

7. That potatoes that ripen earliest should be exclusively grown.

8. That, as soon as the disease appears, earthing up the stalks repeatedly with fine earth from the centre of the trench is the only effectual preventive to its ravages. To this operation the author consequently attaches the greatest importance.

9. That when exhumed, *sunlight* appears to arrest the progress of the murrain, and prevents the further decomposition of the tuber.

Without committing ourselves to all the above statements and suggestions, some of which are, we think, doubtful or open to well founded objections, the attentive reader will find much useful material for thought, which if carefully considered cannot fail to impart valuable aid in coming to sound conclusions, as far as our confessedly limited and imperfect knowledge will as yet permit, on this very important and equally difficult subject.

Judges and Unsuccessful Competitors.

FOR THE AGRICULTURIST.

Amidst the general harmony and joyousness which prevail at our Provincial Exhibitions, there arises annually, more or less, a murmur of disappointment, anger, and from some, even of execration. The cause of this is the real or imagined erroneous decisions of the judges. Incorrect judgments, inasmuch as they fail to accomplish one principal design of the exhibition, and shake the confidence of exhibitors, cannot be too carefully guarded against. But how effectually to do so is a difficult question. I have read more than one communication in the *Agriculturist* since last autumn, asserting and denouncing the mischief; but going no further in the way of proposing a remedy than the statement, "competent judges should be appointed."

I have one suggestion to offer, which, if adopted, would at least do a little in the right direction. When any parties are called on to name persons in their locality suitable for judges, let them be requested to give not only name and address, but the occupation of the individual, and their reasons for considering him competent in the particular class for which he is recommended. Let the appointments be made as early as possible, with one or two extra names for each class, and let each of the appointing committee keep a list of the names, and use every available means of further information in the case of parties who are unknown. When it is time to notify those selected, let the appointments be reviewed and finally decided on. Something of

this kind would at least have prevented one or two instances I remember of men being put in the wrong place.

But my present object was chiefly to bring forward some considerations tending to show the folly and injustice, in most cases, of the sweeping condemnation poured on managers and judges by parties who are dissatisfied with the awards.

It is no libel on humanity to say that there is in the character of most men enough of selfishness to materially dim their perception of defects, both in themselves and their productions. Although there are those possessed of integrity, discernment, and candour sufficient to overcome this weakness, yet they are the exception; and where its influence prevails, it is a fertile source of dissatisfaction whenever an adverse judgment is pronounced upon their works.

With nearly every article exhibited, there is some expectation of a prize—in some cases, a persuasion that it "cannot be beat;" consequently, when these hopes are not realized, there is more or less of vexation, which, combined with before-named tendencies, is sufficient, without any error on the part of judges to beget dissatisfaction.

With every means used to procure judges in all respect suitable, there must, in an exhibition where a great variety of productions are collected, be at times, some failures. It is common to insist that judges should not only be competent, but unacquainted with the ownership of what they are judging. This, while very desirable, it is impossible always to secure.

There is frequently some diversity in the views of those who may be regarded as competent men. One, for example, attaches more importance than another to some prominent excellence in an animal or article of manufacture. Another, with a keen eye for symmetry, cannot lose sight of what his friend regards as only a slight defect. In these and other ways, those who may be regarded as competent, will at times differ.

An ordinary observer accustomed to attend exhibitions where prizes are competed for, will meet with incidents, some of them very annoying, illustrating what I have advanced.

I infer from all this: 1. That there is cause for wonder that complaints are not more numerous. 2. That few competitors are competent judges of their own case. 3. That it is vain to expect even an approach to universal satisfaction.

Guelph, June, 1861.

S.

Wool.

Subjoined will be found the copy of a letter from the Governor General's Secretary to the President of the Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada, of a letter from the Duke of Newcastle