

ties so many persons aiming at, and achieving in their quiet way, so much of excellence in every department for which an opportunity for display is afforded on this occasion. No one will visit this place without carrying away from it an enhanced estimate of the value and importance of our agricultural and horticultural interests. Many will leave it with a better opinion of a soil and climate where such excellence is attainable. Some of our English friends, I have reason to hope, with the evidence which this show affords, may, on their return to their own country, be able to intimate a doubt whether the time has not come to revise the stereotyped paragraph on Nova Scotia, which figures in their school geographies, and whether it might not be possible, without violating the truth, to describe our Province as remarkable for something else than "barren rocks and impenetrable fogs." I confess I love the Province, of whose administration I have the honor for the moment to be the head, and if there is any portion of our population with which I am connected by ties more tender than another, it is the class whose interests we are especially met to promote. As son and grandson of men who had been cultivators of the soil of Nova Scotia, I should be ashamed of myself if I did not feel for the class and for the pursuits with which I am so much identified more than an ordinary attachment, and I assure you I look forward with pleasure and pride to the time when, relieved from the duties of public office, I shall be able to pursue the rural life and cultivate the rural tastes which are so dear to me.

No occupation so grows on the affections as that of tilling the soil. There is something into which the instincts of our nature respond. The idea is associated with the earliest history of our race. When God created man of the dust of the earth, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and gave him the name Adam, or Earthy, to indicate his origin, he placed him in the Garden of Eden, and assigned to him the duty "to dress it and to keep it." This splendid abode, which was surrounded by the four rivers, and within whose precincts "grew every tree that was pleasant to the sight and good for food," was a fitting residence for primeval man. The name Paradise, given first to this abode, and afterwards applied in a higher sense to the realms of bliss, is a word of great antiquity, as it is one of peculiar significance. It is to be found in all the old languages of the East. It comes to us from the Greek, yet is older than Greece. In all tongues it conveys the idea of a park and a garden. It means the hand of God and the hand of man. It means nature's inherent fertility, stimulated by man's industry. This we call cultivation, another word not without significance; we derive it from a Latin root, which means alike "to till and to worship," as if there were something of worship in obeying the command of the Divine Being to the first of our race, to till the ground and to keep it.

But I shall not lay too much stress upon an interpretation which I fear is open to the objection of being somewhat fanciful. Indeed