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*Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturæ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.*

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In accordance with instructions from the Executive Committee of the Board of Agriculture, the Secretary has entered into correspondence with various Breeders of thorough-bred Stock in England, with a view to an importation this Fall. Enquiries have been specially made respecting Short-horn Durham Bulls and Cows, Ayrshires and Devons, Cotswold and Shropshire Down Sheep and large Yorkshire Pigs. It is believed that all the animals required can be obtained without sending any one home to purchase, the parties from whom it is proposed to purchase being all thoroughly reliable. Arrangements can likewise be made for shipping at Liverpool, and having the animals properly cared for during the voyage. So soon as full information has been obtained, the Committee will be called together to decide upon purchases. Should this importation prove successful, it will likely be followed by regular annual importations, which will certainly be needed if we continue to make advances in the improvement of Stock at the same rate as during the last few years. We hope Societies will husband their funds, and be prepared to give better prices at the coming sale than were realized last October. At public sales in other countries, the tendency among farmers and breeders is to run up the prices of stock to their full value. It is naturally the interest of farmers to do so. But with us the tendency, hitherto, has been rather to depreciate values. A new light is dawning upon our farmers, and we look hopefully forward to a better state of things.

In another column we have reprinted from the London *Agricultural Gazette* an excellent account of recent experiments on the conversion of vegetable foods into animal fat. The point to be determined is whether the carbo-hydrates, such as starch, sugar, gum, &c., which contain no nitrogen, go to form fats, or is the fat merely produced from the albuminoid (nitrogenous) food? Potatoes and Indian corn are rich in carbo-hydrates, whilst wheat and oats excel in albuminoids.

We hope to be able to present to our readers, in next number of the *Journal*, a report upon the State of the Crops throughout the various Counties of the Province. In former years we have been indebted to the kindness of Correspondents in furnishing the necessary information, and we shall feel obliged by a renewal of their courtesies this year. Communications on the Weather and Crops should reach us on or before the 25th day of the month.

GEORGE ESSON, Esq. has made some interesting discoveries among Ferns. The latest is a new locality for the splendid Ostrich Plume Fern, *Struthiopteris Pennsylvanica*, which he found at Five Mile River, Maitland. This fern forms a short stem, from the summit of which the fronds issue as in tree ferns. Mr. Esson not only discovered the *Struthiopteris*, but followed the discovery by a very graceful act. He sent two splendid roots as a gift to the Public Garden, and

supplied all his fern-loving friends as well; even the Editor of the *Journal of Agriculture* was not forgotten. Mr. Power will be pleased to point out the *Struthiopteris* to enquiring visitors at the Public Garden.

DURING the middle and latter part of the month of May the dust clouds in the city of Halifax were so dense that it was only possible to see through the railings of the Province Building at intervals; but this circumstance did not prevent our noticing a conspicuous display of Spring Bulbs, chiefly early tulips, in the flower beds. These early flowers are cheerful at this season, and we often wonder why professional and amateur florists do not use them largely instead of the fashionable bedding plants that only come into flower when people are going away from the city to spend their autumn holiday. The crocus bank on South street was as bright this year as ever.

We have already noticed some of the efforts made by our local Poultry Fanciers to improve the stock by importations of superior classes of Birds from the United States and elsewhere. We have to add that H. Croskill, Esq., Deputy Provincial Secretary, has recently obtained, from the most reliable breeder in England, Ducks and a Drake of the famous Aylesbury breed, noted for their size and beauty, but especially for the delicacy of their flesh. The Pekin Ducks recently imported by Mr. A. Mackinlay, jr., Sunnyside, Dutch Village, have been