

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED
COUNTIES OF FRONTENAC, LENNOX AND
ADDINGTON.

At the annual meeting of the above Society recently held in the city of Kingston, the following address was delivered by the President, Angus Cameron, Esq. The *Argus* observes (whose remarks will be found after the address) that the Warden and members of the County Council were all present, and a number of the principal agriculturists of the district, among them the Rev. J. Allen, of Wolfe Island, a gentleman who brings much zeal and intelligence to bear on agricultural pursuits, "whose premises as a farmer, may be taken as a model, by farmers in Canada generally"; J. B. Marks, Esq., President of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada, who has grown grey in promoting this ancient and most important of all arts; Messrs. P. Davy, W. Ferguson, Scott, Boys, Rankin, Cowan, Starks, &c., &c. We regret that we cannot find room for the resolutions, which confirmed the principal suggestions of the address; a document such as we should have anticipated from the well known zeal and ability of the author.

The complimentary terms in which the Treasurer, Wm. Ferguson, Esq., writes to us with reference to our humble labours, through the medium of the *Agriculturist*, to advance the agriculture of the country, cannot be otherwise than gratifying. And we hope soon to see such machinery put into operation as shall awaken enquiry and strengthen a spirit for improvement in all sections of the Province.

GENTLEMEN,—The design of the Legislature in passing the Act 8th Vic. chap. 54, as shown in the preamble, was "to give encouragement from the Revenues and people of Upper Canada to the science of Agriculture."

The same was the object in view in passing the Act 10 & 11 Vic. chap. 21, which provides for the incorporation of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada.

The 7th clause of the Constitution of this Association declares that the object of the Association shall be—"The improvement of Farm Stock and produce, the improvement of tillage and agricultural implements, and other like matters; and the

encouragement of domestic manufactures, of useful inventions applicable to agriculture or domestic purposes, and of every branch of rural and domestic economy."

The same is our object in endeavoring to maintain this and the several Township Societies within these Counties; and to what extent that important object has been attained by the proceedings of this Society, during the last twenty years of its existence, you, gentlemen, and those you represent here, have had all desirable opportunities of knowing; and with so much experience as a guide, the present is a favorable opportunity for making such alterations and amendments in the Constitution, Regulations, and future practice of the Society, as shall appear to you the most likely to promote the end in view.

Were I to take upon myself to give an opinion, I would say that the main difficulty met by agricultural societies throughout the Province, is a general apathy prevalent amongst Farmers, and a want of union as to the means best calculated to carry out the object which all profess to approve and desire.

If this is true, our first and most important duty is, so to manage this Society as to render it attractive to the majority of the people whom it is designed to benefit;—to make it a means of creating throughout its limits a praiseworthy rivalry in the good work of reproducing from the earth, by industry, skill, and economy, a bountiful supply for the inhabitants thereof, thus contributing at the same time to the general and individual good.

As the premium list has a tendency to give direction to the exertions of agriculturists, care should be taken that it contains no misdirection, and that the truly meritorious part of the labor be not left in the back-ground unnoticed, while some portion move incidental in character, and of less utility, is conspicuously awarded a premium.

If the apathy which has so long prevailed in these as well as other counties of the Province, could be replaced by a lively zeal and emulation and a consequent increase of this Society, there is good reason to believe that a spirit of liberality and inflexible impartiality, in duly awarding the honor of premiums, where properly merited, on the part of the managers of the society, would secure its future increase and prosperity.

The Township Societies may have done some good, and in future may improve, yet their doings fall short of the benefits that might arise from an exercise of the functions of a County Society.

Since the organization of Township Societies it may be said that nothing has been done by the Counties but to draw and divide the Government allowance of money; this is but half doing the business, and in reality leaving the most important half undone.

It would be an improvement if in future no Townships within these Counties should hold: Cattle Shows on the same day, so as to give of us, as well as intending purchasers, an oppor-