

QUEEN'S COUNTY, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, EXHIBITION.

The *Examiner*, of Charlottetown, Oct. 7th, gives the Prize List of the Queen's County Exhibition, prefaced by the following remarks:—

"The show of live stock to-day was the best ever held in Queen's County. We make this assertion on the authority of competent judges. The horses, cattle, sheep and pigs were all of the finest breeds and descriptions. Thousands of farmers, etc., were present."

We observe that Henry Longworth, Esq., is a prominent prize taker in the Short Horn and Ayshire, and especially in the Sheep, classes.

AGRICULTURE.

[Extracted from a Prize Essay, by Ed. A. Barnard, Director of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec. Translated from the French by Arthur R. Jenner Fust, Esq., M. A.]

AGRICULTURE is the most useful, the most moral, the most noble of employments, as it regards individuals; so, as regards nations, it is the only solid basis of general prosperity.

A well thought out system of agriculture demands, not only great bodily exertion, but also great mental study.

In all ages, and amongst the most celebrated nations, agriculture has been considered the first and the most honoured of all the arts. Thus in ancient history, the Chaldeans, the Egyptians, the Romans, as well as the Jews, were eminently agricultural peoples; and from the beginning of the Christian era up to our own times, the most powerful, the most prosperous, nations have derived their riches and their strength chiefly from this source. That "agriculture is the very foundation of human life and the nurse of the human species," is a maxim that has never been controverted. If, then, man is only truly great and noble in proportion to the benefits he confers upon his race, what occupation is more noble and more useful than that of the husbandman. The magistracy, the liberal professions, trade, the mechanical arts, are of the greatest use to us. Since the fall, in proportion to the increase of population, the increase of power, courage, wisdom, and of knowledge to direct, defend and control society, has been necessary. More energy has been requisite to extract from the bosom of the earth, and from the depths of the waters, their riches, and to utilize and spread abroad those blessings without limit which the Creator has placed at the service of mankind. But what does all this avail

without the life of the body? How elevated an art, then, must that be which alone can supply those fruits, those products which, pleasing our appetites and rejoicing our hearts, establish and strengthen the life of man.

The cultivation of the land must necessarily tend to raise the mind of the cultivator to a higher moral tone. Throughout his varied toil, he feels his immediate dependence on God. Man becomes the docile instrument of the Creator in the continuation of his creation. The farmer stirs the earth; he waters it with his sweat; he entrusts the seed to its bosom, and then his part of the work is over; the rest he leaves to God; from whose tender care come the heat, the refreshing dew, the necessary rain and the vivifying light of the marvellous eye of the Great Creator—the wonder-working sun itself. It is God alone who gives the increase; here ten fold, there fifty fold, there a hundred fold.

All the more manly virtues—sobriety, economy, activity, perseverance, foresight, are the property of the cultivator. And so we find amongst the agricultural population, generally speaking, a richer judgment, a purer life, a firmer religious faith and a healthier progeny, than amongst the inhabitants of our towns. What says Columella on this subject? "A country life is the neighbour, if not the actual parent, of wisdom." The wise Cato affirms that: "It is amongst the farming class that the best citizens, the best soldiers are born." Cicero, again, declares that: "Luxury has its origin in cities; luxury produces cupidity; cupidity, in its turn, shamelessness; and thence spring all those crimes which cannot derive their origin from the sober and laborious habits of a country life. The lessons taught by agriculture are economy, industry and justice. The love of one's country, source of so many virtues, exists in the highest degree amongst the agriculturists who bring up their families on their paternal estates. It is there that the bravest of our soldiers are born." It is indeed a flattering testimony that these pagan writers bear to agriculture. What then should be the honours paid by christian peoples to a profession so noble and so useful? Does not the farmer feel that he, more directly than another, is placed under the very eye of God? Can he ever forget to notice the beneficent action of the Almighty in the result of his different labours? Who feels so acutely as the husbandman the daily necessity of prayer, that the rain, the heat, the fine weather necessary to the seasonable ripening of his crops, may be granted to him? Is there anyone who can enjoy, more than he, the beauties of nature? And can he, to whom so much is granted, refrain from offering, from the depths of a grateful

heart, the thanks due to his adorable benefactor. Thus, this occupation offers purer pleasures, a more virtuous youth, a better spent life, a happier and more tranquil old age, than any other with which we are acquainted.

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Let the State protect agriculture; let our legislators and our public men who are more directly charged with this duty, encourage, as they ought, farmers to study and observe the laws of good farming; then, this country, already recognised as one of the most peaceful and happy countries in the world, will become, what it ought to be, one of the most productive.

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And, in the future as in the past, our only hope for safety, as a people, does it not lie in the ownership of the soil, in the colonisation and clearing of our forests, in the development of our riches and of our population by fostering the regular and intelligent improvement of our agriculture.

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If we would know the source whence springs the strength of certain modern nations; how it happens that, in spite of the most disastrous troubles, more than one country has emerged from its trials more united and more vigorous than ever; we shall find the secret in the progress and the perfection of their agriculture.

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Proud as these English are of their flag, on which the sun never sets, they owe the retention of their numerous conquests, in all parts of the world, more to the arts of peace than to the arts of war. Do they pay no homage to agriculture? Need I say that nowhere is that pursuit more highly honoured than in the British Isles? There, are grown the greatest average crops known in the whole world. It is to the English that are due those wonderful improvements in the races of the domestic animals, which have gained for their producers not only reputation, but prices well-nigh fabulous. Drainage, steam-cultivation, in fact all the greatest inventions in the science of agriculture, have their origin in England; and it is there that the cultivation of the soil is held, and will, probably, always be held in the highest and most reverential esteem.

If there is a gentleman in the world who attaches a high value to the rank he holds, and who never forgets the dignity of that rank, it is the English gentleman. To follow trade, or commerce, would be alien to the ideas in which he is brought up. Few careers are open to him; arms, the priesthood, diplomacy, the bar and—agriculture! What a lesson should this be to those amongst us, too many are they, alas, who despise the gentle art, and blush for their origin, and for the occu-