

A firm attachment to our glorious Constitution and to our noble Institutions, and above all, fervent loyalty to the Throne, should constitute the basis of every British association—you have evinced the most gratifying proof that this Society rests upon these foundations.

I meet you here this day with a degree of satisfaction proportioned to the interest which I take in the objects of the Meeting.

This may perhaps be accounted an inconsiderable beginning—nevertheless it is a *beginning*, and may therefore be regarded as one of the first steps towards the attainment of those beneficial results which I gratify myself with believing must not only gradually render Newfoundland less dependent upon the surrounding Colonies, in respect to many essential articles of Agricultural produce, but greatly contribute to the promotion of the comfort, prosperity and happiness of its inhabitants. I congratulate the Meeting upon this numerous and respectable attendance and upon the degree of public interest in the proceedings of the day of which that circumstance affords undoubted evidence—and I further congratulate you and the country (I address myself more particularly to the Farmers and Agriculturists) upon the fortunate reaction in public opinion, which has taken place in respect to Agriculture by the recognition not only by the people of this Island, but also by Her Majesty's Government of the great interests of that branch of its productions, which at no remote period was not only despised, and discouraged, but actually prohibited.

Gentlemen;

A great victory has been achieved over the prejudices of bygone days on this subject, and it will constitute a source of never failing satisfaction to myself individually, to believe that my humble efforts may in any degree have contributed to this desirable result—as it will of gratitude to the people and the Legislature of this Island, for the promptitude and cordiality with which their efforts have been responded to and maintained by them.

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THOMAS BLAIKIE.

Green Hill, West River, February 1.

CERTIFICATES.

This is to certify that in December, 1841, I purchased one of Mr. Thomas Blaikie's *Stationary Threshing Machines*, and since that time by the great saving of time and labour resulting from the use of it, it has amply repaid me for the use of it. I therefore confidently recommend these machines to every farmer who may require such an article; and will venture to assure any person that if they purchase one they will never have reason to regret it, as an unprofitable investment of capital.

GEORGE McDONALD.

West River, January, 1843.

Having worked for some time with one of Mr Blaikie's *Threshing Machines*, with moving horse power, would recommend a superior article, and are certain, that no farmer could make a better investment than to supply himself with a machine of this kind.

SAMUEL FRASER.
JOHN FRASER.

New-Glasgow, January 3, 1843.

I have had Messrs. Frasers' *Threshing Machine*, made by Thomas Blaikie, threshing for me two or three days, and found to surpass my expectations. It done the work well, and thorough clean; and I would recommend it as a very superior article, as regards saving of labour and grain.

B. L. KERRPATRICK.

New Glasgow, January 3, 1843.

Having witnessed the *Threshing Apparatus*, made by Mr. Thomas Blaikie, in full operation, I give it as my decided opinion that it far exceeds, in usefulness, and saving of labour, any other of a similar nature which has come under my observation, and it is preferable to any other kind used in the Province.

JAMES CANNICHAN.

New Glasgow, January 3, 1843.

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