

The Last Kick of the Johnson Compact.

This once powerful organization is now on its last legs and scarcely has anything which can be called a leg to stand on. The voices of the citizens of London are now beginning to complain, and the voices of the independent farmers of the county are now beginning to be heard in a totally different tone than previously; the scales are beginning to fall from their eyes and now they look with wonder, astonishment and disgust on the very party they have so long supported and allowed to rule over them. This very party has, disregarding of the interests of the farmers, attempted to monopolize the railway interest for private purposes, and county property has been sold much against the interests of the county by their power. But for the most audacious and barefaced pieces of downright deception and rascality we think many of their acts when properly brought to light will be found unsurpassed in the history of the country.

The County Agricultural Society purchased 10 acres of excellent land in this city many years ago, and they have held their exhibitions for years past, partly under favor, on other lands, because the Provincial Exhibition buildings have been erected there. There have been attempts made, too, for some time past, to get this land out of the hands of the Society at a very low rate. At the last annual meeting the subject was discussed, and the voice of the meeting was taken on it, when it was decided that the land was not to be sold, but was to be leased. To the utter astonishment of all but the Compact the announcement is made that the land is sold for a paltry sum of between \$3000 and \$4000, and attempts are being made by the said Compact to take this money and devote it to the Western Fair humbug! We are not sure that this can be claimed as a legal sale after the decision of the last meeting, which was decidedly opposed to it. At any rate we shall enter our protest against the sale of the land. It was no expense to the Society, they had no taxes to pay and a rent was obtained for it. It would have made a beautiful spot for experimenting and testing seeds if it had been properly leased to some one for such a purpose. The annual value of it might have become far more than the whole money obtained for it. As for the proposition to expend this money to aid the Western Fair, it would be using it for the very purpose of destroying the real interests of the farmers. The Western Fair, as we have previously stated, was never originated for the farmer's interest. The object of it has been to destroy the Provincial Board because Johnson was rejected from it; he was to have control of this human elephant; the Provincial Exhibition was to have been established; the local exhibitions were to have been subservient to the Provincial at Mimico; all friends to the clique were to have been favored, and any one who dared to have an opinion of his own differing from them was to be persecuted in every way the law could be brought to bear. If the laws were not of sufficient power to keep down an independent spirit or to quell any private enterprise, they were to be changed in order to effect it. This has even been done. The press of the country was to have been crushed to subservience to this clique or to have been annihilated. The darkest, blackest deeds were to have been enacted to enforce the iron rule of subservience on all. The farmers of the country were to be used as mere vassals and serfs to this autocratic power.

We dare any one to confute these facts in this or any other agricultural journal of this Dominion; we only ask to give the name and reply to this. Farmers should be treated as human beings and should be supposed to know what is for our agricultural interest; we might and ought to be consulted and our requirements made known if our money is to be expended for our good. We should know if the Wes-

tern Fair or Mimico Farm were ever intended for the benefit of farmers. Now the very parties sell our agricultural land and grasp at it for the support of these institutions, that have done more injury already to the country than a hundred times the price of the land sold. They are trying to make a big spread this year by offering \$10,000 in prizes. O! how easily are we poor farmers caught by a bait of a drivelling prize. The foundation of the Provincial Board was sound; it was really intended for the good of farmers; it has proved itself such despite a little mismanagement. We held up both hands for its support although we exposed its mismanagement when it was deserved and will do so again if we deem it necessary. This Western Fair must fall from its past position; they will not have such a bloated sum to talk of next year. If they had acted honorably and had given farmers fair play and their just dues, they might have had a better chance of success, yes, might have been an honor to our Dominion, but now the country generally look on it in its true light and will be apt to despise rather than respect us.

We hope the East Middlesex farmers will not consent to the sale of their property, nor allow it to be frittered away in a silly manner by supporting an institution that is opposed to the Provincial Association. Is our land to be sold against our wishes, and the money expended against our interests? This is for the farmers of East Middlesex to answer. Despite this act of selling the agricultural ground against the wishes of the members, they will still try and get some of their party in Parliament to represent the farmers. Farmers, awake, awake!

Notes on English Customs.

BY JAMES VICK.

