

me, and to which I invite examination and challenge contradiction, to establish that the value of agricultural labour in the year 1851 in this Province of New Brunswick equalled the enormous sum of £1,692,000, which, at six per cent., is the interest of £28,000,000. Yet astonishing and demonstrative as these facts are, there will still be unbelievers—men who will shut their eyes against the great array of witnesses gathered together in the Hall of the Exhibition, and showing a collection of agricultural productions which cannot be surpassed in any portion of the world.

“Is it any marvel that the world is ignorant of the resources of our country, when there are so many who are ignorant among ourselves? One good result of the labours of the New Brunswick Society will be to make us know and appreciate ourselves, and to make us justly known abroad. And it is high time the ignorance of our character and the character of our country was dispelled. Not long since, a person who married in this Province visited his friends in Britain, and when the subject of his colonial connexion was referred to, it was with the regret that ‘he had not waited till his return, so that he could marry a white woman.’ As another illustration of this ignorance, I may mention that an English gentleman, who fancied himself by no means deficient in intelligence, asked a Provincialist, who happened to be in England, ‘how far it was from Halifax to Nova Scotia?’ Again, a more painful, a more humiliating evidence of this prevailing ignorance is to be found in the book of geography, published by the National Society of Education, in the year 1849, in which it is coolly stated that the chief rivers of this Province are the St. John, the Shubenacadie, and Annapolis, and also adds that the chief employment of the people is in rolling logs down the banks through the winter, and taking them to Halifax in the spring. Out upon such ignorance and misrepresentation! Why, we have lakes three hundred miles in the interior which would swallow three Nova Scotia rivers. But the worst is, we disparage our own resources. We did so at the World’s Exhibition, when New Brunswick was represented by a lump of asphaltum, the figure of an Indian, and a bark canoe. This disparagement is as unjust as it is unpatriotic, for we may safely pit New Brunswick against any State in the Union for weight of wheat, bushel for bushel; and some of you will be surprised to learn that with all the boasted fertility of their grain-growing States, they only produce fifteen bushels per head in the United States, while we, unknown and dejected as we have been, are growing 12, and that while they grow but 5½ bushels of potatoes per head, we grow 14½. We are ready to enter the lists with them for fair competition, and leave to them to name both time and place.

“Then we can beat them easily in raising beef, for in grass, potatoes, turnips, and oats, we entirely outdo them both in quality and