

grains good. Hay on uplands an average crop; but the Grand Pre, which was flooded in 1869, produced but half a crop. Fruit an average crop. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year, viz:—Joseph B. Bowser, *Pres.*; Thomas Tuzo, *Vice-Pres.*; Daniel Woodworth, *2nd Vice-Pres.*; George Hamilton, *Sec'y. and Treas.*; John Simson, *Asst. do.*; Charles Reid, Nathan L. Fuller, James H. Dill, Wm. Falkner, Nathaniel Falkner, *Comm.*

The Onslow Agricultural Society can this season boast of 167 members, who have already paid into its funds for the year \$167. No doubt the members have found the purchases of animals, made at the Provincial sale last year, a paying investment, and to this circumstance is the Society's success to be partly ascribed.

The English mail has arrived as we are preparing for the press, and a few items of news may not be without interest:—The cultivation of Sugar Beet is extending, and the Agricultural Societies and Journals are devoting attention to the subject. The clear profits to the cultivator range from five to ten pounds per acre; the crop is by no means an exhausting one like cabbage, and rural prosperity has everywhere followed its introduction among an industrious people.

Grain appears to be abundant in European markets, and prices low. For Hops there is a steady demand. Fat cattle, sheep and calves continue to rise in price.

Those who fancied that Mr. Cochrane was paying fancy prices for Duchesses, ought to notice some of the sales of thorough bred stock that are being weekly made in England. Ten days ago Lord Bective paid 1000 guineas for Grand Duke of Kent, from Grand Duchess the 9th by Lord Oxford. The Duke was sold by Mr. W. W. Slye. The Royal Agricultural Society's *Journal* says:—

"Except in 2-year old and yearling heifers the show of Shorthorns at Wolverhampton could not be considered up to the standard of former exhibitions. Many reasons account for this. Since 1868 the Canadians, Americans and Australians have bought up most of the best yearling and 2-year-old bulls and heifers at good prices for exportation, consequently exhibitors have not those specimens to send forward as fully matured and developed animals. Moreover, the higher bred Shorthorns have in the same period become immensely advanced in value, whilst pure and fashionable pedigrees command such extreme prices that selection is avoided, and the bad with the good are left to grow together, like Tares and Wheat, till an auction is held, which scatters them far and wide; but there can be no doubt that the pure stock of the country, though more may be bred, is

hardly likely to be much improved in symmetry and quality, for there is an apparent coarseness in some of the more fashionable lines of blood."

On the same subject of Shorthorns, the *Agricultural Gazette* writes,—

"There is something charming in the simple and yet autocratic utterances of the 'Kirkleavington Philosopher.' No qualifying expressions render his teaching indistinct, and dissent from his opinions does not appear to have been contemplated by him as in the least degree possible. '* * No other breed of Shorthorns,' he writes, 'show a family likeness except my own. Nor has any other breed of Shorthorns the same hair and handling as mine have; nor can it be obtained but through my strain of blood; for it runs in the blood, and none now can be found that have the old Hubback blood, and that of his predecessors, and of Mr. James Brown's old Red Bull, and these two bulls were the last remains of those breeds, which, had been so long eminent as Shorthorns * * * which was before the time when the Messrs. Colling began breeding.' This is speaking with authority: dogmatic teaching more positive than usually falls from human lips. Still there is a relief even in dogmatism, and we cannot doubt that on many points Mr. Bates had a right to hold strong opinions."

M. Van Geert, the celebrated Ghent Nurseryman, who is probably known by name to every gardener in the world, died on the 14th of October, in his 78th year.

Mr. Sealing, the Queen's Basket Maker, has published a book on Willows. Basket willows occupy 7000 acres of land in Britain, and four or five thousand tons of willows are likewise imported from France, Belgium, Holland and Prussia, and in 1866 forty-five thousand pounds worth of baskets were also imported into England. Willow cuttings should be put entirely under ground.

For the encouragement of the Saturday half-holiday in London, in connection with the Field Excursions for Natural History purposes which have sprung out of it, prizes to the amount of 30 guineas are offered by the Duchess of Sutherland, the Countess of Ducie, and the Marquis of Westminster, for competition among members of botanical, microscopical, and geological clubs, and the unprofessional naturalists of London generally. The subjects selected by the prize-givers require from the competitors a knowledge of the mosses, pond microzoa, and fossils of the London district, obtained by Saturday afternoon excursions during the next twelve months. The prizes are offered through the Early Closing Association.

A few details respecting the Illinois Industrial University may not be without use at the present time:—

It is both a State and National Institution in its origin and relations. It was created by a grant from Congress, and its great leading aims were prescribed by a law of Congress. The State, accepting the grant and its conditions, founded the University, and further endowed it with the large donations received from the County in which it is located.

The public movement which gave rise to this University, began a quarter of a century ago. Public meetings of the friends of industrial education were held in all parts of the State, and numerous petitions, signed by thousands of the agriculturists and other industrial classes, flooded the State Legislature. At length in 1857, the General Assembly adopted joint resolutions asking Congress to make grants of public lands to establish colleges for industrial education. After long discussions, Congress passed the necessary law in July, 1862, making the magnificent grant of public lands out of which has arisen that long list of Agricultural Colleges and Industrial Universities now scattered over the Continent.

Illinois, the first to ask, was among the first to accept the grant, and great public interest was immediately excited in the question of its organization and location. Princely donations, in some cases of half a million of dollars, were tendered by several counties to secure the location of the institution in their midst. In February, 1867, a law was passed fixing the location and defining the plan of the University, and, in May of the same year the Board of Trustees met at the University Building donated by Champaign County, and finally determined the location. During the year much of the scrip was sold or located, necessary alterations were made in the buildings, apparatus and library were purchased, a faculty partly selected, and preparations made for active work. The 2d day of March, 1868, the University was opened for students, and on the 11th of the same month, formal inauguration exercises were held. In 1869, the Legislature appropriated \$25,000 to the Agricultural Department for barns, tools, stock, etc., and \$20,000 to the Horticultural Department for green house, barns, drainage, trees, tools, &c., besides \$5,000 to Chemical Laboratory, and \$10,000 for Library and apparatus. The present Legislature has lately appropriated \$75,000 to begin the erection of a main building which is to cost \$150,000; and \$25,000 for a Mechanical Building and machinery, to include a large Drill Hall for the Military Department. Plans have been adopted and the erection of these buildings is to begin at once. The new Mechanical Building was to be ready for use at the opening of the Fall Term, and the walls of the main building to be erected this year.

The University began in 1868 with