We extract the following from part of a series of letters that have been published in *The American Rural Home*, an excellent agricultural paper published in Rochester:

The social distinctions of England are more rigid and unreasoning, it appeared to me, than in any other country of Europe. There are the poor, middle, professional and aristocratic classes, and each of these subdivided into three or more sections, or substratums. Commencing at the bottom, the *poor class* is composed of beggars, paupers, laborers, and the lower or less skillful mechanics, and, perhaps, the smaller shopkeepers, hucksters, &c. The *middle classes* embrace the better class of mechanics, merchants and manufacturers; and this class seemed to be more subdivided, by reason of wealth, intelligence, &c., than any other. The *professional class* counts the doctors, lawyers, ministers, gentlemen of means and leisure, officers of the army and navy, &c. The *aristocracy* forms the top of the social pyramid, embracing all with rank and title, high up and above all, alone, stands the Queen of the British Empire. These different classes and divisions of classes do not mingle socially, and the effect is in some respects, I think, injurious to all. On my first visit to London, I observed a sign on one of the churches—"Day schools for the middle classes." This, I suppose, might be called a *classed* if not a *classical* school. I cannot but think this system works badly in the schools, generally, but I observed its effects particularly in the Sabbath Schools. There may be pleasant Sabbath Schools in England, but I did not find them, though I took some pains to do so. Even in the most successful churches, such as Spurgeon's, they are but gloomy dens, without convenience or comfort. In nearly all the schools, the seats provided are long, narrow benches, without a particle of paint, such as were common in country school-houses half a century ago. When the children rise to sing, from one to half a dozen of the benches are sure to fall over. I visited the largest school in an important city, and inquired for the minister. He did not often visit the school. I asked for his children, they did not attend; the superintendent was of course present, but when I inquired for his children, I found they did not belong to the school. "Our schools are designed for the poorer classes," was the information I received on expressing surprise. This is the character of the Sabbath Schools throughout England. The wealthy, even those merely comfortably off, will not allow their children to associate with these considered be-

neath them; and as the latter are the most numerous, of course the Sabbath Schools are mainly composed of the lower classes. Perhaps the effect of a union of all classes would be to drag down the high instead of elevating the low, but I think not. I am happy that we have few who think themselves very high, and still less who are willing to acknowledge themselves low. We have a happy country; worth all it cost. It is founded on the intelligence and virtue of its citizens. Its destiny is in the hands of the people, and it is for them to say whether in the future we have a splendid country, the admiration of the civilized world, or a splendid ruin, the scorn of the nations.

I spoke of Spurgeon. I heard this celebrated preacher, in some respects under favorable circumstances for I became acquainted with a leading member of the church, and secured good seats. When the preacher made his appearance, and commenced at once to read the hymn, I was disappointed. He did not look like the pictures I had seen of him. There was a large frame, but little flesh; a limp in the walk and a feebleness of voice that betokened a worn out man. The sermon was plain, fresh, forcible; but had I heard the same in any country church in America I would not have been astonished, or thought the preacher unusually brilliant. A long time since Mr. Spurgeon commenced publishing his morning sermon in tract form, and this he said was the one-thousandth sermon since the commencement of their publication. I had heard much said of the congregational singing at this church, but it was ridiculously poor—a mere hum. The large congregation of about five thousand should have made the Tabernacle ring; but there was no organ or other instrument to lead the people, and the chorister had but a weak voice, so that he could not lead or control the audience, and there were all kinds of time and humming noises, and nothing like good, hearty congregational singing. I learned that Mr. Spurgeon had preached only once before for three months, having been laid up with the gout. I remembered then some very silly remarks he had made on the temperance question, and which are no doubt familiar to many. So much did I see of the evils of intemperance in England, that I have no doubt in my own mind that if the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, and every minister in England, some fine day, should be banished from the country, and the liquor and beer with them, never to return, it would be a blessed day for old England. I fear intemperance is doing more mischief than these ministers are doing good, and yet very few seem to know or care anything about the matter. Indeed, it is very strange what notions good and otherwise reasonable people seem to have about drink.—They think stout or ale as necessary to healthful existence as food. After all, with the custom of drinking so general as it is, there is not as much intemperance apparent as one would anticipate. I do not believe there is a country in the world where people make such fools of themselves by intoxicating liquors as in America; and that is one reason, I suppose, why decent people have become disgusted with the practice, and discard it altogether as vulgar and wicked. The step between slight tipping and habitual drunkenness is shorter in America than in any country in Europe, I verily believe.

I was quite shocked at the remarks occasionally made respecting the Queen. I have never heard England's Queen mentioned in America but in terms of the highest respect. In England she is often represented as avaricious and miserly, caring for nothing but to secure money from the people for herself and family. Perhaps party spirit has something to do with this; then I suppose they think they have a right to speak as they please of their own, but would not like a foreigner to use the same terms—on the same principle, I suppose, that it is said a man will speak ill of his wife and children, but will not allow any one else to do so without fiercely resenting the insult.

