

turns. In the Exhibitions of 1853 and 1854 we had no entries of superior breeds of cattle. There were few, or none, in the Province to enter. But the spirit evoked by these Exhibitions led to the cultivation of superior breeds, and in 1868 a considerable number of entries were made. But on that occasion little attention was paid to ascertain the genuineness of the stock, and many animals were exhibited of very doubtful pedigree.

Now, however, a herd-book has been established, and stock is registered; so that whatever is now exhibited may be relied upon as of genuine and unmixed breed. This Exhibition may not, therefore, compare with its predecessors so favorably in numbers as it does in value. The animals exhibited on this occasion as of superior breed are of unquestionable pedigree, and have a value far beyond those whose pedigree is open to doubt. Still, notwithstanding the progress we have made, there cannot be a doubt that the true way to stimulate improvement is to have these displays, either every year or at frequently recurring periods. The spirit of emulation which is begotten at an Exhibition of this kind would operate more powerfully if the opportunity for its exercise were given without too much delay. The man who comes here with the best of his products for display, when he finds himself excelled in the department in which he hoped to shine, returns home determined to make a greater effort for success next opportunity. But, if his fortune can be retrieved only by waiting till one of Shakespeare's "seven ages of man" elapse, if he can vindicate his fame only when his boy now at school shall have arrived at maturity, it is very obvious that we lose much of the benefit which these Exhibitions would afford if they recurred at shorter periods. Still, whether at longer or shorter intervals, they are of great value. Men who see only the products of their own or their neighbour's farms are apt to set up for themselves very imperfect standards of excellence; but show them the best products of an extended area and they will begin to form sounder opinions of the comparative value of their own productions. Many who have come here, I may venture to say, with a firm belief that the articles they exhibit will be the best of their kind, will be much disappointed when they find the superior excellence of the same kind displayed in the Exhibition. Many a false standard will be lowered before the Exhibition is over, and the true lesson to learn will be to strive by the same processes, and by the exercise of the same care and attention by which others have achieved their success, to equal or excel them on a future occasion.

But great as may be the disappointment of individual exhibitors, the feeling of the spectators and the community cannot but be one of pride and gratification. At every Exhibition we have had the display has exceeded expectations. This Exhibition will be no exception to the rule. It is impossible to go over these grounds without a feeling of wonder that we have in the midst of our rural communi-