

farmers and mechanics, that for the 42 prizes offered for Agricultural Implements at the Provincial Exhibition of 1868, but 15 articles were entered for competition, of which 14 obtained prizes. It was probably acting upon this hint that at the "Agricultural" Exhibition to be held this autumn in one of our leading counties, but \$8 in all is offered in prizes for farming implements, whilst as much as \$32 is offered in premiums for boots and shoes.

Farmers must learn to set a higher value on improved implements, and encouragement in the shape of premiums at exhibitions, and a ready sale for their wares will then meet the men who undertake to supply them.

Obediently Yours,  
J. W. L.

OAKFIELD, July 9, 1870.

KIRKNESS, June, 1870.

Go where you will, the all absorbing topic is the weather; from the merchant, lawyer, doctor, farmer, mechanic, and all others, it is the first salutation you receive. They will tell you it's a fine day, or otherwise, when you are perfectly well aware of it, but it is the custom, and it is no use to say anything against it; but there are times when such a topic gives way to reflections, when you are told by the farmer that his crops are suffering from the effects of drought, as was the case over a large extent of the country here, the month of May being unusually dry, barometers were anxiously tapped and watched, telegraphic reports eagerly scanned, the weather-wises consulted, and with a shake of the head replied, "Oh! the oak is in leaf before the ash, look out for a dry summer;" but poor human nature at the best is a false prophet, the rain came at last, and things began to revive, although we have not had enough for poor hungry soils; the gauge in some districts, only showing a fall of one inch and two tenths for the month. Turnips have suffered considerably from the fly; wheat, in general, is looking very patchy; potatoes are superb; oats and barley promise well, but in some places the straw looks rather sickly. But it is an ill wind that blows nobody good. The Horticultural exhibitor has been in high glee, as the dry weather has been favourable to him for shifting plants from place to place. The coffers of the societies have been considerably augmented, for the attendance has been large of beauty and fashion. Nothing very new or striking, excepting an improvement on the old Ageratum, called Imperial Dwarf, which promises to turn out a good thing. Notwithstanding the dry weather the gardener has gone on with his bedding out, and long before this reaches you, it will be finished all over the

kingdom. The plant that holds predominance in the present tyle of bedding, is the geranium. It is used almost to excess, but there is no doubt but that it answers the purpose well. The best geraniums that I have seen for bedding purposes answer to the names of 'Trent-ham, Rose and Glow. There is also another fine wet and dry weather plant called Tropaeolum Cooperi. At all times it is a profusion of bloom. I saw at Dalkeith Park Gardens the other day, the finest thing in the way of richness and variety of colouring that it has ever been my lot to witness. It was a house filled with about five hundred Calceolarians. They were arranged in undulating lines, and the effect was grand. It has been the work of years to bring them to such perfection. The Horticultural press here has taken up the subject of village shows, and it is likely to add to the number of those very useful institutions. In travelling here it is easy to tell the villages where shows are in operation, and it has been my privilege to witness several shows, and once seen, no one would have any doubt of their usefulness. On a show day the inhabitants hold high holiday, a band of music is engaged, and the squire or some other person of influence, distributes the prizes, and has a kindly word for one and all, and all return to their homes with a determination to put forth still greater endeavours next season. The small garden is trenched and re-trenched, plants are watered and re-watered, and everything is watched with a careful eye. "You need not fear for a man belonging to our society going astray, he has always something to do, so that he may be enabled to make a good display at the show." Such was the reply I received from a worthy clergyman when enquiring of the effects of such shows on the morals of the people. Now I would press upon the leading men, the men of influence, the inhabitants of the towns and villages in Nova Scotia, the importance of inaugurating such shows in their midst. For if the saying be true, (and I have never heard it questioned), that he who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before is a benefactor to his race, what shall be said of the man, who by his encouragements and exertions, supplies the table with abundance of vegetables, and decorates the dwelling with fine flowers, where all before was want and a desert waste, truly such a man deserves well of his race. Such shows cost little, the prizes being nominal, and when we consider the gratification afforded, the good accomplished, it is a wonder that they do not become general. Let one and all, therefore, cast aside all local and petty jealousies, and endeavour by their aid and countenance, to have at least one show in their town or village

during the season of seventy-one. And let it be no spasmodic attempt, but a determined effort to make and sustain their society as second to none in the fair province of Acadia.

Yours, &c., &c.  
A HALIGONIAN.

Letter from Hon. John Fergusson, Sydney, indicating very favorable change on crops, received as Journal was going to press. Will print in next number, with much other matter omitted.

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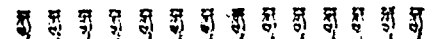
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