

delegates, but of visitors from various parts of the Province. Hon. David Christie, the President, occupied the chair; and with him on the platform were Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Dr. Beatty, Dr. Barrett, Hon. Wm. McDougall, Mr. W. G. Beckwith, of Michigan; Mr. Jas. Johnson, of London; Mr. Sheriff Ferguson, Kingston, and the elected members of the Council of the Association.

The Secretary read the minutes of the former meeting, which were approved.

The President then delivered his annual address, as follows:—

GENTLEMEN.—In obedience to established usage, it is my duty, as President of the Association, to address you on this occasion.

We have great cause for thankfulness to God for sending us a fruitful season, affording enough for man and beast. During the early part of the summer there was much dry weather, which in some parts of the country curtailed the crops more seriously than in others; still, taking the Province as a whole, the return is somewhat near an average in the various kinds of grain.

We have also reason to thank the Giver of all good for the peace which we enjoy. Beyond the annoyance and expense caused by the incursion of a few deluded and misguided men, we have been at rest; and certainly when we think of the devastation and bloodshed which have taken place in Europe, we ought to estimate very highly the blessings of peace. We cannot be too grateful for immunity from the horrors of war. Let us unite our prayers with those of all good men throughout the world, that the sword may soon be sheathed and that henceforth nations may refer their differences to another arbitrament than that of the sword. May the day soon come when the principle of universal benevolence shall prevail, when "men shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

After reading the narratives of the terrible scenes which have lately transpired in France, one feels constrained to echo the words of the Quaker poet:—

"I hate the drum's discordant sound,  
Parading round, and round, and round;  
To me it talks of ravaged plains,  
And burning towns and ruined swains,  
And widows' tears and orphans' moans,  
And mangled limbs and dying groans,  
And all that misery's hand bestows  
To fill the catalogue of human woes."

When we recount such horrors, we have also reason to thank God for the institutions under which we have the happiness to live. They are such as to produce contentment and loyal attachment. The love of peace prevails among the people of Great Britain and her colonies. And there is no surer test of a high state of civilization than this. Where you find a nation whose policy it is to make every man a soldier, it is either for the purpose of sustaining despotism at home or for restraining it from abroad. It was well said by Lord Derby at the meeting of the Royal North Lancashire Agricultural Society the other day, that our Queen is the "one Sovereign in Europe whose throne is undoubtedly and absolutely secure." The reason is not alone to be found in the fact that she has never transcended the strict limit

of constitutional duty, but also because, in the language of England's foremost statesmen—Mr. Gladstone—"it has been providentially allotted to this favoured Isle that it should show to all the world how freedom and authority in their due and wise developments, not only may co-exist in the same body, but may, instead of impairing, sustain and strengthen one another." Among Britons, it is the extent and security of freedom which renders it safe to entrust large powers to Government, and it is the very largeness of those powers, and the vigour of their exercise, which constitute to each individual of the community the great practical safeguard of his liberties in return. The free expression of opinion, as our experience has taught us, is the safety-valve of passion. That noise, when the steam escapes, alarms the timid; but it is the sign that we are safe. The concession of reasonable privilege anticipates the growth of furious appetite. Regularity, combination and order, especially when joined with publicity, have of themselves a marvellous virtue—they tend to subordinate the individual to the mass; enlarge by healthy exercise the better and nobler parts of our nature, and depress the poorer and meaner. They make man more a creature of habit, and less of mere impulse; they weaken the relative influence of the present by strengthening his hold on the future and the past, and their hold on him. It is a great and noble secret, that of constitutional freedom; which has given to us the largest liberties, with the steadiest throne, and the most vigorous Executive in Christendom.

Gentlemen, officers, and members of the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario, permit me to congratulate you on the success of this the twenty-fifth annual Exhibition. Its quality it has not been excelled by any of its predecessors. The number of entries fall short of those of last year, by 1,106; last year there were 7,577 entries; this year there are 6,471. But it will be observed that the deficiency occurs almost wholly in three classes, namely, in grains and seeds, field roots, and garden vegetables, in which classes there are 991 fewer entries. This deficiency may fairly be ascribed to the character of the season, which has been very unfavourable to the growth of these articles. The history of the Association is the record of one of the best and most successful institutions of its kind in the world. But we shall be better able to judge of our progress by taking a short retrospect. Agricultural societies were first established in Upper Canada in 1830, when the amount granted to each district was \$400—while the amount required to be subscribed was \$200. By subsequent legislation, the amount was reduced to \$100, while the Government grant was increased to \$1000. The districts at that time numbered eleven. Taking it for granted that all the districts had Agricultural Societies, the whole Government grant, in 1830, would be \$4,400, while there would be half that amount subscribed in the districts. In 1853, there were 41 County Societies; the whole amount of subscriptions was 13,508, and the Government grant was \$27,330. In 1867, the amount subscribed by County Societies was \$40,312, while the Government grant paid to them was \$44,637 55. This is surely a very gratifying progress; in 14 years the amount expended has been nearly doubled. At the first exhibition held in Toronto, in 1846, the total amount offered in prizes was \$1,600; the number of entries was 1,150; and the amount of premiums awarded was \$1,100. At the last show