

only serve to show degeneracy or apathy. But where success and improvement are so manifest, where mind to conceive and skill to execute are so striking, where no retrograde movement is visible, but all is securely advancing, it is for the interests of the country that this forward movement should be published under the best authority the agriculturists and manufacturers of the country are supposed to possess. It is urged that the demands upon the time of the President—who is very properly selected from the practical farmers of the country—or a want of familiarity with literary efforts, are cogent reasons why the address should be abandoned; but if this reasoning were to hold good elsewhere as in Canada, the addresses of Presidents would be few and far between, and many of those luminous and delightful retrospects of progress in different branches of art and science from which we derive our knowledge of what has been done during the year that is past, would have never seen the light. It is not necessary that every president should himself collect all the facts and discuss the merits of the events of the year, or even write any portion of his own address. In many instances this would be a difficult effort, or a task which few could accomplish with credit; it is sufficient if the sentiments which are uttered, or the statements which are made, are endorsed by the President, in order to secure the weight which always attaches to such an authority. No one supposes that the annual address of the President of the Royal Geographical Society, except in some few instances, is written by himself, a considerable part of it may be, but much is prepared for him by those whose business of life it is to make themselves familiar with the progress of geographical discovery. So also it should be with the Presidents of our Agricultural Associations. If they do not feel themselves competent to present to the public a retrospect of the progress made in the country during the past year, there can be no difficulty in procuring the assistance of friends who would furnish the desired information, and if necessary put it into shape.

Mr. Mayor Bowes also "thought that the retiring President had acted judiciously in departing from the custom of delivering a written address;" but he gave an excellent reason for their being continued. "I am sorry," said Mr. Bowes, "that I am not a practical farmer myself, that I might share with them the glory of the testimony which was borne by the noblemen from England and Ireland, to the excellence of their cattle, the magnificence of their horses, and the superiority of the products of the mechanical genius of the country now exhibited on these grounds." It is the

very excellence of which Mr. Bowes speaks that should be noticed and described in the annual address of the President of the Association. The admirable and eulogistic speeches of Lord Monck and Lord Mulgrave will be read with delight and enthusiasm by the farmers throughout the country, but we want a calm and collected retrospect of the years that are past, and of our progress in all things pertaining to agricultural and manufacturing improvement, which should come from the lips of the President of the Association. These are necessary reviews of our onward march in material wealth, deriving as we do great external aid from emigration, and the introduction from abroad of so much which tends to improve our condition. We hope that the Agricultural Association and the Board of Agriculture, rather than lending their influence towards the discontinuance of the annual address, will give such counsel and assistance, when required, as may make the address of the President of the Association a document of general and substantial value, fitted to command respect both in Canada and across the seas. It ought to embody a synopsis of what we have done, so as to lead the stranger who criticises us to form some conception of what we may be expected to do.

THE FISHERIES OF THE GULF.

The Lower Provinces are attracting considerable attention at the present moment in consequence of the projected Intercolonial Railway. The great fisheries they command in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and on the Atlantic coast constitute the most important source of their wealth, as well of the Eastern Townships in Canada. As this subject is one not generally appreciated in the Upper Province, we shall devote a short space to the consideration of our Fisheries.

The commercial and political importance of the North American Fisheries has been recognised for more than three hundred years. They have attracted the earnest attention, at different periods, of the Spanish, Portuguese, French and English Governments, and have been made the subject of special treaties after the termination of protracted, expensive and sanguinary wars. The navy of France was sustained during the first half of the eighteenth century by the Fisheries of North America. Without this admirable nursery for seamen France would not have been able to man the tithe of her fleets at that period. We have only to glance at Louisberg, and the treasure lavished on that once splendid harbor and magnificent fortress, on the island of Cape Breton, to feel sensible of the vast importance with which the