

that Company. Enquire before placing any confidence in them. We have had a good deal of business with American gentlemen, and found them compare favorably with either English, Irish or Scotch, but we consider this Express Company a disgrace and dishonor to the United States. If this is an annexation ticket we want no more of that medicine. The press should condemn it as a villainous swindle.

We have on two occasions paid this Company their full charges in London on freight that had been previously paid for in Toronto, and they have not returned the money. We would sue them for it, but it would give us more bother than the money is worth. Mr. Alley of Dundas Street, paid \$3 50 for a small parcel of dry goods from New York to London, weight 135 lbs., and we have heard of \$4 per cwt. being paid from Buffalo to London.

If they chose to make high charges only, we should not have so much to complain of, but when they take payment in full, at the time of receiving the goods, and compelling payment again at the time of delivery, it is high time the public should be aroused, so as to take charge of our own lines of carriage.

The West Middlesex Agricultural Meeting.

Address delivered by Wm. Weld, at the West Middlesex Annual Meeting, held in Strathroy, Jan. 19th 1867.

GENTLEMEN: I have for some time past taken considerable notice of the management of different agricultural societies. It is but recently that I have taken any steps to interfere with the management of them, but from the injustice and mismanagement of some, it has shown me the necessity of farmers to be up and doing, and not allow ourselves to be treated as dumb animals.

You may have seen our exposition of the mismanagement of the Provincial Exhibition and Agricultural Hall; you may also have heard of the achievement gained in London. We are not intending to condemn the management of your Society to any great extent. The worst that we have to say about it is, that there should be appointed days for holding the annual exhibitions, so that they should not come on the same day as other exhibitions in this vicinity. On the same day you held the last exhibition, namely, the 4th day of October, three other Agricultural Exhibitions were held within 20 miles of our residence, and being previously engaged to attend at one of them, we could not be at yours. We hope it may be better planned next year.

In 1865 we visited your Fall Exhibition and were well pleased with the show of stock, produce, and ladies handiwork.

Your exhibition ground compares favorably with any we have seen.

We will now touch on the management of societies generally. Those societies where over reaching, grasping, tyrannical injustice gains power, the exhibitions seem thinly attended, and the good they should be doing is frustrated. One of the hindrances to the success of Agricultural Exhibitions is lack of knowledge among the farmers. The more enlightened they become by reading, observation and experience, the better and more useful will Exhibitions become. A great means of advancing the interest in Exhibitions and advancement of Agricultural prosperity, is by reading on agricultural subjects.

The majority of our farmers have commenced poor, and were for a long time in such straitened circumstances as to be unable to afford the price of a paper even at 50 cents a year. Perseverance and industry have now wrought great changes in their circumstances, and many that had not a dollar to call their own from year's end to year's end, have now large farms and a surplus of cash; and the most intelligent and successful have now one, two or three agricultural papers on their tables varying in price from 50 cents to \$2 50 per year. But there are still a great many that consider that as they have done without so long they can manage without still. Many we know do without, but those who do take and read Agricultural papers possess great advantages over those that do not.

Many useful hints, and the experience of the most successful farmers are there to be seen, also information on the most judicious management of stock, land, trees, &c; the most improved implements will be spoken about, and such information must guide the farmer better than the knowledge that any one farmer can gain by confining his ideas to the 100 acre lot on which he may be living.

But to return to the Agricultural Exhibitions, which every thinking man must know are highly conducive to the improvement of stock and grain and of social gatherings of all, in which the ladies can and do materially assist us, and benefit themselves thereby. To make these societies most successful, it only requires fair play and honest dealing. Let your judges be the most honorable men and the most disinterested parties that you can select. The public would rather put up with ten erroneous decisions from lack of knowledge on the part of the judges, than one decision that might be given by a friend to favor a friend. Avoid as much as possible having any thing that you exhibit judged by any one you know. Remember that all exhibitors are apt to think most of their own articles. You should not complain because the best judges that the directors might select might differ with your judgment, or the judgment of your particular friends. All cannot gain

the prize, and the majority of those that do not, if young exhibitors, sometimes feel hurt and leave in disgust. If they persevere as they should do, they will conquer and gain prizes.

Nothing but unjust opposition and injustice at exhibitions has placed us in our present position. We deserved prizes but did not get them. We have now gained more first prizes at the Provincial Exhibition than any man here, and feel confident that if we chose to continue we could most probably take any prize that we might aim at.

You who have suffered wrongfully, persevere. Do not be beaten back. Justice may not be obtained at first but will conquer in the end. Persevere and succeed is our motto. Adopt it.

The following officers for 1867, were elected by the members:

President, Geo. Buttery, Strathroy.
1st Vice President, Thos. Moyle, Metcalfe.
2d Vice President, Alex. McKellar, Lobo.
Directors.— Wm. Harris, Katesville, Wm. Weld, Delaware, John Henderson, Bowood, Godfrey McGuggan, Strathroy, Allan Carmichael, Nairn, Donald Campbell, Fern Hill, Geo. Parker, Strathroy, Christopher Corniel, Longwood, Nathaniel Curry, Glencoe.

The following person were nominated for members of the Board of Agriculture, G. Buttery, James Keefer, Thos. Moyle, J. B. Askin (London).

The President and Vice President were requested to attend the provincial Exhibition as delegates of this Society, and that their expenses thereto be paid.

A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the retiring officers.

The Show Ground was let to Mr. J. Keefer to clear for first year's use thereof, and to pay \$50 per annum for the next 3 years, on motion of Geo. Parker, seconded by Thos. Moyle.

Mr. Keefer was appointed Collector at 10 per cent, on all subscriptions collected.

The Society then adjourned.

Gentlemen who receive this paper and do not return it to the Office will be considered as subscribers. We hope you may see the utility and necessity of having a *Farmer's Advocate* established on a safe and sure foundation. You will show your paper to your intelligent neighbors, and tell the benefit such a paper will be to them and to the country. Remember it is by prompt payment and numbers, that will enable us to improve and increase the size of our paper.

TO COMPLAINERS.

Some are saying in regard to our paper, we want to hear more of this or that we want it larger, &c. We treat on what we consider of most importance to the farmers at the present time. So soon as you have paid for the present sized paper we will increase it. Middlesex can afford a larger Agricultural paper than this. We must creep before we can walk, help us while we are creeping and we will soon run alone.