

FRIDAY, October 7th, 1859.

The show of Agricultural Products here is not extensive; in fact you would scarcely see so meagre a display at one of our county or township shows in Canada. There are only two or three samples of wheat, and these of indifferent quality, two or three of oats, &c. I notice three lots of Swede turnips, of which only one lot is more than of very ordinary quality; and three of Mangel-wurzel, in all of which there was only one really good root. Even in Indian corn, which we should expect to find very good, the display was not equal to that at some of our shows in Canada, the ears being small, and the grains on the same ear of different colors and varieties. In potatoes there was a very fair display. Again, in garden vegetables, there was only a very moderate show, the carrots, parsnips, beets and some other varieties were inferior, and would scarcely be shown at an exhibition in Canada; the onions, celery cauliflower, cabbage, were very fair in quality. Amongst the articles attracting particular notice in the "Vegetable Hall" were some specimens of the Chinese potato, (*Dioscorea batatas*) the roots being 40 inches in length, and weighing 8 to 12 pounds each. The exhibitor, Jacob G. Sickles, of Stayvesant, Columbus Co., about 18 miles from Albany, states that they have been grown from seed planted this year and under ordinary cultivation. He also states that the quality for the table is quite equal to that of the best varieties of the ordinary potato, and he believes that when the proper mode of cultivating the root is well understood, it can be planted with profit. Mr. S. V. Thornton, of Watervliet, exhibits the Feejee tomato, said to be a new variety of that vegetable, and superior to those previously in cultivation. It is very solid, and has been the favorite variety this year, where it has been introduced. Why the exhibition of the important products of the field and garden should be so poorly represented, I can only account for by supposing either that the country around Albany is not a very good agricultural district, which I believe is really the case, or else that the society does not attach much importance to a show of mere agricultural products as compared with cattle, machinery, &c., and consequently does not offer large enough premiums to induce the farmers to bring them out. At Syracuse last year, I am told, there was a large display in these classes of products.

In Fruit the show was large and good, particularly of pears and apples, of which the specimens were remarkably fine; of plums and peaches there were none, the season being too late for them; grapes were good, but not very remarkable. The fruit table was 120 feet in length, with three wide and well filled tiers on each side. The show of flowers was also large and fine, particularly of dahlias. The Fine Arts, exhibited in the same building as the fruits and flowers, were not very well represented.

In the Dairy Hall the large display of cheese should indicate that more attention is paid to this branch of farming. There were some fifty specimens, weighing 100lbs or over each, and, I should judge, of excellent quality. Butter was not so well represented, there being only a dozen or two small lots.

In Implements, there was a very large and excellent display. There were reapers and mowers, ploughs, straw-cutters, farm boilers, harrows, rollers, churns, cultivators, fanning mills, threshing machines, portable mills, cheese presses, clover mills, portable grist mills, seed drills, corn shellers, hay packers, &c., in great variety and profusion. The implements, I think, covered some three acres of ground. It would be impossible to specify more than a few articles. Amongst those deserving particular mention is Sherwood's grain binder, a little machine attached to any reaping machine for binding the grain in sheaves before it is deposited on the ground. The exhibitor of the binder states that he has bound 150 acres of grain with it this year; and that it is of perfectly practical application. Numerous testimonials from practical farmers certify to the value of the invention; but at all events, whether it is perfectly applicable in all cases or not, it has unquestionably solved the problem of binding grain by machinery, and shown how, with possibly some modifications under certain circumstances, the labor of at least five men per day can be saved. I consider this a most valuable improvement, and one which ought to be brought into general notice. It received a high premium at the United States Exhibition, at Chicago, in September. The material used to bind with is a light wire, which is passed round the sheaf, cut off the proper length, and the ends twisted together so as to hold firmly. It binds as fast as the reaper can cut, and in a much neater manner, and with less waste than by the ordinary method. The price of the machine is, I believe \$30. The manufacturer is Allen Sherwood, Auburn, State of New York. George Merritt, of Tecumseth, Michigan, exhibits a little machine for