I had some friends connected with the large seed house of Waite, Burnell & Huggins, the younger member of the firm having spent several days with me in Rochester. I found the establishment in Southwark-street new, neat and conveniently arranged. After spending an hour or more, I proposed to leave; it was afternoon, and I began to feel the need of luncheon, and quite plainly expressed my feelings on the subject. We were pressed to remain a little longer, and in about half an hour were invited into a neat dining room connected with the establishment, and found everything on the table that heat or appetite could desire. After luncheon I visited the kitchen, where I found the cook and every

convenience for setting up a hasty lunch or a pretty considerable dinner. This practice I found was quite common in large establishments in London.

The next day I had determined to take a trip into the county of Essex. This is the greatest seed-growing county in England.—England was always supposed to be a great fruit country, but fruit is not eaten there as freely as with us. Indeed I did not see any fruit at all remarkable except gooseberries, and they were splendid. You do not see any large dishes of strawberries served as with us, and covered with cream. Half-a-dozen, if not very large, will be put on a plate, each one having its stem attached, and you can take up the berry by the stem and eat it gradually. This is a great aggravation to any one fond of strawberries. This is not from any stinginess or disregard to your wishes or wants, but there seems to be the general idea that fruit is unhealthy, and the people have visions of cholera constantly before them. On inquiry of a friend who had visited America and had seen us eat strawberries in Rochester, why they did not use more fruit, especially strawberries, he declared they would all die if they consumed fruit as Americans do; that it was necessary for them to be very careful or they would be "upset." "Now," said he, "in England, if a child wants strawberries, the mother will give it one, but before it can have two there must be a grave consultation between father and mother as to its safety; but no prudent parent will allow a child to eat three without medical advice." This may be slightly exaggerated, but there is a real dread of the results of a free use of fruit. Whether the climate is at fault or the habits of the people, I do not know.

WE NOTICE that the inhabitants of Morrisburgh, Dundas Co. are about to petition the Legislature for an alteration in the Drainage Act.

Monthly Cattle Fairs.

- Guelph—First Wednesday in each month.
- Harriston—Friday before Guelph Fair.
- Bosworth—Saturday before Guelph Fair.
- Elora—The day before Guelph Fair.
- Drayton—The day before Elora Fair.
- Clifford—Thursday before Guelph Fair.
- Teviotdale—Friday before Guelph Fair.
- New Hamburg—First Tuesday in each month.
- Berlin—First Thursday in each month.
- Elmira—Second Monday in each month.
- Waterloo—Second Tuesday in each month.
- Mount Forest—Third Wednesday in each month.
- Durham—Tuesday preceding the above.
- Fergus—Thursday following Mt. Forest.
- Orangeville—Second Thursday in January, March, May, July, Sept. and Nov.
- Mono Mills—Third Wednesday in Jan., April, July and October.
- Erin—First Monday in Jan., April, July and October.
- Masonville—First Tuesday in Feb., May, August and November.
- Listowel—First Friday after Guelph Fair.

STRAFORD.—Monthly Fairs are to be established in this town, and will be held on the 1st Thursday in each month.

Editorial Table.

The Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society, a large volume containing 784 pages illustrated with handsome cuts of grasses, the best set of illustrations of the kind we have seen. It contains very useful accounts of the proceedings in agricultural affairs, and a great amount of useful information. The Phrenological Journal and Life Illustrated, a good work on Man. It is a monthly publication, published by G. S. R. Wells, 789 Broadway, New York; \$2 per annum. Bliss & Sons' Seed Catalogue, handsomely illustrated and containing 141 pages. A supply of Jas. Vick's (Rochester) Catalogue, most elegantly illustrated. Crossman & Co., of Rochester; Wardman & Halls, Geneva, N. Y.; Ant. Roozen, New Haarlem, Holland. — Bulbs; Sutton & Sons, London, G. B.; R. H. Allen & Co., 189 Wall St., N. Y.; J. A. Bruce & Co., Hamilton; Sharp & Co., Guelph; C. Dawson, Toronto. Report of Dairymen's Convention, Ingersoll, 1871. Griffin's Seed Catalogue, London.

Simpson's Cattle Spice.

We have sent out several lots of this Spice and it is well liked. Those who have procured it once come for more. Its beneficial results astonish many that have tried it, and the reports from some whom we have furnished with it appear almost incredible. The demand for it is increasing.