

diffusion of agricultural knowledge, and the improvement of agricultural practice.

We have much pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to some excellent remarks made by George Alexander, Esq., at a recent meeting of the West Zorra Agricultural Society, Mr. Alexander is the President of the County of Oxford Society, and seems to regard it as a part of his official duty to attend the various Township Exhibitions in his own county; thus setting, as we think, an example which all county presidents might beneficially follow. The toast of the County Society having been cordially received, Mr. Alexander observed:—

“He felt deeply sensible of the honor which had just been conferred upon him, and would observe that if it was his duty to be present at the exhibitions of the different Branch Societies, it was a very pleasant duty to discharge. He proceeded to observe, that they had now outlived the discouraging times, when the farmers got little for any kind of farm produce. He would not look back to them, as we had now before us a bright and promising future. The forests were rapidly being transformed into beautiful farms; property everywhere had increased immensely in value; and while all other improvements were steadily progressing, it was gratifying to observe the farmers keeping pace with the times. Their highly esteemed President, Mr. Oliver, who acted as one of the judges of sheep, at the late Provincial Show, would tell them of the magnificent stock of every description exhibited there. It must be admitted, he said, that those annual exhibitions have had the desired effect of calling forth a noble emulation to import into the Province and raise the finest bred stock; while our county and township societies are diffusing widely this spirit of improvement. He would observe, that from the very successful working of the township societies generally, it had been found somewhat difficult to extend the sphere of the county society to what it should be. However, every one must rejoice to see the township societies doing so much good; and it would be unwise to attempt to divert from their natural channel the energy and enterprise which have been awakened in such localities, unless it became generally the spontaneous wish to unite in forming one grand society. As the country progresses, and many of the settlers get superior improved stock, they will naturally desire to exhibit them in a larger sphere; and there is no fear of the county society being sustained, if it is managed with proper energy and judgment. It possesses a beautiful show ground, granted by the government, which has been handsomely fenced in, and is now being levelled by some of the enterprising members. Sixty permanent sheep pens are now just being finished, the expense of which will be defrayed, principally, by liberal contributions from the inhabitants of Woodstock.

Under the Statute, it receives annually ninety pounds of the government grant; while the present year, the number of its members has been more than doubled, and many others have expressed their intention to compete at the next annual exhibition, so that the prospects of the society are rather looking up; but he wished to say a few words on another subject. He would like to see the farmers of West Zorra and other townships meeting in this social manner more frequently, to talk over many of those matters, in which they have a common interest. By taking part in such meetings, we all become more liberal and enlightened in our views and feelings, and acquire an interest in many things, which it is beneficial for us to know. While all seem to be acquiring property, it is indispensable that we progress in intelligence as a people. The mere possession of wealth does not give respectability or dignity to man. We find that Scotland has been distinguished for the excellent working of her Parish Schools, and for the love of knowledge generally prevailing amongst the youth of that land, which has fitted them for the discharge of all their duties in life, and which has enabled them to rise to the highest positions in the state. He regretted much to be informed, that this noble township had not yet established its public Library. East Zorra had done so, and with all the inducements now held forth by the Education office, it was desirable that every township in the land should follow their example. Before concluding, he claimed permission to propose a toast. He said, he had been much delighted with what he had seen this day. It was gratifying to observe the great improvement upon last year in the different stock exhibited. Their township was in a highly prosperous state.”

Mr. Alexander, in proposing the health of the Successful Competitors, remarked:—

“That if there was any body of men to whom the country was more deeply indebted, it was to those gentlemen who were devoting themselves to the improvement of stock, and he hoped to see many of those, who had taken prizes here this day, exhibiting at the next annual show of the County Society. It appears to have been the idea contemplated by the Statute, that the successful competitors at the different township shows, should then compete at the County Exhibition. He hoped to see a laudable emulation amongst the different townships as to which would carry off the greatest number of prizes. If the County Society could be extended to occupy this its proper position, it would be rendering some service to the country.”

#### ANNUAL MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

It may not be amiss to remind such of our readers as are placed on the management of these institutions, that the Statute requires all Township Societies to hold their annual meetings, for the adoption of Reports, electing Officers, &c., sometime during the month of