

### THE PRESIDENTS ADDRESS AT THE GUELPH EXHIBITION.

DEAR FRIENDS.—Another Agricultural year has passed over our heads, and we are now brought to the close of this our second Central Exhibition in the town of Guelph, and in accordance with a time-honoured custom in connection with gatherings of this kind, I would submit a few remarks, by way of parting address. And I offer no apology for want of ability to treat the subject in a proper manner. But before speaking of the present, or attempting briefly to foreshadow the future, allow me to indulge in a few thoughts concerning the past, and you will the more readily accord me that privilege, when I tell you that for the past forty-one years I have lived in the immediate vicinity of where we now stand, and it is very pleasing indeed to reflect upon the changes which have taken place during that time. Then nothing but dense forests predominated, where now waving fields of golden grain reward the labour of the husbandman. The old bush tracks winding through the woods, which could only be followed by noticing the blaze upon the trees, have been superseded by gravel roads running in almost every direction, and they in their turn by railways, into the most distant parts of the country. The rude and primitive shanties of the early settlers, roofed with hollow bass-wood logs, as they often were, have become things of the past, and now may be seen rising in their stead stately farm-houses, conveying to the mind of the passer-by that they are the abodes of peace and plenty; and if there is a dash of poetry in his composition he will in memory recall what Mrs. Hemans has said about the stately home of England.

But changes other than these force themselves upon our recollection.

Our fathers, the first settlers, the pioneers of the forest, have nearly all passed away.—Men who with hope beating high in their hearts left all that was near and dear to them in the Old Land, all those scenes of youth and childhood's happy days, and who by dint of industry and perseverance succeeded in hewing out for themselves and their families happy homes in the wild woods of America. May it ever be our aim to emulate their virtues, to follow in the paths of frugality and industry which they have trod before us; and though passed away from this changing scene, and no longer with us here, yet they will continue to live fresh and green in the hearts of those whom they have left behind, to take up their part in the great drama of life.

And whilst we are now reaping the fruits of their labours, our requiem over them shall ever be "Honour to their memory; and peace to their ashes."

To me at least it is pleasant thus to

muse upon the past, to look back upon those days of endurance and of toil, and contrast them with the more prosperous but perhaps not more happy days of the pre-ent. So much for the past; let us now turn to the present.

We are met this week in the town of Guelph to show to Canada and to the world what the people, not of the county of Wellington only, but of Ontario, can achieve in the way of an Industrial Exhibition, and I think the measure of success which has crowned our efforts in the past is such as to inspire us with greater vigour in the future; and I am sure that every one who has honoured us with their presence on this occasion will endorse the sentiment I have just uttered.

And in our opinion, after having attended a great number of gatherings of a similar kind in different parts of the country, and in Hamilton during the past week, as an exhibition of industrial wealth it is second to none.

The excessive drought of the past season, following upon that of 1871 of a similar character, must have had an injurious effect upon several departments of this exhibition.

Owing to the scarcity of pasture, stock could only be kept up in proper condition at a great deal of extra expense. The root crop, one of the main things on which a stock farmer depends, has suffered very severely in some parts for want of rain, but this appears only to have been sectional.

Yet, notwithstanding all these drawbacks, we have here an exhibition of stock of various kinds of which we have just reason to feel proud.

All honour to breeders who, heedless of expense, are determined to maintain the high position they have already obtained in that way. It is always very pleasing to notice the interest manifested in such gatherings as this by farmers, mechanics, and the people generally, thereby showing that they appreciate the benefit the country will receive by the holding of such exhibitions, by bringing together practical men from every part of the country, where they may compare notes and profit by one another's experience, and from which we believe much good will result. We believe that agricultural societies are exerting a very favourable influence on the best interests of our country, by stirring up a spirit of emulation and rivalry among its inhabitants generally, a sort of friendly strife and rivalry which goes far to show how Ontario can contribute to advance the interest of the whole community. Nor is the unsuccessful exhibitor discouraged, but rather encouraged, to go home and, profiting by what he has seen and heard, resolve to do better in future.

We also claim that agricultural exhibitions of this kind may go far to remove a

cause of complaint we often hear made in connection with our social system; that is, a desire on the part of our young men to leave the farm and seek some supposed more genteel way of making a living.

We believe that if such herds of cattle and flocks of sheep as we see here exhibited were more generally diffused among farmers—and it is by farmers attending these fairs that such will be done—we should hear less about the boys wanting to leave the farm. Let the boys attend to the stock, show them at the fairs, keep the pedigrees and records of breeding, and we will be surprised at the interest they will manifest in it. By doing so, we will make home pleasant and the business attractive. In this connection let me say a word to my brother farmers.

Are we as a class doing all we can to render home attractive? Are we not overlooking the fact that the children playing round our doorsteps are receiving their impressions from their surroundings?

If it is bleak and barren, are they to be blamed for seeking other pursuits. It may be that there is too much of a desire amongst us to add acre to acre and dollar to dollar, but we would say: Away with your broad acres, your bank deposits, if they fail to bring to me and my family those comforts and enjoyments in life which we as rational and reflecting creatures have a right to enjoy. Let us ever endeavour to make the old homestead attractive and I have no fear of the results.

Let us also see to the education of our children.

Education is as necessary in connection with farming as any other pursuits. Men who have risen to the highest position, men of the highest intellect, were not ashamed to say that they were farmers. Teach our young men that it is not calling that enobles character, but character that enobles calling.

"Honour and shame from no condition raise,  
Act well thy part, in that the honour lies."

One word to our young, and I am pleased to see so many listening to me on this occasion. Whatever may be your calling in life, be it agricultural, professional or otherwise, hard labour is the price you must pay for success in the world, and it is not purchaseable with any other currency. It is also pleasing to notice the interest manifested by the Government of our country in connection with agriculture, and the near prospect they are affording us of having established in our midst an agricultural and experimental farm, from which I anticipate the best results, particularly in the way of experimenting on the different seeds and roots before going into general use; and I would here reiterate the sentiments of my predecessor, James Anderson, Esq., in his able address of last year, when pressing upon all who had an opportunity afforded, to avail themselves of the ad-