

## SHELburnE COUNTY.

Clyde River Agricultural Society,	\$78.00
West Passage do. do.,	79.00
Barrington do. do.,	83.00
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	\$240.00

## VICTORIA COUNTY.

St. Ann's South Agricultural Society,	\$86.00
Middle River do. do.,	148.00
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	\$234.00

## YARMOUTH COUNTY.

Publico Agricultural Society of Ar-	
gyle Township,	\$20.00
Yarmouth Township Agri. Society,	31.00
Yarmouth County do. do.,	189.00
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	\$240.00

Total number of Societies,	49
" " of Members,	2,752
" amount of Subscriptions,	\$8,046.00
" " of Grants-in-aid,	3,372.00

## AN AGRICULTURAL LECTURE.

[The following Lecture was delivered by Professor Lawson several years ago in the Crystal Palace, Kingston, Ont., on occasion of an Agricultural Exhibition.]

I have no special claim on your attention, no intimate acquaintance with your art, no personal experience of the capabilities of your soil; but I cheerfully comply with the request that has been made, for, although I have nothing special to communicate, I feel that it is the duty of every one to aid, to the extent of his power, however humble that may be, to forward the important objects of such an Institution as this. One great use of Exhibitions is to bring science and practice more closely together; and in proceeding to discharge the duty that has been assigned to me, I do not know that I can (in the present stage of Canadian farming) occupy your attention more profitably than by briefly pointing out some of the results of science which bear upon rural improvement.

In the admirable address delivered by Mr. Ferguson at the late annual meeting of the Provincial Association at Toronto, we were told of the gigantic strides which this country had made within the memory of the present generation; how the old fashioned one-handled plough with wooden mould boards, and other implements equally rude, which were in common use, have vanished away before the improvements of our own time; and how, in all that relates to mechanical appliances, Canada is following closely at the heels of the most advanced nations of Europe. And especially pleasing is it to observe at these Exhibitions that the workshops of Canada are not merely striving to emulate the manufactures of Europe, but seek rather to provide our farmers here with implements and machinery better adapted than English models for Canadian work. In like manner, how mar-

vellous the improvements that have been accomplished in our means of transit, both by land and water, over the slow, expensive, and insecure methods which alone were available not long ago. And when, in addition to all these benefits, the farmer has all the results of modern science placed before him to guide his hand, and foster a spirit of improvement,—is it not reasonable to expect that he shall not lag in the race, but shall make efforts greater than any that have yet been made to raise his art to the common platform of modern progress?

The genuine interest displayed in the promotion of agriculture in this Province, shows that the farmers are not indisposed to respond to the call that has been made upon them. When I see before me an assembly of Canadian farmers, and think of the past history of this great country, in which they have been playing so important a part; when I think of the results that have already been achieved, of the wide forests that have melted away before the strong arm of the woodman, like the morning mists before the rising sun; of the broad expanse of pastures and cornfields that are now spread before us, at once an earnest of the dominion of man and of the success of his labors; when I think of the noble institutions that we meet with on all hands in Canada, evidences of the rapid strides she is making in the march of civilization; when I think of these, and of these triumphs of labor and thought such as these, which on Canadian soil meet us on every side, a bright vision of progress and prosperity for the future rises before me. The noble forests that had for countless ages grown in all the wildness of nature presented a bold front, sufficient indeed to stem the tide of ordinary civilization. Like a strong enemy they would have scorned a puny hand. They called for great energy and perseverance. Great energy and perseverance were brought to bear upon them, and they began to fall; soon the sombre forest was lighted up by the tin-covered cupolas and church spires, which, glistening in the sunshine, shed their radiance around, indicating from afar the villages and cities which were to form the centres of future civilization. The same spirit of activity and determination which has made so glorious a victory in the past, is now actively at work among you—the Exhibition this day is one of the many evidences of it—and herein do we see the elements of Canada's future greatness. Where so much good work has already been done, we may reasonably hope that much good work will still be done. The hand that cleared away the forest has not lost its cunning. In this Society you have an important instrument for good. It is to Societies like this that Agriculture owes its advancement in Europe. The Royal

Agricultural Society of England and the Highland Society of Scotland have for many years kept before agriculturists the importance of improvement and the means by which it was to be accomplished; they have directed the researches of scientific men on the one hand, and the experimental practices of the farmer on the other; and now we have in many parts of Britain an amount of success in farming which its most sanguine promoters could not have anticipated. But these leading Societies have not done *all* the good work. Valuable results have from time to time been obtained by farmers, and proprietors, and chemists, working apart and in seclusion. But it is to the County Societies in the old country—to Societies such as this, limited in their operations to a certain district—that we are to attribute much, very much, of the good that has been done, and of the genuine interest that has been awakened in improved cultivation. The discussion at *some* of these County Societies no doubt reach you through the press; but many more are actively at work, unknown beyond their own circle, surely and unostentatiously evolving good fruits, year by year solving more and more fully the problem of increased production, of growing two blades of grass where only one grew before, a problem which acquires a new phase through every new discovery.

This Society has a noble work before it, and I trust that it will meet with that support which it deserves—the support of farmers and proprietors and amateur agriculturists on the one hand, and of the general public on the other. The cultivation of the soil is not a subject which affects only that class of persons who are actually engaged in its operations. On the contrary it forms the stratum of civilization; more extensive than all others, it is the one upon which they all depend, the one upon which all our institutions are built up; it is the originator and the supporter of all the other arts of peace:

“The profit of the Earth is for all; the King himself is served by the field.”

In all time, the farmer has been honored above all men, and the cultivation of the soil is held in all civilized nations to be the most honorable employment of men. Even the imperious senators and warriors of ancient Rome, amid all the excitement and glory of successful war, sought, in the culture of their lands, relaxation from the dangers of the battle field, or the cares of the state; and according to a writer of that age, “the Earth delighted to be ploughed with a share adorned by laurels, and by a ploughman who had been honored with a triumph.” And in our own day, the glory of our arms has not diminished the lustre of the ploughshare.

In England our noblemen and our merchant princes are now exchanging the