

the bank, or venturing it in trade. He appeared to have but two ideas—*toil, toil; and hoard, hoard.*

The consequence of all this was, he fell into bad health and died; his penurious habits remaining unchanged to the last, for even the approach of death did not alter them. But his brother James was of a different turn of mind; he gave Allan a funeral so genteel, that his old shopmates said; 'Could he have seen it, it would have broken his heart.' James got the money, and spent it in dissipation; in a few months, he was a poorer man than ever, and ended by enlisting in the 71st Regiment.

For many months I had boarded with a widow, a good and pious woman, her family consisting of three daughters. The two youngest wrought in a neighbouring factory; the eldest assisted her mother at home, and took in sewing. The widow, to eke out her means, kept lodgers; and there were three of us. Her son—for she had been left with four orphans—who had married very young, lived in a distant town, struggling with a numerous family, rather receiving aid from, than assisting his mother.

It was indeed a happy home. I was treated as a son and brother; and had it not been for the misery I saw around me, resulting frequently from early and improvident marriages, I could have wedded the engaging, pretty Mary. After observing a prudent silence for a year or two, I resolved to ask her and her mother's consent, for I knew that neither of them looked upon me with an unfavourable eye. I was never so happy as when we met at night after our day's labour, or walking by the river side on a Sunday afternoon after church, the three sisters by my side, when Mary was always sure to have an arm.

One forenoon she came home from the factory unable to remain, she was so unwell. A very bad fever was at this time cutting off great numbers in the city and neighbourhood. My poor Mary lingered a few days between death and life, and at length expired in her mother's arms. It was at this time I first saw the triumph of genuine piety over every selfish feeling; no murmur escaped the widow's lips; the tears streamed down her face, her eyes raised to heaven with an expression I shall never forget, so expressive of mental anguish struggling with pious resignation. I wept for Mary and long felt her loss.

That evening she died, Katie sickened; I had just finished reading the fourteenth chapter of St. John, when she leaned forward on the table, and complained of headache and shivering. The widow's head sunk on her bosom, as she wrung her hands and groaned: Oh, God! strike not twice; spare my children! Next day she was much worse, and soon followed her sister. My fellow lodgers had hastened away as soon as the fever came into the house. I was young, and life is sweet, yet I could not think of flying the house of mourning.

But alas! the blight was on the widow's hearth; the youngest, the merry Jeanie, sickened and expired the following day. Three had death stricken the young and vigorous, and spared the aged and infirm.

After the funeral, the desolate mother was forced to sell her furniture to defray the expenses of sickness and burial, and go to live with her son—to be the drudge and nurse of her daughter-in-law, or linger out her last days in the charity-workhouse.

RUSSIAN COURTSHIP.

On Whit Monday, and the following Sunday there is a great promenade in the summer garden, namely, the exhibition of brides. The Russian tradesmen, in these days, expose their marriageable daughters in order to marry them, or, as they term it, to give them away. Under the lime trees of the principal *alices*, are two long rows of gaily dressed girls packed closely together like the pipes of an organ. Behind each stands the match-maker, and in the third row the mothers and other female relatives. Through this double row, the spectators and the wife-seeking Russians slowly walk. The latter notice any face that pleases them, and the match-maker belonging to it. The exhibition lasts till a late hour.

SARDINIA.

No one can cross its frontiers without being struck with the contrast it presents to the other Italian states. While they are decaying like a corpse, it is flourishing like the chestnut-tree of its own mountains. The very faces of the people may tell you that the country is free and prosperous. Its citizens walk about with the cheerful, active air of men who have something to do and to enjoy, and not with the listless, desponding, heart-sick look which marks the inhabitants of the other states of Italy. Here, too, you miss that universal beggary and rascaldom that disfigure and pollute all the other countries of the Peninsula. What rich loam the ploughmen turn up! What magnificent vines shades its plains! Public works are in progress, railways have been formed, and new houses are building. Not fewer than one hundred houses were built in Turin last year, which is more, I verily believe, than in all the Italian towns out of Piedmont taken together. Wyllie's Pilgrimage from the Alps to the Tiber.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In the Court House, Bathurst, on Tuesday, the 8th of January, the Society's Annual Meeting was held, and on the morning of the same day the Exhibition of Field and Dairy Produce, and of Domestic Manufactures took place.

