

much so in agricultural as in mechanical operations.

I will now offer a few thoughts on the national ploughing match between Canada and the State of New York, that was talked of a short time since. If this exhibition takes place, it should be for the purpose of ascertaining facts that will be mutually beneficial to both nations. I have witnessed a good number of ploughing matches in my time, and it is not uncommon to find some of the best ploughmen among the spectators, while a second-rate class are between the plough handles. Where is the man that has judgment and skill capable of ploughing a furrow to the credit of his country, who will not look beyond the end of his plough beam, and see the difficulty he may involve himself in by assuming the imposing title of national champion? Nine chances to ten but the champion belongs to the second-rate class; and the most perfect manner of turning the soil, the skill of doing which both nations are in search of, will in all probability remain in the dark. There would also be some danger that over estimates would be made of the value of the particular class of ploughs which might happen to win, and of calling out national political feeling and jealousy, which would be mutually injurious.

You may think from these remarks that I disapprove of such an enterprise, but far from it. Both good feeling and improved ploughing might result to both countries. I will give you some thoughts of my own as to what I think would be a desirable and profitable ploughing match.

Take the sum that is intended for the national match, say 100*l.*, and the 50*l.* which the ploughmen of Scarborough hold at stake with the 50*l.* of the township that shall accept their challenge. This would yield a sum of 200*l.*; and if our American neighbours of the State of New York would raise another 200*l.*, a total of 400*l.* would be available for this purpose. Let there be given a premium for three sets, each to contain five ploughs, and each set draw 125*l.*, or 25*l.* for each plough. Those sets that draw prizes to be public property, never to be patented, but delivered up to the President of the Provincial Association till he has secured patterns for the province, when they are to be given up to the President of the New York State Agricultural Society. The remainder, 25*l.*, should be devoted to defraying the expenses of the judges, &c. I would recommend fifteen judges, all practical farmers, seven on a side, the fifteenth to be chosen in the country which produces the greatest number of patterns. Proper parties should be employed to ascertain the weight and draught of the ploughs, and mark the same on each before hitched on for trial. The judges should confine themselves to the best work and lightness of draught. The Provincial Association and New York State Society should give such premiums to the best ploughmen, as they might judge proper. Then let the Scarborough champions again come forward and give the Whitby gentlemen a chance to mend their ways. If such a trial of ploughs and ploughmen were to come off at one of our Provincial shows, say at Niagara next year, for 375*l.*, what a concourse of farmers and other

spectators would be attracted to the spot from both sides. We might expect at least fifty competitors, bringing five ploughs each, all of different patterns. Such a competition would give a stimulus and honest pride in the noble and useful art of ploughing, and conducted on fair and honourable principles, must prove highly advantageous to all parties concerned.

I remain yours truly,  
C. P. J.

Clarke, 1849.

### INDIAN CORN AND PUMPKINS.

We have been favoured with the following facts by captain Shaw, of this city, which show what can be done in this country in the growth of the above productions. The corner of a field, consisting of a sandy loam, was well cultivated and manured with stable dung and planted with Indian corn (the yellow Dutton,) on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1849, on a space comprising one fifth of an acre; the distance of the hills, four feet asunder. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 18 hills of pumpkins were planted with the corn, of the mammoth variety, both of the green and yellow kinds. The gross amount of produce from this plot was 7053 lbs. of pumpkins and 29 bushels of corn in the ear! One specimen of the green pumpkins weighed, when gathered, 260 lbs; another of the yellow, 202 lbs! Twelve selected specimens amounted together to 2102 lbs. The corn was hoed twice, and suffered in some degree from the depredation of crows and wireworm, and some hills of the pumpkins failed to vegetate. A small amount of night soil was applied to the pumpkins; and we must confess that such gigantic specimens have never come within the range either of our observation or reading. We understand that Mr. Fleming, nurseryman of this city has seeds taken from the largest, for disposal.

### THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

This society, for the promotion of natural history and general science, was founded under the auspices of Sir J. E. Eardley Wilmot, in 1843, and in 1844 the Queen became its patroness. It receives a grant from the public treasury of 400*l.* a year. A museum, containing already a large number of specimens, illustrating the mineralogy, geology, and natural history of the island, has been formed, and the nucleus of a library commenced. The papers and proceedings of the society are published quarterly. The first part contains several interesting reports on the coal fields of Van Diemen's Land, which appear to be rich both in bituminous and anthracite coals, and will prove at no distant period an immense source of wealth. The society, we find, encourages the important pursuits of the farmer and horticulturist; it having under its management a large and beautifully laid out botanical garden, in the vicinity of Hobart Town. These things are highly creditable to our fellow colonists on the other side of the globe. When will Canada follow the example thus set by a junior member of our colonial family?