

1868. This is the animal which was so much admired at the Provincial Exhibition of 1868, and with which Joseph J. Northup, Esq., took the first prize. Mr. Northup sold the Bull to the Middle River Society, and Mr. McLennan, the Secretary, now reports:—"The animals raised from the Alderney Bull are specimens of rare beauty, so that within the bounds of this Society yearling bulls and heifers can now be seen that would do credit to any Agricultural Society." The Sheep raised from the Ram purchased at the same time are also highly spoken of. The Halifax County Society has a balance in hand of upwards of \$300.00, a large portion of which they are desirous of investing in Stock so soon as an importation shall take place, in fact the Milford Section of the Society threaten to discontinue their subscriptions if Stock cannot be found. The Mahone Bay Society report well of the White Chester Pigs, and the Members of the Society are increasing in numbers. The Yarmouth Society complain that they have lost a year by the want of an importation of Stock last season. They passed a vote in February 1871, but could take no further action, and the Treasurer's account was consequently diminished, although the Society is in a flourishing and healthy condition, as is indeed shown by the fact that there is available for 1872, a sum of \$1279.81. The Secretary says: "Our importations of Stock have been invariably successful in effecting improvement," although the Society's funds have to pay for it in the first instance. The Digby Central Society imported a bull last Spring from New Brunswick, and another is now required. An Exhibition was held by this Society on 11th October, when there were more entries of live Stock than at any previous Exhibition. "Most of the cattle were very fine, thus showing the great improvement from the imported Stock. The sheep were quite inferior, not as good as last year, which speaks to every farmer that a better breed is required." The Weymouth Society is the only one in the Province, as far as we can judge, that has been unfortunate in its live Stock to a discouraging extent.

Alfred C. Thomas, Esq., in his report of the Windsor Society, calls attention to the want of any general means of personal communication among our farmers.

In England and elsewhere, "Farmers' Clubs," for the discussion of agricultural subjects, are to be everywhere found, and although the main intellectual fare at these entertainments is the substantial information supplied by the farmers themselves, yet great political magnates like Gladstone and Disraeli account it a privilege to throw in a little spice of political wit or wisdom, as the occasion may suggest. Stars of the first magnitude of English nobility grace these rural meetings. Buccleugh sits down at the Club Dinner with Mechi the strop-maker and a batch of burly farmers, and all feel better when they rise up again. If our Societies were to organize similar Clubs, we doubt not much benefit would flow from them, benefit to themselves and to the country at large.

The Parrsboro' Society is in correspondence with parties in the States and Ontario on the subject of potato diggers.

The Milford Haven Society, Co. Guysboro', feeling the necessity of improving their Seed Potatoes, imported five barrels of the best kinds from the States at a cost of \$45, and distributed them among the members. They have given entire satisfaction; "in consequence we look forward to an improvement in this most important crop, which has been fast wasting away."

The Milford Haven Society calls attention to a matter that will, no doubt, be taken up by the Board of Agriculture at its first meeting. It appears that the Society is in the habit, for reasons fully stated in the Report, of importing plough-castings, and that, although ploughs are on the free list, yet the Custom House authorities levy a duty upon the plough-castings.

Mrs. Treat of Vineland, New Jersey, finds (*Am. Jour. Sc.*, Dec.) that the *SUNDEW* (*Drosera longifolia*) is an effective fly-trap. On some of the plants in her window almost every leaf held a common house-fly prisoner until it died, and it did not take the leaf very long to fold completely round its victim. Professor Gray observes that in our common Sundew (*D. rotundifolia*) it is only the gland-tipped bristles that bend inward and hold the insect fast, while they probably suck the juice out of him. The folding of the leaf itself around the fly is a new fact; the blade incurves from apex to base in the manner of its veneration.

During last summer, Dr. Boswell-Syme investigated the FERTILIZATION OF CEREALS, and, in the *London Journal of Botany* for December, points out the remarkable fact that in Wheat and Barley the stigmas receive the pollen from the anthers before the latter are

protruded, and the exerted anthers he found to be always empty. In the Oat most of the protruded anthers are empty, but occasionally anthers with pollen are to be found after protrusion, and stigmas exposed at the sides of the florets, which are not found in Wheat and Barley. We may add that from observations made last summer, we believe a phenomenon similar to that observed in Wheat by Dr. B-S., takes place in Timothy (*Phleum pratense*). The rule of our best farmers is to begin cutting their Timothy between the first and second bloom. Now we believe that the great and rapid (almost sudden) elongation of the filaments takes place after fertilization, at least all the exerted anthers examined last summer (not very many were found to be empty. We invite attention to the subject, and shall extend our own observations during the forthcoming season, the facts mentioned having been merely noticed incidentally in the course of another investigation.

MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES IN DIGBY.

At a meeting of Representatives from the different Agricultural Societies in the County of Digby, held at St. Mary's Bay this 2nd day of January, 1872, for the purpose of electing a member to represent the said County at the Central Board of Agriculture, for the Province of Nova Scotia. Present, as representatives from the following Societies:—Digby Society, John Dakin, Esq.; St. Mary's Bay do., not represented; Weymouth, do., Wm. H. Dahlgreen; Clare, do., Anselm M. Comeau. J. S. M. Jones was appointed Secretary, *pro tem*. Moved by Mr. Comeau, and seconded by Mr. Dahlgreen, that John Dakin, Esq., be the Representative for the County. He, not objecting, was chosen.

J. S. M. JONES, Secretary.

ST. MARY'S BAY, D. C., Jan. 2, 1872.

MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES IN CUMBERLAND.

AMHERST, January 3, 1872.

A meeting of the Representatives elected by the Agricultural Societies of the County of Cumberland, for the purpose of electing a member for the Central Board, was held at the Court House, this day. Mr. J. D. Dixon, Representative from the Parrsboro Society, was elected Chairman. Mr. Gilbert Seaman, Representative from Minudie, was elected Secretary.

Hiram Black, Esq., Representative from the Amherst Society, was selected by ballot as the Delegate to the Central Board of Agriculture, for the County, for the present year.