

The Quarterly Committee Meeting of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, was held at Colborne, on Wednesday the 13th June, when, as the funds of the Society were voted to be applied to the approaching Exhibition of the Provincial Association, and no appropriation had to be made for local purposes, little interest was taken in the meeting, and consequently there was a very short attendance; in fact there was no representative from Hamilton, and but few from Haldimand and Cramahe. The gentlemen from Murray mustered in great strength, some from a misconception that they were Directors of the Society, being misled by a representation, that, as Directors of their Township Society, they stood in the same relation to the County Society, and some two or three on a calculation of carrying measures beneficial only to themselves, but they missed a figure.

At the General Meetings in January of each year, all the officers are chosen, *and at no other*, and this on the just and liberal principal of allowing all members a voice in the choice of the officers.

At the meeting last January, the delegates from Murray, *after much reluctance*, gave in a list of subscribers in that Township whom they were desirous should be Directors of the County Society, at the same time expressing a wish that they, the Murray Township Society, should, in their own conclave, nominate and appoint whom they chose to that office without reference to the voice of the General Meeting. This could not be conceded, because at variance with the constitution of the Society; their own list was therefore adopted without a dissentient voice; but lo! some weeks afterwards a new list of names was furnished and published in the 'Star' and 'Farmer,' purporting to be a list of the Directors of the Murray Township Society; so far so good. The Murray Township, as a Society, votes its own officers, but these are not necessarily officers of the County Society, although several of the names occur in each. But the small gentleman from Murray—not having the honour of his personal acquaintance his name escapes us—is in error in supposing that the Township has of itself the right to do for the County, what the County never attempts to do for the Township Societies, to name their respective officers.

Every Society of any description is composed of members, who are such, on certain conditions. Now the condition of membership in "The Northumberland Agricultural Society" is "the payment of five shillings per annum to its funds."—Out of *such Members* a Committee, or Board of Directors is formed, for directing the affairs of the Society, and appropriating, as shall to them seem best (at a meeting duly called for the purpose) the funds of the Society.

The Society have ever been too lax in their discipline in voting Directors who have not paid their subscriptions, who consequently are not even members of the Society, still, altho' the rule has been suspended, it is not, *it cannot be*, abrogated; and persons so nominated are in precisely the same condition as gentlemen Gazetted to the Commission of the Peace, who, if they fail to qualify, are incompetent to act or vote in any public or private business connected with the commission. Indeed with respect to Agricultural or any Society were it otherwise, the greatest opening imaginable would be made for fraud; for, suppose a party in a certain locality, find that a measure especially beneficial to themselves might be carried by an avowal merely of being members and withholding their subscriptions, they may be appointed Directors—come

in force—carry their measures high-handed—oppose other measures in which they have no interest, and appropriate funds to which they have never contributed one shilling. This is so glaring an injustice and so complete an anomaly at variance with all ideas of good regulations, that it never could be allowed.

Now, *some* of the Murray gents (we can never believe the Township is fairly represented by them) seemed bent on subverting all government unless vested in themselves, they shewed their teeth at their very first appearance at a County Meeting. They are desirous of being connected with the Society, but wish at the same time to be wholly independent. They have no objection—having a laudable desire to be seen in good company—to take a cast in the county state carriage; but that is not enough for them, they must have their Rosinante in the carriage too, and retain their seat in an independent saddle, while they hold the lines and guide the carriage at the same time—this incredible feat they believe themselves quite competent to perform. We sincerely hope our small friend will not attempt it.

These gentlemen seem to hold to the principle, of "What is yours is mine, and what is mine is my own," for their very modest proposition is, that they will countenance the County Society by the payment of five shillings per member, per annum; provided said Society will *return them* three shillings and four pence in hard cash, pay over to them the whole of the Government appropriation, and give them a monthly publication costing two shillings and six pence per annum into the bargain; and moreover, they expect said five shilling payments to make them members of the Provincial Association!!! Very modest truly; where would the County Society be? its noble would soon be brought to nine pence and its nine pence to nothing. And supposing the Society to consist of 400 members, an annual loss would be sustained of just so many ten pences, and from whence are they to come, and how are the intentions of the Legislature to be carried out? how are improved breeds of stock to be brought into the country, seeds and other things to be imported, besides an expenditure in Annual Exhibitions, &c. &c.?

We do hope our Murray friends will at once perceive what a farcical affair it would be if such measures were adopted; they will see how absolutely necessary it is that they should cease to desire to be so ubiquitous, and make their election at once, either of the saddle or the spring seat, "fast and loose" is not always a safe game to play, or if safe it is too frequently dishonourable.

Really the creed of some persons seems to be, that union is weakness, that strength consists in the minutest division of parts, in the disintegration of masses, and the absence of cohesion. That no wisdom arises out of united counsel, and that it is folly to be advised; that a minimum is preferable to a maximum, if good; and that exertions to be most beneficial must be subdivided infinitesimally.

If such ideas be really correct, then, button up your pockets to a man, let each be and constitute himself a Society, be his own Subscriber, President, Treasurer and Secretary; call a meeting of the whole; carry his measures *nem. con.*; carry his five shilling (with a full report) to the District Treasurer, and double his proceeds; he may then proceed to invest his capital in stock, and as his purchases must necessarily be on *rather* a limited scale, we would advise his importing a yoke of the Industrious Fleas, the freight for which would be trifling—the duty less—as they might be conveyed in a pill box, and the exhibition might take place on the very smallest denomination of silver coin, a penny.