

sounder opinions of the comparative value of their own productions. Many who have come here, I may venture to say, with a firm belief that the articles they exhibit will be found the best of their kind, will be much disappointed when they find the superior excellence of other articles of the same kind displayed in the Exhibition. Many a false standard will be lowered before the Exhibition is over, and the true lesson to learn will be to strive by the same processes, and by the exercise of the same care and attention by which others have achieved their success, to equal or excel them on a future occasion.

But great as may be the disappointment of individual exhibitors, the feeling of spectators and the community cannot but be one of pride and gratification. At every Exhibition we have had, the display has exceeded expectations. This Exhibition will be no exception to the rule. It is impossible to go over these grounds without a feeling of wonder that we have in the midst of our rural communities so many persons aiming at, and achieving in their quiet way, so much of excellence in every department for which an opportunity for display is afforded on this occasion. No one will visit this place without carrying away from it an enhanced estimate of the value and importance of our agricultural and horticultural interests. Many will leave it with a better opinion of a soil and climate where such excellence is attainable. Some of our English friends, I have reason to hope, with the evidence which this display affords, may, on their return to their own country, be able to intimate a doubt whether the time has not come to revise the stereotyped paragraph on Nova Scotia, which figures in their school geographies, and whether it might not be possible, without violating the truth to describe our Province as remarkable for something else than "barren rocks and impenetrable fogs." I confess I love the Province, of whose administration I have the honor for the moment to be the head, and if there is any portion of our population with which I am connected by ties more tender than another, it is the class whose interests we are especially met to promote. As son and grandson of men who had been cultivators of the soil of Nova Scotia, I should be ashamed of myself if I did not feel for the class and for the pursuits, with which I am so much identified, more than an ordinary attachment, and I assure you, I look forward with pleasure and pride to the time when, relieved from the duties of public office, I shall be able to pursue the rural life and cultivate the rural tastes which are so dear to me.

No occupation so grows on the affections as that of tilling the soil. There is something in it to which the instincts of our nature respond. The idea is associated with the earliest history of our race. When God created man of the dust of the earth, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and gave him the name Adam, or Earthy, to indicate his origin, he placed him in the Garden of Eden, and assigned to him the duty "to dress it and to keep it." This splendid abode, which was surrounded by the four rivers, and within whose precincts "grew every tree that was pleasant to the sight and good for food," was a fitting residence for primeval man. The name Paradise, given first to this abode, and afterwards applied in a higher sense to the realms

of bliss, is a word of great antiquity, as it is one of peculiar significance. It is to be found in all the old languages of the East. It comes to us from the Greek, yet it is older than Greece. In all tongues it conveys the idea of a park and a garden. It means the hand of God and the hand of man. It means nature's inherent fertility, stimulated by man's industry. This we call cultivation, another word not without significance; we derive it from a Latin root, which means alike "to till and to worship," as if there were something of worship in obeying the command of the Divine Being to the first of our race, to till the ground and to keep it.

But I shall not lay too much stress upon an interpretation which I fear is open to the objection of being somewhat fanciful. Indeed after what I have said already upon the value and importance of our other industries, it hardly becomes me to seek a special religious sanction for any one kind of labor. But it is not necessary to do so in order to give to the industry, with which this Exhibition is connected, a weight and importance largely preponderating over any other industry of the country. Upon you, the farmers of the Province, it devolves to maintain this status of the Provincial Agriculture, and to support the character of your class in the community. That you will do this—and do it well—we need no assurance other than that which is furnished by the display placed before us this day.

But however excellent this may be, it will not do to rest here. For all who aim at excellence, the motto must be "onward and upward." Much has been done,—more than many of us thought possible. But the next Exhibition ought to show that what is excellence now, will be but mediocrity then. We should move on in an ascending grade—till we reach the highest degree of perfection attainable within the limits which soil and climate permit.

I have no fear that the Agricultural reputation of Nova Scotia will wane, so long as the spirit is abroad which has brought into existence the splendid display of this day, an Exhibition to which I have had the pleasure of drawing your attention and which it is my privilege now to declare open.

THE CLOSING ADDRESS.

Lieutenant Governor Tilley, of New Brunswick, having been briefly introduced by Chief Justice Sir William Young, said he had come to the Exhibition as a visitor, not expecting to take any important part in the proceedings, but Sir Wm. Young, who had been selected to deliver the closing address, was prevented from doing so by a press of professional duties; and the managers of the Exhibition had extended to him an invitation to take his place. He felt himself unworthy to discharge the duties of the position, but could not decline so kind a courtesy. He knew there were many who regretted that the revered Chief Justice was not able to perform the function, but none did so more than he (the Speaker) and that for several reasons. He would have been delighted to have heard him on this occasion, for it might be the last, though he hoped he may live yet many years, but more because he was one of the few survivors of a generation of statesmen of whom not only Nova Scotia but the whole Dominion and even the British Empire might well be

proud. He was considerably embarrassed because unfamiliar with the character of past Exhibitions in the Province, and unable, therefore, to institute any comparison between those and the splendid one just being closed. Of those which had been held in bygone years he could only learn by hearsay, but of the present one he could judge from observation as well, as he had carefully examined every part of it. He had attended Exhibitions in Ontario, and believed that ours compared favorably with them. Those who where thoroughly posted about exhibitions held in this Province pronounced it a grand success, and believed it to be such. The fruit show was magnificent. The display of flowers was most creditable, both to the taste of the people and the skill of our horticulturists. The vegetables were also creditable, although he believed that in New Brunswick they were ahead of us in that branch. In most respects our Exhibition was finer than those of New Brunswick, but in the department of roots they would excel. The show of horned cattle was far ahead of what he had expected to see. In like manner he might go over the several classes, and pay deserved compliments in each, but that would not be necessary. The Exhibition was a success in every way, and the question which now arose was how to make future ones a greater success. Now that we were about bringing this to a close it might be well to adopt some resolution which would be of benefit in the future. It was important to determine upon an arrangement of matters so that future affairs of like character should be very much better and more successful. There were various ways of doing this. And most important of all, it would be necessary to adopt some means to increase our agricultural population. He noticed by the census that in proportion to other branches of industry the agriculturists were ahead. We should now strive to increase that proportion. Our farmers did not sufficiently consider the importance of taking the place in society which they should occupy, and consequently, by many of the rising generation, other, and what are thought to be more honorable and lucrative pursuits, are engaged in. If the social status of the farmer were elevated those young men who now leave the country would be satisfied to remain on their farms, which would then be better worked and more prolific. The best way to attain this would be to establish a Commercial College in the Province with a model farm attached for the education of young men from all parts of the Province. It would be very wise for our public men to encourage such an undertaking, which must be of incalculable advantage and benefit to the Province and its people.

In conclusion His Honor observed that he had only consented to make a short, off-hand speech, and would close by thanking the Board for their kind invitation. (Applause.)

His Worship the Mayor was then called on, and responded as follows:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Allow me to congratulate you on the great success which has attended this exhibition. Favored by Providence with delightful weather, it has been all that could be desired, has reflected the greatest credit both on the managing committees and the exhibitors, and shown by its productions that we pos-