

ture alone, as more legitimately coming under the surveillance of an agricultural journal.

The interesting publication we take for our guide refers only to Upper Canada, that being eminently a British colony, and exhibiting, since its emancipation from the fetters of Imperial government, a progress in its moral, intellectual, and industrial affairs unprecedented in the history of colonization. With respect to the agricultural societies of Upper Canada, their establishment, under Parliamentary enactments and patronage, dates back to the year 1830; and, from that period to 1854, nine Acts were passed for their regulation. At the former period the population of Upper Canada was only 210,000, the assessed value of property nearly £3,000,000, and the number of districts eleven, each of which had its agricultural society, with a grant of £100 from Government for its support. In 1853 the population had risen to one million, the assessed property to £40,000,000, the number of general agricultural societies to 41 (each of which has branch societies in the several townships), and grants from Government from £150 to £250 each. The aggregate sum raised by the members was, in 1856 £5,877 8s. 2½d., and the Government grants £3,198. A portion of these funds is wisely expended in the purchase and importation of breeding cattle, sheep, and pigs, of the improved breeds, the males of which are let out to hire for the season to members of the societies. Annual exhibitions are held, at which prizes (rather *too numerous*) are awarded for the same objects as in England. The impulse given by these societies to the husbandry of Upper Canada has raised that splendid province to the highest rank as an agricultural country on the North American continent.

The first exhibition took place at Toronto in 1846. It was of a general provincial character, and was eminently successful; some of the Durham cattle being of the best type, and fetching high prices. Other products, also of great excellence, were exhibited; and, upon the whole, the display excited the astonishment of those who visited the show, and were competent judges of the result. On this occasion a Board of Agriculture for the whole province was established, with E. W. Thomson, Esq., for President; and the Provincial Agricultural Association was also inaugurated, which has since been the means of so greatly advancing the general prosperity of the province. The capability of the soil of Upper Canada for improvement, was strikingly illustrated by the Hon. Adam Fergusson, by a reference to the case of Messrs. Culley, on the farm of Wark. The crop was valued to them at the rate of 15 bushels of oats, and 9 bushels of wheat, per acre. Fifteen years after, another valuation took place, when the estimate was 84 bushels of oats, 62 of wheat, and 72 of barley, the green and live stock being in a somewhat similar proportion.

Since that period the association has gone on with increasing prosperity, holding its general meetings every year; and by the encouragement it holds out to improvement in cultivation, in the management and rearing of stock, and in the invention and manufacture of agricultural implements and machinery, we ought to add, that the interest and importance of the progress made, equally increases as the society advances, from year to year. This will appear when we state that whilst the proceedings of the society for the first year occupied only forty-eight pages of the report, those of the tenth year [1855-6], including the reports of the local associations, fill up 356 pages, exclusive of a Prize Essay on "Insects and Diseases Injurious to Wheat Crops," by H. Y. Hind, Esq., M.A., a review of which recently appeared in this journal. This report, which forms a considerable and complete volume, contains most interesting matter for those who contemplate emigrating to that rising country, which will become doubly important as the future high road to British Columbia, likely to prove one of the richest and most desirable of our Colonial possessions; we might add the most