

Northumberland, N. B. Agricultural Society.

The *Gleaner* of the 4th April contains an Annual Report of this Society, which has been ably drawn up, and shews in a most conclusive manner the benefits of agricultural societies. The legislature of New Brunswick has appropriated a large sum of money for the purchase of seed potatoes, which are to be distributed among the farmers of the several counties of the Province. It omens well to see so much interest felt in the cause of agriculture by those in authority, and we hope that the farmers will appreciate such aid by giving due diligence to business, and practising such improvements as will pay a handsome interest upon the capital invested.

Agricultural Clubs and Colleges are highly recommended in the report, and as the views set forth are such as we highly approve, and as those institutions, if carried out in conformity to their true spirit, are calculated to give a stimulus to improved agriculture, we have thought it proper to copy the following extracts. Our readers will please bear these important topics in mind, and if possible exert their influence in having those patriotic institutions carried into practice in their several localities.

"Few men enjoy the advantages which farmers do. Freed from the feverish and fretful life of speculation or ambition, to which so many around them are subjected, the farmer, while holding his plough, or casting his seed into the ground, enjoys fit seasons for meditation; and during the winter evenings finds abundant leisure for intellectual pursuits; but it will be admitted, that notwithstanding all these advantages, the mind as well as the body of not a few of our farmers, is totally unemployed, during the evening of many a winter's night. The Board would therefore point out a field, on which farmers may spend a portion of this leisure time, and expect to reap an abundant harvest, in the shape of valuable information. In the Agricultural Districts of the Northern Countries, the American States, and on the Continent of Europe, there have long existed what are called "Farmers' Clubs," or "Conference Meetings," at which with all the freedom and familiarity of the fireside, each farmer offers the dictates of his every-day practice, and the results of his own experience. What is there then to prevent the establishment of such meetings in various sections of this county? Much

useful information would thus be imparted; and a spirit of inquiry awakened from which most happy results might be anticipated. The Board therefore submit the consideration of their utility.

"It should be borne in mind, that although Northumberland, in point of agricultural importance, is but young and insignificant, that circumstance should by no means be used as an argument for farmers attending the more heedlessly to the improvements going on in older countries.—*They are far behind—they say—who cannot follow!*" The further behind we are, we have surely the greater need to call to our aid the light of science, and take advantage of every tried invention, of which our circumstances will admit, in order to accelerate our progress onward. Now the Board would remind this Society, that the countries to which they have lately referred, seem to have arrived at a new era in the history of their agriculture. It is a fact that in the common schools of Scotland and Ireland, Agriculture is now taught just as any other science; and in England a College has lately been erected in Wiltshire, solely for that purpose. A Catechism it seems has been compiled by Professor Johnstone, of Edinburgh, which comprises all the great outlines and divisions of the science, and imparts a knowledge of those few scientific words and important substances, with which every cultivator of the soil—in order that he may understand instruction conveyed by others—would do well to acquaint himself. There may be no harm in the Board describing the method by which the science of Agriculture is taught in these countries. The first branch is the culture and improvement of the soil; the second, the 'Rearing and improving of Stock;' and the third, the use and improvement of agricultural implements. The mode of teaching is of two kinds, *theoretical* and *practical*; that is, in the school room, and on the open field.

"It has been found, instead of occupying too much of the scholars' time, as was at first apprehended, one hour, or at the most, two hours a week for three years, are quite enough to learn all that need be taught on the subject. The Board submit, whether some plan could not be devised by which the study of Agriculture could be introduced into the schools of this county, or if some other method might not be prosecuted for its introduction."