

verance alone could they succeed. The course of agricultural instruction imparted at this seminary taught them this. They knew that if they were to expect a harvest they must sow the seed, looking for the rains and the genial sunshine to bring forth a crop. Thus let them go forth in their various walks in life, all of them endeavoring to discharge their duties to themselves and others. In one word, he would remind the teachers that they were sowing seeds for eternity, and this made their position solemnly responsible. And if the clergymen would permit him for a time to interfere with their functions, to all would he wish to say a word at parting—let them endeavor to spiritualize their operations. When they sowed the seed in the ground, let them remember there was still a nobler and a better seed to be sown; When they rooted out of the ground the weeds which choked the tender blade, let them remember that weeds of a more noxious tendency required to be removed from their own hearts; when they used the sickle, let them remember that there is a Reaper before whom they all must bow; and when they brought home their sheaves rejoicing, let them remember that there is a harvest home where the attendants are the angels of God and the redeemed; and he prayed God to grant that every one of them might be found in that blessed company.

### Weeds.

Somebody wrote a book upon our wild flowers, pretty, graceful, bright-coloured creatures, giving life to our pastures and our hedgerows. Beautiful, indeed, they are, in their proper place; but in the wheat field or garden ruinous. Our weeds are ripening now faster than our corn. The rain will not kill them nor will cloudy, ungenial skies check their vitality. A man who knew nothing of the primeval curse would fancy that weeds were designed for the support of man, they are so unboundedly prolific. And they are for the benefit of man in some sort, for they make labor a necessity; and yet that labor might be more profitably expended on fruitful plants, which the weeds choke and strangle. He is the true farmer's friend who teaches the peasant to extirpate these devourers. Placing them in a heap amidst manure is of no avail. Though the plant be pulled up the sap will flow upward, the flower will blossom, and the seeds ripen, to be scattered next year with precious seed. There is no killing them. They will live three feet under ground for years, for when the land is deeply trenched, up will spring a thick crop of weeds, never observed in the soil before. Few have any idea of their prolific nature. We see the coltsfoot, with its golden stars, in cold, black March, without a leaf, to shelter it; but the flower droops and the green calyx is a roof to defend the seeds within. Every flower head produces its 150 seeds; and these are each shrouded with cotton down, in which the wind fastens

and bears it away to other ground. Why is it that this plant has not only its floating seeds, but creeping roots working under ground, here and there shooting to the surface; and there producing its hosts of seeds? A single coltsfoot produces from 3,000 to 22,500 seeds! It is no every peasant who knows that wild mustard produces from a plant 8,000 seeds; the chamomile 40,000; the may weed, 45,000; the burdock 24,500; the red poppy, 50,000; the groundsel 6,500; and wild pursley, 6,000. Every one has seen the gossamer parachute which bears aloft the thistle seed like a tiny car. From a single plant ten thousand seeds have floated away on downy wings. There are weeds whose seed-pods burst open with violence, so as to scatter the seeds to a distance, where they will not lessen the nutriment of the parent plant. Other plants have seeds equipped with delicate hooks to fasten in the soil; others, again, propagate slowly under the earth, as the crow Gaelic, which produces 700 offshoots in the year. The eye rests gladly, no doubt, upon the nodding poppy or the cockle plant in the corn field; but these weeds have lessened the crop by, at least, a tenth part of its value. The weeds of Ireland cost us nearly six millions a year.

In the *Quarterly Review* for Oct., 1859, there is given in a tabular form, the quantity of weed seeds found in the bushel of crop seeds. Farmers foolishly desire to procure cheap seeds, and there are seedsmen willing to oblige them. Seed are thus mixed often for purposes of fraud oftener perhaps, from carelessness. In a bushel of "rye-grass" there were detected no less than 204,800 weed seeds. In a bushel of clover seed 312,000; of linseed, 304,640; this is quite irrespective of dirt and particles of stone, which make cheap seed by far the dearest that can be purchased. Fraud, in this case, is difficult of detection. A farmer cannot carry a microscope in his pocket, like the Leeds cloth buyers, to detect adulteration. His only security is to purchase from a house of character, and to pay a fair price for the article he requires.

But our fields will bear weeds as long as the road sides are neglected, and the uprooted weeds are merely thrown upon the manure heap. The moment the crop is cut the weeds should be collected and burned. They ought not to be left upon the land to ripen, as they will, and to commit their progeny to the winds. The loss to the agriculturist in the choking of his crop, its insufficient nourishment, the exhaustion of the ground, and the amount of labour eventually required, is something absolutely incalculable. *Irish Times.*

### Agricultural Intelligence.

#### County and Township Shows.

Hay Township Society, at Rodgersville, Ont.:  
South Wellington and Guelph Townships.  
Guelph, October 10.