

It so happened that the eminent geologist, Sir Charles Lyell, was here, and, observing the indentions, or pitted marks, produced by the drops of rain on the mud of the river, instantly saw the light which this appearance threw upon a controverted question in geology; he took up a slab of the mud; had it baked, and it is now preserved in the British Museum, an imperishable record of the shower of thirty years ago. If a passing shower can thus become a subject worthy of perpetuating, surely a gathering like this which illustrates the actual condition of a living generation is equally worthy of being noticed and recorded. It may be said that this covers only one aspect of the condition of the people; but it is a most important aspect. It held that agriculture is the basis of all civilization. It is the very first step out of barbarism. We never read of a tribe of savages who are agriculturists; the Indians of this continent, and the Aborigines of the South Sea Islands never cultivated the soil. As agriculture advances civilization marches along with equal step. It is a most remarkable fact that England at this moment is the first agricultural country of the world. We all know her position in arts, and manufactures, and commerce. London rules the monetary world, and England supplies half the globe with her manufactures; but with all this, and notwithstanding her limited area, she still stands foremost in the value of her agricultural products. The annual value of those products in a fair average year amounts, as appears by the statistical records, to the almost fabulous sum of three hundred millions sterling, which is double the value of all the textile fabrics produced in her looms and mills, three times the value of the produce of her forges and foundries, and four or five times the value of the production of her mines. It is true that in the raising of wheat the United States, Russia, and France exceed her; that both Russia and the United States possess larger herds of cattle and horses; but this is owing to the almost boundless extent of the prairies of America and the steppes of Europe. But the value of the animals enters largely into the sum of the gross value. The horses and cattle and sheep of England are, confessedly, the best in the world, and this is chiefly owing to the careful breeding of the animals, and the liberal expenditure of capital. If these results have flowed from the application of brain and muscle to agriculture in England, why should we not follow in the path thus marked out for us? We have the same blood which flows in the veins of the Anglo-Saxon race, and which in them produced such marvellous results. Surely we are capable of learning the lessons which they have learned with such signal success in the application of science to the

culture of the soil, and the production of increased and increasing returns from our fields. It would scarcely be becoming in him to speak to practical agriculturists of the application of these principles and the development of the resources of the soil, but he might recall to their recollection the advice given by Colonel Laurie in his address on the opening of the exhibition, which in brief meant that we must avail ourselves of all the aids to be derived from modern science and untiring toil in this important department of a nation's progress. Concisely, the secret of advancement lies in his view in a more or less modified form, of "High Farming." Of the details of this theory he was unable to speak, but he believed he would not be far from the truth if he urged for example the cultivation of roots and grains so strongly urged by Colonel Laurie. He could remember hearing this late Dr. Forrester, at a public meeting in Halifax, so long ago as when Sir Gaspard Le Marchant was Governor, make a statement which sounded like a paradox, and almost produced a smile in his audience, that Scotland owed her wonderful progress in agricultural wealth to the turnip. But there was a germ of solid truth in the statement which only caused surprise from its concise brevity; and it will be found that he and Colonel Laurie have both, in effect, been advocating the same mode of promoting the wealth and progress of the country. He (Mr. H.) doubted not that those who live to witness another exhibition in this noble building ten years hence will see a marked advance in every thing connected with this branch of our Provincial resources.

The band having played a short piece, Hon. P. C. Hill declared the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition of 1877 closed.

### COLCHESTER COUNTY EXHIBITION.

CLOSING ADDRESS BY I. LONGWORTH, ESQ.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

After your tiresome tramp up Wimburn Hill yesterday you were greeted with a real Highland welcome from our worthy townsman, Governor Archibald, to whom the managing committee are under great obligations for the fine opening given to this Exhibition. As a member of the committee, allow me to say that we all regret that the onerous duty of asking you to depart from the scenes of rural beauty, wealth and contentment, that have delighted our eyes, feasted our imaginations, and held us spell-bound for two days, could not have been imposed upon one as well qualified as his Honor to do justice to the occasion.

After the careful examination of the various animals and articles that have met your view on every side in gorgeous panoramic array, you no doubt have formed in your own minds a more correct estimate than I can give you of the undertaking that has

afforded so many striking examples of the skill, the genius, and the enterprise, of the farmers and mechanics of this fine county, and of those sections of the Province whose husbandmen and artisans so generously came forward with their exhibits and placed them in friendly competition with the productions of Colchester, a rivalry worthy of the highest commendation, and which, apart from the money prizes obtained by the few, has furnished invaluable lessons to all.

Regarding this Exhibition as a splendid illustration of the results of labors put forth in the cause of agriculture since the settlement of this county, by the Governors of Nova Scotia, by the old Council of twelve, by the Legislature of the Province, by men of science and culture, by the Board of Agriculture, and by the Fruit Growers' Association of Nova Scotia, and the Eastern Counties Fruit Growers Association; the time seems opportune for noticing some of the events that have occurred during the last century, to place the agriculture of the county in the gratifying position it holds to-day.

Though Colchester had some fine dyke lands reclaimed from the Bay of Fundy by the French Acadians, whose agricultural labours had also reduced to some state of cultivation several large tracts of interval land skirting on the river running into the Bay, the first English settlers did not find the county a bed of roses. Their mode of farming was of the most primitive character. They tilled the land neither for pleasure nor for profit, but to ensure their existence until they gained a foothold in the country. Many of these men were genuine "settlers," who came to the Province to cultivate the land and to possess it for themselves and their descendants, whose names in numerous instances have come down to us through the century by scores and by hundreds, and whose history from this standpoint recalls to mind the beautiful lines of Whittier:—

"I hear the tread of pioneers,  
Of nations yet to be—  
The first low wash of waves where soon  
Shall roll a human sea."

A recital of some of the hardships endured by the early settlers in forming the settlements in this county, will give a good idea of the want of system in the farming of their day, the worthless implements they were obliged to use, and the adverse circumstances under which they incessantly labored; in striking contrast to the style of farming now in general use, and the useful implements and great advantages at present within the reach of every farmer—a heritage of our young men cannot prize too highly, and should remain in the Province to enjoy, where, with energy, skill and prudence, they can mount the highest wave of agricultural prosperity, rather than emigrate and like their ancestors, have to put up with the buffetings of "the best low wash of waves in a new country."

When you are informed that during the first years of the history of Truro and Onslow the settlers were assisted by Government with provisions and seed for planting; that some of them were in the most destitute circumstances, and were obliged for their subsistence to dig and eat their seed potatoes after planting; that in one or two cases death from starvation actually occurred; and when I tell you that Lousia Thompson, of Onslow, wife of William Hamilton, one of the first settlers in Brookfield, on one occasion was for six months in that settlement without seeing