

HERRON, YARMOUTH, JULY 14th, 1859.

DEAR SIR.—You will excuse me for not having before replied to your Circular as circumstances have prevented my so doing. In answer thereto at this late date I would beg to submit the following as being as correct a conclusion as I can arrive at, at present. With regard to the present condition of the Agricultural Society of this township, I would state that it is working quite harmoniously, but is not so generally taken hold of by farmers as could be wished. It has of late expended its funds chiefly in the purchase of stock from which a marked improvement is already to be observed. It is held in contemplation to appropriate the funds of the present year mostly in giving premiums on stock, and various products of the soil, hoping thereby to stimulate farmers to increased attention, particularly in stock raising; and, in order that the district generally may be benefited, one condition of the premium is to be that all experiments be carefully noted, and a correct report of the management in every case presented to the Society. About £12 have been raised by members this year.

In reply to the queries proposed.

1. Although in a backward state still I think the present condition is one of some progress in many particulars, the foremost of which I consider to be the increased attention paid to enlarging the manure heap, "the farmers mine of wealth," and in preserving manure from waste by sheds, and in many cases, by cellars for preserving the liquids which have heretofore to a great extent been lost; also in the extended culture of root crops especially turnip and carrot. The cause of this I take to be first the necessity from the farms becoming older and having exhausted the fertilizing properties common to new soils; and secondly from the more widely extended information on the subject by the circulation of Agricultural publications, Essays, Lectures &c.

2. Although nothing like a universal system of rotation prevails I am pleased to state that many farmers are giving more attention to the subject than formerly.

3. Heretofore but little has been attempted. The Agricultural Society is the present year experimenting to some extent with guano, the results of which experiments I shall be pleased to lay before you in due time. Composting is considerably practised.

4. The farms are generally small. I should think from 15 to 20 acres would be about an average of the amount cultivated including meadow land; some of course much more, others less, with about an equal proportion of grain and roots.

5. I think nearly one half have a copy.

6. The Albany Cultivator is taken to some extent, with a few copies of your own publication, the Educational and Agricultural Journal.

7. I believe they have been productive of much good even in their present inefficiently managed condition. I hardly feel competent to make any suggestions calculated to benefit, but I think if each Society would exert itself to get up an annual fair, where might be exhibited the various products and manufactures of the district and at the same time endeavour to have an Agricultural lecture by some one competent would be one step in the right direction.

8. In answer to the last and most important query, I believe the Agricultural public require enlightening upon and awaking to the importance of their calling; and in my opinion nothing would tend more to accomplish this, than the more general circulation of good Agricultural publications, the establishments of farmers clubs for eliciting discussion upon the subject and I think carrying out the resolution embodied in your circular will tend greatly to impart increased life. As heretofore our farmers have known but little about the state of the Agriculture of our own Province nothing having ever been published concerning it, except the very hasty report of the Central Board.

Yours truly,  
JAMES CROSBY.

REV. ALEXANDER FORRESTER D. D.

WALLACE, July 5th, 1859.

REV. SIR,—Your circular to Agricultural Societies dated the 1st ult, has been submitted to the Committee of our Society who have directed me to offer the following answers to the questions therein contained.

1. The present condition of Agriculture in this district is prosperous and progressing. The Agricultural Society has been the main cause in stimulating the farmers to improve in the various branches of their calling. Remunerative prices for produce and a ready market at home have also contributed to the improvement in agriculture in this place.

2. General attention is paid to the Rotation of Crops, although, perhaps, not always so systematical as it ought to be.

3. The manufacture of Compost Beds is quite general. Bone dust is also used.

4. The time afforded was too short to enable the Committee to

ascertain the average amount of arable land cultivated by each farmer

The proportion of Root Crops is small in comparison to that of grass.

5. Dawson's Agriculture of Nova Scotia has been pretty extensively distributed in the district.

6. There are some periodicals on Agriculture taken in the district.

7. From my own observation I believe that the Agricultural Society has been productive of much benefit to the cause of agriculture in this place. An increase to the grant to Societies would render them more useful.

8. I believe that proper agricultural education is the grand desideratum for imparting the knowledge necessary to prosecute this branch of industry the most advantageously.

I further believe that Agricultural Conventions, similar to those in the United States, would impart an impulse to this important branch of industry.

I have the honor to be

Rev Sir,

Your most obt. servt.

DONALD MCKAY.

Secy. W. A. Society.

The Rev. A. FORRESTER, Truro.

ANNAPOLIS, 18th July, 1859.

DEAR SIR,—The sitting of the Supreme Court for a fortnight and other engagements have prevented me from replying to your Circular of the 1st June at an earlier day, and I beg to apologise for my seeming inattention. I will now endeavor to reply to the queries contained in it, though I fear I shall not be able to do so in a very satisfactory manner.

1. I consider that the condition of Agriculture in this district is surely though somewhat slowly progressive and the improvement during the last few years is apparent. I think the institution of the agricultural societies has contributed much towards this state, and I may add as other reasons that the markets have been good and that the young men are possessed of more intelligence and energy than their fathers were.

2. General attention is not paid to the Rotation of Crops.

3. Artificial fertilizers are rarely used. Much more attention has been paid of late years to the manufacture of Compost than formerly.

4. I am not able to answer. Generally speaking much more land is cultivated, (or rather attempted to be,) than should be. If the same amount of manure and labor were applied to one acre that is now applied to three, the produce of the former would be greater. This County is capable of sustaining a large population if its arable lands were properly managed.

5. Very few of the farmers possess copies of Dawson's Agriculture.

6. There is no Periodical on agriculture circulated in the district. Some few persons take the Albany Cultivator and New England Farmer.

7. I am satisfied that the Agricultural Society as at present managed have been productive of much benefit, in proof of which among other effects I may state that there has been in this district a very great improvement in the stock, especially as respects horned cattle. There has also been a decided improvement as respects swine and sheep. There is unfortunately too much apathy among those for whose benefit these institutions are designed, and if the farmers were to give them their support as they ought, the advantages to be derived from them would be largely increased.

8. My belief is that the grand desideratum for imparting an impulse to this important branch of industry is—Education—Education—Education.

I am truly yours,  
Geo. S. MILLIDGE.

## POETRY.

### THE WILLOW.

"Tongues in trees—books in the running brooks"—Shakespeare.

The willow grows beside the river  
And the boughs hang o'er its flow,  
Till the green leaves, as they quiver,  
Kiss the waves that run below.

The river whispers to the willow  
With a sad, mysterious tone,  
As the bubbles of each billow  
Gurgling break on bank and stone.