

such magnitude. Of course this would be correct if all were possessed of such narrow minded views.

We are aware that many have been deterred from patronising the Canadian publication, owing to the fact, that frequent unsuccessful attempts had been made by wild adventurers, or men of theory who had no other motive at heart but self aggrandisement; but no one acquainted with our habits would charge us with such motives, as we felt as much interest in forwarding the prosperity of the *Farmer and Mechanic*, as we have evinced in the success of our own Publication.

We assure our friends, that there need be no danger apprehended in our incapacity to make good our engagements as we have ten times as much stake in the country as any losses we may chance to have entailed on us by publishing this Magazine.

We beg to apologise for the foregoing remarks which are more lengthy than we anticipated;—they were made for the purpose of explaining the prospects before us, and our future intentions, so that no one may have it in their power to say, that we have been actuated by improper motives in engaging in a branch of business, which will require most of our time and attention.

HOME DISTRICT PLOUGHING MATCH.

The Annual Ploughing Match, under the patronage of the Home District Agricultural Society, took place on the 3rd Inst, on the farm of Mr. Daniel McBride's, nine miles north of this city; and the performance came off in a style quite creditable to the Society, which instituted it, and more especially so, to the ambitious competitors, who entered the field. Fourteen teams were on the ground, manned with able ploughmen, ranged under the different classes.—Each ploughman had allotted, for his portion of the work, one fourth part of an acre, which had to be divided into three equal portions, by each, respectively. There was no limited time given for the work to be performed, which was very proper, and consequently, it was not slighted nor hurried.

It has been our lot to hold the plough for months in succession, and from the very elegant manner, in which the whole of the parties above, executed their work, we resolved, while on the ground, to enter the field as a competitor, at the next annual exhibition, if spared up to that period;—this resolution was not formed through vanity, or with the hope of ever being qualified to carry off the sweepstakes, but for no other purpose, than that of setting a good example to others, and for mutual and personal benefit. This principle, we trust, will be more generally acted upon, another year, and it will not be our fault if there are not on the ground, at that period, at least one hundred competitors, who, will themselves, be incalculably benefited, from such a demonstration of rivalry; and the whole district in fact, would be the gainers from such a grand and creditable display of good ploughing.

The kind of implements used were with one exception, of the very celebrated Scotch iron plough, most of which, were imported direct from Scotland. The proportions of the furrow slices, which each endeavoured to turn, were eight inches and a half wide, by five inches and half thick, laid resting upon each other with a lap of three inches, so close, that a grain of corn

could not possibly find an entrance between them; and these slices at the same time resting on angles of about 48 degrees, presenting a most imposing, and likewise novel appearance.

We felt so much interest in the success of the above magnificent enterprise that with much personal annoyance and care, we had a dynamometer made by a mechanic, for the express purpose of testing the draughts of the several models of ploughs on the ground. The difference between the Scotch iron plough, wooden Scotch plough, and Lloyd's Canadian patent plough, was not as much as we previously anticipated. The experiments being made when the competition was quite over, it very naturally created much attention and confusion, and consequently it would be difficult for us to report as accurately as though it had been made by a select party who felt an interest in giving correct results; however, as near as we could judge, the Scotch iron plough with a furrow eight inches and a half, by five inches and a half, made a draught on the horses equal to one thousand pounds;—the Scotch wooden plough with a furrow of the same thickness as the above, and nine and half inches wide, made a draught of one thousand and twenty-six pounds; and Lloyd's Canadian plough with a furrow of the thickness just quoted, and eleven inches wide, made a draught a fraction less than a thousand pounds.

We may have it in our power to test the respective merits of a number of ploughs, before the close of the present summer, and if so, we shall feel a most hearty desire to lay a plain and practical report of such experiments, before our numerous, and we hope, spirited and ambitious readers.

The successful parties were as follows:—

First class,—Including ploughmen without distinction; first, Walter Dalzell, Scotchman, second; George Coulter, do, third, George Harrison, Canadian:—

Second class,—Canadians over a certain age; first, James Johnson, second, John Gibson, third, Philip Ross:—

Third class,—Boys under a certain age; first, James Harrison, second, Alexander Montgomery, third, H. Lynburner.

The whole amount of Premiums granted, equalled the sum of sixty dollars, which was expended, in our humble judgement, in a manner quite satisfactory to all parties concerned; and will be calculated, no doubt, to inspire a laudable zeal among the youth of the District, so that they will be prepared with their well trained horses to enter when the next opportunity presents itself with a determination to improve if not excel their more experienced neighbours.

We feel no scruples in asserting, that better ploughmen cannot be found in America, than are in the Home District; and it is quite probable that in addition to the premiums given by the Society at their next ploughing match, a sum of money or purse will be raised by gentlemen, residents of the District, to give a still greater impetus to improvement in that important branch of farming. Under this consideration we would strenuously advise the young men of the District to make as much improvement in their work as possible, and try if possible to excel their neighbours in executing good ploughing on their own farms, and to prepare themselves for a public trial.

HOME DISTRICT CATTLE SHOW.

The Spring Fair and Cattle Show was held on the show ground, near the New Gaol, on the 10th Inst., and the exhibition was fully as well attended by the farmers of the District as could be expected, when the backwardness of the season, and the value of each day, to an extensive farmer, at that particular period, is taken into account. Indeed, if we had stock of the best description, and felt morally certain of obtaining a number of prizes we would not be tempted to stop the plough for any such bounty, at a period when our crops should be sown, and business of an urgent nature required our personal superintendence.

Agricultural shows and fairs, ploughing matches, and similar exhibitions, should be held at a season of the year, when a day or two's absence from home, would not be of so much importance to the farmer. We hope in future, that this matter will be attended to by the managing directors of the various Agricultural Societies throughout the Province.

The exhibition of stallions were very creditable, and probably surpassed any previous show. A powerful well proportioned draft-horse of the "Norman race" was on the ground, and attracted much attention, and in our humble judgment, was the best horse, with one exception that ever travelled in Western Canada. We were so delighted with this superior animal, that we resolved on having his portrait taken, and a correct likeness exhibited in the present number of the *Cultivator*. On the morning following the show, we accompanied our *Engraver* to the Inn where this noble animal made his stand, and to our astonishment, were informed that he had suddenly died from an accident incurred on the show ground. The gentleman who owned this horse, had been offered the day previous the sum, of five hundred dollars, which offer he refused.

The fat sheep exhibited, could not be easily excelled in any country. A full bred Durham Bull owned by the Hon. Henry Dunn, M. P. F. for Toronto, and bred by Thomas Maires, Esq. of the Township of *Vespra*, may be considered one of the finest bred animals in America, and if a "grand Provincial Show" should be the order of the day, the ensuing autumn, we would not be surprised to see the above animal eulogized by the judges on that occasion.

It was our intention to have drawn up a lucid report of the above exhibition, but have, been prevented from doing so, from causes over which we have not the slightest control and the few remarks thus given, have been penned in the hurry of the moment, and for which we beg to apologize.

We have no desire to make ourselves at all officious in the management of the Home District Agricultural Society, but from the affinity we bear to the agriculturists in general, and those of our own District, in particular, we would feel a pleasure in advancing the prosperity of the Society in every possible manner—and in future may take upon us, the task of advancing a few general directions for the better guidance of Agricultural Associations.

LIME AND SALT.—In one of Professor Johnston's experiments, he finds that lime is a good strengthener of the straw, and forwarder of the kerning and ripening of wheat and other grain; while it appears to help fill the grain, and increase the weight per bushel. *New-York American Agriculturist.*