These shows have gone on from year to year with increasing spirit. The rooms this year, were crowded with visitors, principally ladies, who continue to take a lively interest in the proceedings, and whose patronage promises to make the Society's winter show in future, an object of pleasing attraction to the inhabitants.

The Samples of Grain exhibited, were numerous, and the quality very fine. Of Wheat there were thirteen samples, averaging 64 lbs. a bushel. The heaviest Barley weighed 53 lbs.; White Oats 48 lbs.; Black Oats 42 lbs.; Pease 68 lbs.; White Beans 70½ lbs.; Flax Seed 56 lbs.; Buckwheat 49 lbs.; and Timothy Seed 46 lbs. Turnip and Carrot Seed, of different varieties, were exhibited, and Roots of all kinds were shown, of a prodigious size, the Turnips in particular were greatly admired.

As usual there was a good show of Dairy Produce, the Butter, of which there were 12 samples, was fine in both colour and taste. The Domestic Manufactures were various, and excited considerable attention. Counterpanes, were there, not inferior to those imported from Britain, and a number of the most tastefully made Hearth Rugs, elicited universal admiration, and must have caused the Judges no little trouble in making their award. In addition to that of Miss Smith, who obtained the prize, beautiful samples of rug work were exhibited, executed by Miss Waitt, of Bathurst, Miss Molloy, of Saltash, and Mrs. Lindsay, of New Dunlop. The whole number of articles adjudicated on were 148. The Judges of Grain and Roots were Messrs. Thomas Millar, Robert Moody, and Alexander Nelson, and of Dairy Produce and Domestic Manufactures Messrs. McKenna, Seaton, and McManus, who awarded the Prizes.

At three o'clock the President S. L. Bishop, Esq., took the Chair, and the list of prizes being first called over, the Secretary read the following

REPORT.

Nine years have now elapsed since this Society was reorganized, and we have reason for gladness and thankfulness, in the steady and advancing course it has hitherto run. It has gradually been gaining the confidence of the community, and it may be presumed that at this moment it is more highly valued, especially among the agricultural population, than at any former period. Various causes may be assigned for this.—We may simply refer to the fact, that year after year, it has been the pleasing duty of your successive Committees, to chronicle the evidences of increasing agricultural progress in the County. The adaptation of climate and soil to the production of root crops—so valuable to the Farmer during the long winter season; the fair returns from the seed intrusted to the earth, alike of them and those of the cereal family; and the prospective encouragement held out in the remunerating prices which the produce of the farm—when skilfully managed, is almost certain of realising, have animated and re-invigorated the husbandman. The eye of the intelligent observer must be pleased to mark the gradual improvement in the modes of tillage, and in the machines employed in the County, as also in the superior breeds of cattle that have been introduced. The success of your Society in promoting such obvious good, must be gratifying both to its members and to the friends of our agricultural prosperity. It is also confidently hoped, that the reciprocity treaty which, taking off the tax of a repelling duty, opens the markets of our Republican neighbours for the reception of the growth of our forests, the produce of our fields, and of our dairies, will stimulate a healthful and profitable trade, especially between ourselves and the eastern ports, with which we, in this County, are already familiar, as an *entrepot* for our Grindstones and Salmon.

In common with our fellow colonists, we, in this Province have participated to a considerable extent in the blessing of an abundant harvest. Never, it is believed, have the various countries of the American Continent, yielded such an amount of food as during the recent season. While the beneficence of Divine Providence should be gratefully acknowledged in furnishing such plenty, at a period in the world's history, when a just war imperils the adequate supply of the necessities of life, by abstracting from the cultivation of the soil so many thousands who ought to have been employed as tillers of the ground, the duty of our rural population is plainly indicated. It is by skilled and diligent labor more zealously to persevere in the pursuit of their honorable vocation.

