

From that time may be dated the commencement of farming in any proper sense of the word.

Still little progress was made till about fifty years ago, when the late John Young, the father of our excellent Chief Justice, in a series of letters published in a newspaper of the day, and subsequently collected in a volume dedicated to the Earl of Dalhousie, then Governor of this Province, letters equally remarkable for eloquence of diction, for earnestness of tone, and for the sound views they enunciated on Agricultural affairs, aroused the people of Nova Scotia from their lethargy and gave a new impulse to Agricultural pursuits. Societies were formed all over the Province, and an interest and a pride in Agricultural affairs excited, which did great good to the country.

The next great stride was made in 1853. The late Revd. Dr. Forrester is entitled to much of the credit of this effort. He was one of the ablest and most energetic of the many able and energetic Scotchmen who have settled in this country, and whose exertions have done so much to make the land of their adoption worthy of the land of their birth, after which it is named in the pedantic latinity of the 1st James. In a lecture delivered by Dr. Forrester at the Mechanics' Institute the year before, he had pointed out the many advantages to accrue from a Provincial Exhibition. Following up the idea and aided by the powerful influence of the present Chief Justice, then Speaker of the Assembly, so general an interest was created in the project that there was raised by subscription, extending to all parts of the Province, the liberal sum of \$1600, which, added to a small Legislative grant, gave an aggregate of \$2000, the greater part of which was available for prizes.

The Exhibition took place in the Gardens of the Horticultural Society, and though small and comparatively insignificant, it was considered so much a success that its friends were emboldened to attempt one next year on a larger scale. On the 4th of October, 1854, just twenty years ago day before yesterday, the second Exhibition was opened in the Provincial Building and the grounds adjoining, by Sir Gaspard LeMarchant, who had given cordial and valuable aid in getting it up, as well as the one the year before.

The opening was ushered in by a grand procession of National and other Societies, by music and imposing ceremonies of all kinds. To a Legislative grant of \$4000 were added subscriptions which, with admission fees, gave a gross fund of \$13,000, for the purposes of the Exhibition. It was a great success.

Fourteen years elapsed before another or third Exhibition was attempted. This was held in 1868, on the same grounds as are occupied on the present occasion. The legislature gave \$9000 towards the expenses, to which a subscription of the different Agricultural Societies added \$1500. This Exhibition was successful in the highest degree.

Six years more have since gone by, and a fourth Exhibition is about