

introduction of the drill system in the province; but also because it shows that farmers will not neglect communicating to the public the results of their experience when proper channels are opened for that purpose. These channels are the agricultural societies of each county.

Dr. Purdy, the secretary of our county, not having received any communication from the secretary of the Provincial society authorizing him to correspond, and the proceedings of the latter not being extensive enough to put in the shape of a formal report, I have taken the liberty of informing you of our purpose. The society closed its meeting with reiterated thanks to Agricola. I am much helped by your requesting my correspondence and I shall take an earlier opportunity of sending you a few remarks on the state of agriculture in this county.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

J. S. MORSE.

P. S.—A list of society members accompanies this letter; and the gross sum of donations and subscriptions amounts to £111, 7s., 6d. currency.

Agricola had other correspondents in Cumberland than Mr. Morse. Stephen Oxley, of River Philip, sent him a description of the county regarding its present state of agricultural improvement. Amherst, Fort Lawrence, Minudie, River Hebert, Maccan, Nappan, River Philip, Ramshag and Westchester are all briefly referred to in this communication. Speaking of Amherst Mr. Oxley says: "Amherst which contains the county town although very little elevated above the level of the sea, yet from its bleak and northwest aspect is considerably exposed to the chilling blasts from that quarter during the winter months. The farmers here do not pay that due regard or strict attention to agricultural pursuits which the importance of the subject commands; depending chiefly on their hay and pasturage which enables them to rear and keep stocks of cattle and sheep.

The marshes, although completely dyked and in many parts tolerably drained, lie almost in one boundless tract of uncultivated soil comprising some hundreds of acres unmarked by the furrow of the plough, and are capable of being improved to infinite advantage. These parts which have been judiciously drained and are becoming dry are generally appropriated to English hay as it is called, or to grazing, and are most admirable for the reception of the plough and with good management would teem with bread corn in great abundance. The uplands in their primitive state are not perhaps so rich as in some other parts of the country, but are in general capable of being highly improved by a regular mode of culture. Besides the vast heaps of dung produced from the barns which accumulate during the winter to a prodigious size, the immense and endless quantities of marsh mud at the very skirts of the upland are acquisitions which few farmers in the province can boast of, and lime, too, is evidently within their reach. Yet, strange to say, I know of only solitary instance in which that valuable fossil has been used as a manure. Possessed of all these local advantages I wonder not at the remark made by your respectable Onslow correspondent, after his tour through part of this county, that "Cumberland ought to be