradation or guilt. But never stoop to a meanness, to a debasement. Never stoop to pick up a forbidden object, the appropriation or possession of which righteously exposes you to scorn or censure.—Watchman.

AN INDIAN WARRIOR.

He was the most perfect specimen of a Chippeway 'brave' that I had yet seen: a magnificent fellow, standing proudly erect under his plume of hawk's feathers, that betokened a warrior, who had taken in his day many a Sioux scalp. His red blanket, worked with many devices, was thrown gracefully over his shoulder; his belt was garnished with tomahawk and scalping knife, and in his hand he held a handsomely mounted rifle. His feet were encased in richly embroidered moccasins, with fringed leggings reaching to the thigh. Although, his costume exhibited a combination of ribbons, feathers, beads and paint, which was wonderfully becoming. Near him, in a respectful attitude, stood his attendant, likewise armed to the teeth and carrying a curiously shaped warclub, such as I had never seen before, and a red-earth pipe with a long flat stem, ornamented with coloured hair.—Oliphant's Minnesota.

BOERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

These unfortunate Boers are, for the most part, men of considerable education and property, many of them having been reared in the rich districts of the Cape Colony; and, so far from being 'the savage barbarians' that the scandalous official dispatches of the colonial governors have always represented them to be, they are simply rough, straightforward, country gentlemen, differing but little from ourselves in religion, by no means disloyal, and very much attached to English laws and usages; but detesting, as every true Englishman, whether in England or Africa, must detest, a form of colonial government, which enables one man, generally some imperious military commander, to make appointments only to fill them with worthless profligates, or to confiscate property to enrich poor relatives; and then send a voluminous document to the Home Government, putting down as 'arch rebels' all who venture to raise a voice against such gross injustice, and demanding British troops and British treasure to support them in their iron rule, a rule more despotic than even that of the Czar himself.—Holden's Natal.

A YANKEE IN LOVE.

Oh dear, what nonsense people talk about love, don't they? Sleepless nights—broken dreams—beating hearts—pale faces—a pinin' away to shadders—fits of absence—loss of appetite—nervous fluttering, and all that. I haven't got the symptoms, but I'll swear to the disease. Folks take this talk, I guess, from poets; and they are miserable sort of critters, half mad; and whole lazy, who would rather take a day's dream than a day's work at any time, and catch rimes as niggard catch flies, to pass time—hearts and darts, supid and stupid, purlin' streams pulin' dreams and so on. It's tall bunkum! Spooney looks and spooney words may do for school boys and seminary gals; but for a man like me, and an angelic-looking critter like Sophy, love must be like electricity, as eye for eye, and heart for heart, telegraphed backward and forward like 'fired lightning.—Sam Slick.

"My dear," said a husband to an affectionate better half, after a matrimonial squabble, "you will never be permitted to go to Heaven." "Why not?" "Because you will be wanted as a tormentor down below."

A Cincinnati paper contains an advertisement of bonnets and petticoats for young men's wear to correspond with the shawls, now so universally worn.