"We often hear of the unprecedented present prosperity of Canada, and of the greatness of that future to which that Province is so surely and steadily rising." Indeed, there is not a country of the world advancing so rapidly in the increase of its population, the development of its resources, and the acquisition of wealth, under the fostering influence of agricultural enterprise; nor is this enlivening state of things limited to Western Canada, whose winters are less severe than our own. Eastern Canada, more resembling the climate of this Province, has also been advancing in material wealth and population, whilst her future is expected to be still more satisfactory. Of Lower Canada, says an excellent writer:—

"Before the visit of the Hessian fly scourge, now disappearing, it produced wheat largely, and is especially adapted to the growth of root crop. Plums and Pears grow abundantly, and apples obtain peculiar degree of excellence; Peaches and Grapes also ripen freely with the aid only of the Glass.

Now your Committee are disposed to think that if the same exertions were made to do justice to New Brunswick, her future too, may be such as to gratify those who seek and labour for her welfare. Surely much of this encouraging statement might be rendered applicable to ourselves. The Canadians are said to be "hardy and self-reliant." The more assimilated we become to them in this respect the better. Nor should we lose sight of various advantages possessed by ourselves over them. Our nearer proximity to the manufacture of the Mother Country, and to Countries where articles of domestic use can be obtained, bring such productions within our reach at a much lower rate than must be paid, when freighted up the St. Lawrence and the Lakes, or when they are carried hundreds of miles by Rail and Team. Hence, while in figures, our substance must rate lower than is the case with our neighbours, our position on the seaboard, our provincial compactness, our social habits, our very snow "a natural fertilizer," whose coming is looked for with eagerness, supplying as it does to the wayfarer and the Agriculturist, a natural railroad, which in a new country, where roads are at first imperfectly constructed, is of great benefit." All these circumstances are calculated, in the contemplation, together with innumerable other vast blessings, bountifully showered down upon it, to foster the spirit of cheerful contentment with our allotment in life, while they should stimulate to energetic, sus-

* Prize Essay, by Alexander Morris, Esquire, Montreal.

tained and well directed efforts after every practicable improvement.

In this locality, where your society specially exerts its influence, the past year has been on the whole, favorable to the agriculturist. The failure of the hay crop the two preceding years, and the potatoe crop in 1854, rendered a good season more than usually desirable, and the farmer in this respect, has had little reason to complain. The early part of the year was cold and backward followed by dry weather, this greatly retarded early sowing and vegetation, but as the season advanced fertilizing showers fell in abundance and a strong growth set in; in consequence of which the Hay shot up most luxuriantly, and a crop was got in exceeding that of many past years, and greatly above an average one. POTATOES too have been most prolific; the cellars and green-houses are stored to repletion, and the quality good. A rot has shown itself partially since the root was housed, but this injury is chiefly owing to the careless manner in which they were dug and carried in, and to the crowded state of the cellars.

In all light soils and where sown in good time, the WHEAT crop has been fine—excellent in quality and large in quantity. In heavy and wet lands, in consequence of the rains that fell as the season advanced, the plant continued to grow to a late period of the year, which left little time for ripening, when it attained its full growth; this and partial attacks of the weevil, greatly reduced the average produce, which otherwise would have been large. OATS have also suffered severely by the prolonged vegetation, and the absence of dry ripening weather towards the close of the year; this, together with the effects of early frosts, has left the crop, at one time most promising, rather short. BARLEY as usual, has escaped injury, and with trifling exceptions, is considered a full crop. The chevalier continues to be the favourite kind. The variety imported from Britain last spring, promises well.

Buckwheat, Indian Corn, and Mangel Wortzel, are cultivated in this County, only to a very limited extent; much attention was paid to the first two grains some years ago, but the shortness of the season was found to be a serious drawback.

