

not hesitated to do this. We imported a potato digger at considerable cost from St. Catharines, Ontario. It was highly recommended, but, notwithstanding this, it was a failure from the mode of adjusting and working with it not being understood by us. It, however, awakened enquiry, and we discovered that such implements were made in other places and successfully used. They will ere long be introduced, perhaps made here, aiding and benefiting our farmers in harvesting the potato crop, generally so difficult to get done by our present mode of digging them with a fork in the short and cold days of the fall of the year.

The work of an Agricultural Society would be more marked and distinct, and perhaps more useful, if directed only to one object, such for instance as cattle, sheep, swine, horses, orcharding, draining, agricultural implements, farm buildings, poultry or bull keeping. Or it might be directed to some one of the different ramifications of any one of these different branches of Agriculture. In this way its efforts would not be frittered away from year to year on a multitude of objects, making no decisive or conspicuous improvements as guides for our further conduct in the art of Agriculture. The Western Fruit Growers' Association is an instance of this sub-division of labor, and its advantages are easy enough to comprehend. Had this Association at the same time been engaged in improving the live stock, crops, implements and farm buildings of the Western Counties, it would not, I think, have attracted so much attention or accomplished so much good for the Provinces, or brought the raising of fruit to so much perfection as it manifestly has done.

Sensible of the impartiality and diligence of the Central Board, and thankful for its prompt attention to our every suggestion and request, and trusting that the statements and explanations herein given may modify the judgment of the Central Board respecting the expenditure of our monies in the past, and establish the necessary confidence in the acts of our Society for the future,

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obed't servant,

T. D. DICKSON,

Prsdt. P. Ag. Society.

George Lawson, Esq., Secretary to the Central Board of Agriculture, Halifax.

P. S.—4th December, 1877.—F: an directed by the officers and other members of our Agricultural Society, to enclose to you the foregoing letter in reply to yours of the 1st February last, with the following additional remarks:—

1st.—That the country here this fall is overrun with cattle for which there is

little or no market; that the hay and potato crops are very short; that excellent beef in the different markets here is only worth 4 cents per lb. per quarter, and that a great deal of it is sold for from 3 to 3½ cents per lb. per quarter, whereas in previous years the prices have generally been 5, 6 and 7 cents per lb. per quarter; that the present prices of cattle and beef afford farmers here but little encouragement to improve and increase their herds of cattle, especially *short horns*, with a view of making beef.

2nd.—That we now have plenty of excellent grade cattle of the Durham and Devonshire breeds, obtained through the importations of other societies, other Counties, and from the adjoining Provinces, the United States, and England, that we could have none better by procuring thoroughbred bulls of either of these breeds; that we have also had the services of a grade Alderney Bull through the present season, for which our farmers have had to pay one dollar for each cow put to him.

3rd.—That a farmer in this district is reported to have a cow of the native breed that gives from two to three pails of milk, or from 24 to 36 quarts daily, in the summer, with only ordinary care and feed, and that we do not expect any imported breeds to exceed this.

T. D. D.

THE CELEBRATED BURNET GRAPE.—We desire to call the attention of our readers to the fact that the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario will send to each of its members a plant of this new grape vine. It was originated in Prince Edward County by Mr. Peter C. Dempsey, one of our most skilful hybridists. The fruit is large, purplish black, sweet and rich, and ripens earlier than the Concord. The vine is vigorous productive and hardy. It is one of the most valuable grapes for our country that has ever been grown, and the Fruit Growers' Association deserves great praise for their forethought in securing vines of this luscious grape, named in honor of the distinguished President of this Association. We counsel our readers to send at once the fee of one dollar to the Secretary, Mr. D. W. Beadle, St. Catharines, which will entitle them to a copy of the report for 1877, now being printed, which is worth the full amount of the subscription fee, and, in addition thereto, a plant of this splendid new grape, which can not be bought for less than a dollar apiece. If any one would like to secure two of these grape vines, he can do so by sending the names of nine persons besides his own and ten dollars to Mr. Beadle, and a plant will be sent to each of the nine persons' and two plants to the person who gets up the club.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

North Sydney Herald.
Report of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario for 1874.
Colonial Farmer, Fredericton.
Catalogue of the Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J.
Eastern Chronicle, New Glasgow.
Amherst Gazette.
The Poultry World.
Colchester Sun, Truro.
The Gardener's Monthly, Philadelphia.
The Carolina Farmer.
South California Horticulturist.
Toronto Globe.
Presbyterian Witness, Halifax.
Dalhousie Gazette, Halifax.
The Argosy, Sackville, N. B.
American Bee Journal, Chicago.
Monthly Bulletin of the American Jersey Cattle Club.
The Pharmaceutical Journal, London.
Becher's Farmer's Almanac for 1878.
The Resources of California, (monthly).
The Georgia Grange, Atlanta.
J. B. Root's Garden Manual, Rockford, Illinois.
Vick's Illustrated Monthly Magazine for January 1877.
Vennor's Winter Almanac.

THE announcement by the Secretary of the Institute of Natural Science that a Telephone would be "exhibited, explained and operated," brought an unusually large attendance to the meeting on the evening of 10th December, but only to meet with disappointment, for the telephone was silent. It was a case of aphonia.

"CHLOROFORMING" animals before killing them may at first sight appear to be mere silly sentimentality. Recent experience has proved that the idea is not so wild and impracticable as it may appear. A correspondent of the *Daily News* recently gave minute directions for slaughtering a pig under the influence of chloroform. When the animal is about to be killed, a bag containing a piece of sponge saturated with chloroform should be quickly drawn over the face. In the course of one minute the pig becomes insensible, and the slaughtering can be proceeded with without difficulty. By adopting this method much time and trouble is saved, and the meat is no way affected by the chloroform. Killing animals under the influence of chloroform is clearly much more humane, and if this reason is not likely to influence butchers, the fact that it saves labour and time perhaps may. — *Agricultural Gazette*.

ROOT'S GARDEN MANUAL for 1878, full of instruction on gardening topics, and price list of choice seeds, sent for 10 cts., allowed on first order for seeds. Address J. B. Root, Rockford, Illinois.