

emigrants arriving on our shores, yet many of all classes of our resident population have become its victims.

Another cause of deep regret must be the war in which the principal nations of Europe are embroiled, and which has already resulted in the profuse effusion of human blood. It is nevertheless gratifying to know that the British Flag which has so long "Braved the Battle and the Breeze," is once more unfurled, and in connection with France, sustaining the side of right and justice—defending the oppressed against the oppressor.

As the gentlemen who have previously occupied the Presidential Chair of this Institution, have been those possessing a thorough knowledge of the agriculture of the Province, and all branches connected with it, they have left me but narrow limits upon which to address you at this time, even had my acquaintance with its theory and practice been much more extensive.

The Government has been pleased to grant the usual amount of one thousand pounds to assist in carrying forward the operations of the Association. The Canada Company continues to act with its usual munificence, and Baron de Longueuil has generously offered a handsome prize for the best Hereford Bull.

I am happy to notice that liberal premiums continue to be awarded by the Society, for the best essays on Agricultural subjects from all the different counties which have not yet successfully competed. The collection of prize essays will be highly valuable as a book of reference.

An examination of the Annual Prize List will readily show that the Association is extending its liberality, in increasing the number and amount of its premiums, and including everything to which they should be awarded in our present infant state.

The Town of London and the Counties of Middlesex and Elgin have set a noble example, in contributing funds to insure the success of the Exhibition, and I hope that other sections of Canada may follow them in this respect.

The business and profession of the farmer is beginning to assume the commanding position to which it is justly entitled, and I believe that our enlightened young men are fast yielding up their prejudices against it. It is obviously the case that when merchants, manufacturers, and professional men acquire fortunes in their different avocations, they usually retire to farms of greater or less extent. A great proportion of the good men of all ages have followed farming from early life, and to none can the liberties of a country be entrusted with more safety than to its agricultural population; at the same time, it is necessary that every class of the community should be fully represented in our Legislative halls.

I beg to quote from a speech of the hon. Wm. C. Rives, of Virginia, delivered before the New York State Agricultural Society last autumn, the following statement, viz. :—

"That when, in 1840, the whole population of the United States amounted to a little more than 17,000,000, an effective force of 4,629,297 was

employed in the pursuits of agriculture, manufactures and commerce, of that number 3,719,051 or 80 4-10 per cent., were engaged in agriculture; 781,749, or 17 1-10, in manufactures; and 117,607, or 2 5-10 per cent., in commerce. Though these proportions may have varied somewhat since, and will doubtless continue to vary, in a greater or less degree, from time to time, yet nothing is more certain than that for ages to come, agriculture will be the chosen occupation of a large majority of the republican people of America."

In the following paragraph he goes on to state:

"That while agriculture employs, and must long continue to employ, much the largest portion of American labor, it also contributes by its products, much the largest amount to the sum of the National income, wealth. The whole annual produce of industry of every kind in 1840, has been estimated by a learned and ingenious statistician, drawing his conclusions from a document to which I have just referred, (Professor Tucker, on the progress of the United States,) at the sum total of \$1,063,134,736 of which \$684,387,557 were derived from agriculture; \$239,836,194 from manufactures; and \$79,271,068 from commerce; and the balance from mining, the forests, and the fisheries combined."

I think I am safe in saying that the agriculture of the United States has since that time fully kept pace with its commerce, manufactures, and other sources of revenue, from the talent, experience, and research of its great men, which have been brought to bear upon it as well from the opening up of the Western States, although the influx of the precious metals from California and Australia, will have a tendency to alter the relative proportion to their revenues.

From a slight review of the census of Canada in 1851, it may be stated that the effective force of Upper Canada amounts to a little more than two hundred and twenty thousand, of which more than one-third are farmers, about one-third are laborers, of which class nearly all will soon be added to our agricultural population, the remaining third includes the liberal professions, the merchants, manufactures, and all other classes of the community, a large proportion of whom occupy our farms.

I have to apologize for quoting from a speech lately made by the American Minister, at the Court of St. James, before the Royal Agricultural Society of England. He stated that the annual product of the United States is:—

"Two million bales of Cotton.

Two hundred million pounds of Tobacco.

Two hundred million pounds of Rice.

One hundred million bushels of wheat.

And, six hundred million bushels of Maize or Indian Corn."

The United States contained, according to the census of 1850, a population of more than twenty three millions, I believe three millions are slaves. We should certainly think favorably of Canada when we find that, although it does not produce rice, except the indigenous kind, and corn only to a limited extent, which might, nevertheless,