

pleased to learn that its progress though slow, is nevertheless constant and healthy. At the end of last term four pupils passed their final examination conducted on the same principles and embracing the same subjects as those of the Victoria College of London and Edinburgh, and obtained the diploma of the board. These young men, with the three that passed the previous year, are located in different parts of the province, and have, I am happy to learn, already attained to useful positions. As our live stock increases in amount and improves in quality and value, the services of men specially educated for their profession becomes every day more needed in cases of serious accidents or disease, and the owners of stock will find that in the end it is far cheaper to employ well tested professional talent, than trust to good luck or ignorant empirics. Last year there were fifteen young men in this school studying professionally. I may also observe that the board has, with the assistance of some of the Professors in University College, provided a certain amount of instruction in the anatomy, diseases and breeding of live stock, and the scientific and practical principles of agriculture, specially adapted to young men intended for, or engaged in Canadian farming. As this course occupies only six weeks in the depth of winter, and the instruction is free, it is to be hoped that more will avail themselves of so valuable an opportunity.

The establishment of an Agricultural Museum has been for some time in contemplation, but from one cause or other but little has been accomplished. If it is much to be desired that such active measures should be adopted as to secure the speedy realization of so interesting and useful an object. A capacious hall is already provided for the purpose which might be filled, in addition to agricultural productions, with specimens of our mechanical, manufacturing and artistic skill, in connection with the Board of Arts and Manufactures. These interests are always incorporated with those of agriculture in this association, and the arts and manufacturing products of the country have, for a long time, formed a most useful and attractive department of our annual exhibitions. In this important respect, our association exactly resembles the oldest organization of the kind in England.—“The Bath and West of England Society for the promotion of Agriculture, Manufactures and Fine Arts,” whose operations and reports are widely known and appreciated. The blending of the results of our various industries in our annual exhibitions, greatly enhances the sphere of their attraction and usefulness, and affords a practical illustration of the mutual connection which exists between all the great interests of a civilized and progressive people.

As a Canadian farmer of many years' standing, I have lamented to see, more particularly of late, an increasing disposition among our country youth to abandon the homes and pursuits of their fathers' to increase the already crowded lists of trades and professions in our towns and cities. Within certain limit a movement of this sort is right and proper: there is no reason why the sons of farmers should all follow their fathers' pursuit. But I am afraid that not only is this restless desire of change among our rural youth carried to an injurious extent, but that it arises from a radically false notion of things. Farming, I fear is thought by many to be a comparatively inferior calling, characterized by hard, rough work and small gains: whereas that of the merchant and professional man is regarded as much more clean and agreeable, attended by far greater profits, and altogether more desirable and respectable. It is, in great measures, to these low and erroneous views of the status and gratifications of the farmer that are unfortunately so prevalent, that this increasing evil is to be ascribed. In a new country like ours, where many of our farms not long since had to be hewn out of the primitive forest, but little opportunity was afforded the first settlers, either for mental improvement or the practice of anything approaching to systematic agriculture. At that time it was literally farming in the rough, and the same may be said, though not to a like extent, of those who commence new settlements in the present day. But there is, in most cases, a great difference between the condition of the earlier settlers of the country, and that of those who now undertake the work of opening new settlements. Such have been the changes for the better in later years; by the construction of roads, the extension of commerce by means of improved facilities of inter-communication, that settlers now-a-days in the back country have comparatively no difficulties and hardship at all to be compared with those experienced by their predecessors.

With reference to the fact of so many of our country youth evincing an indisposition to follow agricultural pursuits, it is of importance to inquire into the causes, and how the evil may, in some measure at least, be arrested. I answer first, we should clear away much which at present greatly mystifies the subject, by forming correct views of the proper status of farmers in a country like this, where almost every man owns the land he cultivates; a circumstance which enables him to cherish feelings of independence. Then it is important that we should form a correct estimate of the kind and amount of knowledge which it is necessary for a farmer of the

present day to acquire, that he may follow his pursuit intelligently, improvingly and profitably. In a word, agriculture is the noblest and most independent pursuit of man, and in its onward progress invokes the aid of some half-dozen of the most important and interesting departments of natural and experimental science. If any should feel a doubt about the correctness of this statement, I would recommend them to attend the lectures given in the University and Veterinary School at Toronto; or to study some of the many valuable treatises which have of late years issued from the press, on the science and practice of our art. I would in all earnestness, say to parents do everything you can to inspire your sons with a love of knowledge and of rural pursuits; the quiet and beauty, healthfulness and virtue, of country life, by encouraging them to think, read and observe. Make your homes attractive by the general influence of parental love and innocent recreation; surrounding them by luscious fruits, health-giving vegetables, with a little ornamentation by way of cultivating shrubs and flowers. What are within and around a human dwelling exercise a silent and perpetual influence on the taste and character of the inmates, for good or evil, through all coming time.

It is by a suitable domestic and school education, that our agricultural youth must be mainly prepared to follow the pursuits of their fathers, in an intelligent, improving and profitable manner. Something more definite in the way of teaching scientific subjects in relation to agriculture might, I think, be advantageously introduced into country schools; and agricultural societies might aid the progress of the good work by holding meetings of their members as frequently as practicable, for mutual instruction and encouragement in the prosecution of their art. I observe, with pleasure, that Professor Buckland, in his rural addresses to the numerous agricultural societies in different parts of the province, strongly urges this means of improvement, as likewise the other methods to which I have already alluded. Most earnestly is it to be hoped that such precious seed will not “fall by the way-side.”

III. Papers on Education in the British Isles.

1. A PLEA FOR UNSECTARIAN SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND.

A lay magistrate, writing to the *Guardian*, says:—“I am satisfied that the denominational system has driven our clergy to rely much upon young masters who are not in holy orders, and young mistresses who are often wordly, frivolous, and gay. Now, I hold it for a truth that religion can only be duly impressed upon youthful hearts by persons who are themselves warmed by the divine flame. The present theory is that religion is taught in our denominational schools. I admit that the Holy Scriptures are read and commented upon by masters and mistresses according to their lights. Bits of the Catechism are also taught in our Church schools, but not always the whole of it. The clergyman comes once in a way to find out what progress is made. Let us consent to abolish this unsatisfactory system and substitute public elementary schools, in which the Scriptures shall only be read by the master, without comment, and the instruction be limited to reading, writing, arithmetic, and the outlines of geography. The practical result will be that the religious teaching of the children of Churchmen will be thrown back upon the clergy, who will be obliged to undertake it personally.* Public catechising will be revived in the Church or in the Sunday-school, and conducted by men whose special function it is to teach the Christian faith. Surely this system is more likely to reach the heart than the hard and dry teaching of hired instructors. The Bible will no longer be associated with the school-bell and the cane. We shall ensure to the children the means of informing their minds, and teach them their duty to God and man by the mouth of those who are most competent and responsible for such work. The change may interfere to some extent with what may be called the modern passion for preaching; but I think that the laity would rejoice to exchange a sermon per day for the public instruction of the young in the catechetical form. And I am sure that the boys of our towns and villages would be the better for being brought into contact every Sunday with the men who have a right to count them as their flock, and who at their ordination were enjoined by the Bishop ‘to instruct the youth in the Catechism.’”

2. PRIMARY EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

The statistical Blue-book lately published by the British Board of Trade exhibits in a tabular form the present state of primary education in Great Britain. From this table we learn that the number of schools inspected has increased from 3,825 in 1854, to 8,753 in 1866; the number of children who can be accommodated, from 588,000 to 1,724,000, the average number of children in attendance from