

It would serve no good purpose, on behalf of the farmers of Canada, to deny this charge on paper; it is to be hoped, however, that ere many years revolve a different account of our condition will be legibly written, more generally than at present, on the face of our farms with the plough corroborated by the presence of comfortable and convenient housing for man and beast—improved breeds of live stock, in good keeping—a more general use of labor-saving implements—more attention to a better system of operations, and the rotation of crops—draining and manuring of the soil—all of which, agricultural societies, wherever maintained, have been instrumental in producing.

In the following quotation from the same author, it will be observed that he anticipates at an early day a better state of things in Upper Canada than he witnessed on his visit here in 1849:

“The superior class of settlers, of whom so many are scattered over Upper Canada, will greatly facilitate the adoption of such means of improvement as are usually employed by Agricultural Societies.”

This anticipation of improvement, by means of Agricultural Societies, is worthy of our attention, and is a strong recommendation to every farmer, especially, if not to every resident of the Province, to countenance by his presence, and to aid by his subscription the formation and proceedings of such societies. To this learned and respected author we are more indebted for having thus pointed out to us our wants, and hopefully directing us towards the means of supply, than if by a more flattering account he had induced us to abate our exertions.

The truth of the Professor's remarks is verified in the following extract from “Scobie's Almanac” for 1853, showing the average produce per acre in Upper and Lower Canada, omitting the fractions:—

	U. C. Bushels.	L. C. Bushels.
Wheat, - - -	14	7
Barley - - -	20	15
Rye, - - -	12	7
Pease, - - -	14	7
Oats, - - -	25	15
Buck Wheat, - -	14	10
Indian Corn, - -	24	17
Potatoes, - - -	64	60
Turnips, - - -	212	95

It is difficult to account for the smallness of this average yield per acre in any other way than by admitting that the average of our farming practice is bad; or by libelling our climate or soil, if not both, and asserting that in one or both lies the deficiency—and this allegation is annually refuted in the abundant crops raised by the skilful portion of our farmers throughout the Province. The traveller very often sees, in the most fertile and best cultivated parts, striking illustrations of the difference between the good farming and the bad on adjoining lots of nearly equal virgin quality; the one farmer rendered prosperous and affluent by the luxuriance of his crops, while his neighbor, in poverty, blames the climate and soil.

The proceedings of Agricultural Societies, their exhibitions and competitions, and the public decisions of their judges, have a tendency to improve the judgment of all attentive observers on such occasions; and to farmers who are dealers in live stock and farm produce, this alone is of importance, as enabling them the better to know the good and bad points of their own properties, as well as those of others. This improvement of the judgment in discerning the better from the worse, leads to an appreciation of excellence, and that appreciation by farmers encourages societies, as well as enterprising individuals, to bring superior animals, seed and implements within their reach. One farmer alone, however, desirous of improving his live stock, can seldom afford, in the present state of our progress, to purchase and keep up a first-rate male animal - but in a locality where excellence is duly appreciated, the demand from his neighbors might render him good returns for money thus invested; and at the year's end it is an important addition to the value of farm stock that superior males had been supplied to all the female breeding animals; indeed, few of the farmer's outlays yield so profitable a return. To cause extensive and minute inspections and comparisons of whole farms, and of the various methods in practice upon them, and to sum up the several results, duly reporting thereon for the public information, as practised by many societies, cannot fail to excite emulation, not only on the part of those immediately concerned—the examiners and those examined—the society to which they belong, but also throughout, the whole neighborhood; and in no branch of their varied duties have Societies done more good in the mother country than in the degree of perfection to which they have been mainly instrumental in bringing the construction of the plough and thus improving its operations.

The ploughs generally in use in this vicinity at present may have been fit instruments when there were no fields clear of stumps and other obstructions, and even yet may be indispensable for some portions of many farms; but they are unfit to cut and properly turn over the furrow slice as required on clear sod land of an even surface; as proof of this, witness our County Ploughing Match, in October last. The ploughing to which was awarded the first premium, was even in the estimation of the ploughman, very bad; the fault evidently was not his, but that of the implement; each furrow slice standing nearly upright, with an open space between them; while all admitted the workman understood his business well. One good result is hoped from that day's ploughing, as the farmers there generally agreed that we have not the right sort of ploughs for good work in clear fields and doubtless many will turn their attention to quarters in which they may be found.

The absence of a good plough factory, within a convenient distance, has greatly retarded our progress hereabout in ploughing; if we had some of the ploughs made by the Messrs. MacSherry, near Queenston, or by the Messrs. McTavish, of Bowmanville, the workmanship at our ploughing matches would soon show a dif-