

We shall spare our readers the detail of soirees, bails, and torch-light processions, which have no connection with agriculture, and, in our opinion, divert public attention from more useful matters.

The awards of the Judges speak for themselves; and the notices of the daily prints, from which we extract largely.

The Committee, seeing the broken state of the weather, took a very wise precaution in providing very ample and solid shelter both for man and beast; and everything which did not appear water-tight, as all temporary erections will do occasionally, was instantly closed up. But for this, the failure would have been complete, and the ground in fact untenable.

The arrangements included ample refreshment rooms, with private apartments for the judges, whose task was a sufficiently arduous one, and extensive series of stalls well supplied with fodder for the animals exhibited. In these respects it contrasted very favorably with the display last year at Toronto, where, if they had had such an unusual infliction of unfavorable weather as we have had, and continue to have to this moment, the whole exhibition would have been broken up.

On the right hand on entering, the principal object of attraction was the pigs, in which the French Canadians seemed to take particular interest. This is the most valuable subject for farmers on a small scale, as it is always certain to find a market, either for home consumption or for curing. The favorite breeds appeared to be the Berkshire, mixed, more or less, with the Chinese, and with the large breed of the North of England. We saw nothing thorough-bred but the Berkshire. There were some very large animals, but we greatly doubt that size is an element either of excellence in the article, or of profit to the farmer, and the same remark applies to all the domestic animals. The important thing is to get flesh and fat instead of bone and skin.

The next department was that of sheep, and some very good specimens were shown. In that we could have wished that there were some of what are called "grade" sheep. It must be admitted that Lower Canada contains very few sheep of the improved breeds. We scarcely think that the Merino, of which there were two or three specimens, can ever be raised in this climate to profit. The Southdown, Leicester, and other heavy breeds, of which we have, particularly in the vicinity of Montreal, some very fine stocks, imported at great expense, bring very high prices when fattened in the winter, but we have heard experienced farmers express doubts that they were remunerative. The general character of the sheep in Lower Canada is as bad as can be, both as respects carcase and wool. They are much about the same as they were a few years ago in New-England, when you might take the fore-quarters of a sheep to use as a lantern. They may be very much improved by crossing, and our own opinion is that the Cheviot would be the best cross for practical purposes; that is, to make the most money out of a given quantity of food, which, after all, is the end of all farming.

In the horned cattle department, the prevailing breeds were the Ayrshire, the Devon, and the Durham Short Horns and their mixtures. We believe it is generally admitted that mixed breeds are the best for general use, but still it is highly desirable to have pure-bred animals of the best breeds in order to make the mixture.

In the horse department were several very fine specimens, which we do not allude to individually, not wishing to interfere with the department of the judges. We regretted to see so few specimens of the old Norman or Breton horse, the native Canadian, which is almost, if not altogether, identical with the "Suffolk Punch." The best of the breed seem to have been exported. The breed we have now is crossed with a heavier animal, perhaps better fitted for the coach and the plough, and for the hunting field.

In the vegetable department there were specimens of enormous pumpkins, the utility of which we cannot understand; a great many highly respectable carrots and parsnips; some Indian corn; very fine specimens of wheat and oats. The Horticulturists sent, among other things, many varieties of apples, and some specimens of grapes and plums, but these are more interesting to the wealthy amateur than to the working farmers.

The best department in the whole collection was that of the poultry. There never was anything before like it in this Province. The show of the Shanghaes and Cochins-Chinese was particularly fine. Extensive contributions came both from the Upper Province and the United States. The arrangements for the food and comfort of the birds showed great skill and attention.

The agricultural implement department was not very extensive. There were a great many very useful instruments exhibited, but more remarkable for utility than novelty.

As for fire-engines, and croquet work, and the fine arts, we have nothing to do with them.—*Farmer's Journal.*

ANNUAL FAIR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

The Annual Exhibition of the Society was held at Saratogo Springs, from the 20th to the 23rd of September. Owing to the very stormy weather which commenced a week previous to the Fair, and continued almost without intermission until the opening day of the Exhibition, the attendance was not as large as usual. Notwithstanding, however, the disadvantages attendant upon the Exhibition, some of the departments have never been equalled, and show most satisfactorily the strong hold these exhibitions for improvement have upon the farmers and mechanics of our State. The show of cattle, horses, swine and sheep were of unusual excellence, and the superior character of much of the stock, elicited much approbation from all in attendance. The fruits were of a character, it is believed, never equalled; and the enterprising and successful exhibitors from Rochester, Geneva, Cayuga, Syracuse, Troy, &c., are entitled to the most hearty thanks of all interested in this most important department. The show in the mechanical and domestic departments was quite limited, mainly owing to the