The TURNIP crop has been good, and the quantity sown and raised is still on the increase. No better indication of enterprise in husbandry can be advanced than an extensive cultivation of this valuable root. The great drawback on the cultivation of the Turnip is the extensive destruction of the young plant by the turnip fly, and every method of destroying, or rather preventing the early broods of these insects, should be made public and resorted to. One which is worthy of earnest consideration we venture to suggest, namely, that of passing over the young plants an apparatus smeared with tar in such a manner, that when the insects make their spring—which they do the moment a shadow passes over them—they are entangled and destroyed. For this purpose we would recommend an implement made as follows:—

A flat board about four feet long, and wide enough to take as much as two rows of turnips at a time, to be provided with two light wheels, elevating the machine sufficiently just to escape the plant, and two bent handles by which it is held. This on being smeared below with tar, and used every two or three days, during the critical period of the life of the young plant, will destroy myriads of them.

Now, if every farmer used this, there is little doubt but that the mischief from the turnip fly, would be greatly mitigated; and moreover by thus destroying them one year we lessen their chances of increase further next; and still more simply—Let each turnip grower plant in some convenient spot, about a quarter of an acre, or less of turnips, perhaps a month before his field crops are sown, the result of which would be to collect all the insects to small isolated patches, where they could readily be dealt with on the plan just explained.

Various expedients in sowing have been adopted to prevent the ravages of this insect—among these, that of sowing, if possible, before rain, or with a water drill, in order to get a plant as quickly as possible, deserves attention, for a wet season at the time of the coming up of the plant, is much to the advantage of the crop, in as much as the locomotion of the insects is retarded, and not only so, but its breeding also, so that the plant can make good way and gain strength before the arrival of the enemy. The preference shown by the insects for one form of plant before another, may be observed in cases where the Swedish has become accidentally mixed with a crop of the common turnip; the former usually escaping to a greater or less extent the injury done to the latter. This would indicate the advisability of sowing alternate rows of Swedes and common turnips, with the object of destroying the latter to save the former; and in conclusion, we venture to recommend in all cases where practicable, that the Swede be sown early in the season. Several of the Members of this Society have pursued this practice for years, without experiencing a failure.

The operations of the Society for the past season have been of a mingled character, the business of the preceding year closed on the 16th January, with one of the best Exhibitions of Farm Produce and Domestic Manufactures, that we ever experienced. The samples were numerous and good in the latter department, in particular, the progress was quite decided. At the general meeting which followed the Show, it was suggested that exertions should be made to improve the breed of Horn Cattle, by importing stock from Great Britain or elsewhere, direct. Availing ourselves therefore, of the opportunity offered of Mr. Ferguson's visiting some of the best breeding districts in Britain, we authorised him to purchase to unlimited extent. Mr. Ferguson, however, found the state of the cattle market very unfavourable for the purpose. Cows of a very medium description were selling for common use at sixteen pounds sterling and upwards, and animals such as he considered would answer our purpose, we offered at a rate so exorbitant that he did not feel himself justified in buying. The Committee shortly afterwards learned that Mr. David Ritchie, of Flat Lands, Restigouche, had a number of animals of a pure Ayreshire breed to dispose of, and having received from Mr. Ritchie a description sufficiently satisfactory to warrant a purchase, a person was despatched to Restigouche who bought and brought to Bathurst, one young bull and five cows and heifers, for which the Society paid Seventy-four pounds, besides charges. The whole of them were sold shortly after their arrival, by public auction, under the Rules of the Society, which precludes their being altered or carried out of the County for three years; and the proceeds carried to account. We however regret to say, that the cattle by no means came up to our expectations, and showed unmistakable indications of having been poorly wintered over and cared for. The Committee therefore venture to recommend to their successors that renewed attempts be made to import from Great Britain, or from any other place when the Legislative Grant may be made available.

Your Committee imported from Scotland a limited quantity of seed oats, of three descriptions, viz:—white, sandy and black; the once excellent potatoe oats, long and successfully cultivated in this County, having greatly degenerated. We also received an assortment of Chevalier Barley and one each of Gray's and Wilkie's improved Iron Ploughs. The grain was divided into small lots, and the whole sold by public auction, together with the ploughs.

The two barrels of superior clover seed imported in the fall of 1854,