

posterity. Some of the wild horsemen of the plains of South America are, from infancy, continually on horseback, and their limbs are observed to become slender and almost unfit for walking, which characters reappear in the children of the tribe. Amongst the causes, then, which tend to form varieties, are to be numbered the habitudes of animals, whether in the wild or domesticated state."

HOME DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This society held its annual meeting for the election of officers, and the transaction of other business, on the 14th of February, at the Court House, in this city. E. W. Thomson, Esq., was re-elected President, and W. B. Jarvis, T. Neal, and W. B. Baldwin, Esquires, Vice-Presidents, G. D. Wells, Secretary, and W. B. Crew, Assistant Secretary; Wm. Atkinson was chosen Treasurer, and the following gentlemen, Directors for 1849: Geo. Buckland, Alexander Shaw, Jacob Snider, John Watson, Jonathan Scott, J. P. Wheeler, Nat. Davis, D. Smellie, F. Jackes, R. McNair, J. H. Price, E. Snider, and Dr. Clarke.

The following is an extract from the report presented by the retiring officers, and as it contains an important suggestion, we publish it, in order that our readers (especially in the Home District) may have an opportunity of expressing their opinions on the propriety of its adoption. Our own opinion is, that if the District Society were to hold its meetings at different places in the district, much greater good would be accomplished than by holding them at one point, the consequence of which is that only those persons in the vicinity attend; the same horses, cattle, &c., compete year after year for the prizes—a general apathy among the farmers obtains, because a few animals take the lead and by this system are allowed to keep it, and thus the very object for which the society is constituted, and individuals and the Government subscribe their money, is lost sight of. Considerable opposition was offered by a few members present, but we think the matter should be brought before the various Township societies (which some of the objectors thought ought to be altogether abolished), and their views and feelings ascertained. The District Society belongs to the district, and not to the people in the neighbourhood of Toronto, who may very naturally wish to have its meetings held, and its money distributed among themselves. We trust a more general interest will be awakened to the objects and operations of these Societies throughout the province, and that the hints thrown out by the Report, on the subject of *moving about*, will be taken up by the Township Societies, and their opinions made known before another

year. The suggestion may apply to other districts as well as the Home District;

"Since the last annual meeting, a considerable accession to the members of this society has been made, but still the number falls lamentably short of what it should be. A very great degree of apathy exists amongst the farmers of the district with respect to uniting their efforts to sustain in active operation the District Society. This may arise in some degree from the number of Township societies in operation. Contrary to the general expectation when the establishment of these societies was advocated, the effect has not been to build up the District Society to the extent that was anticipated. Perhaps this is attributable (and it is to be hoped it is) to the circumstance of their meetings being much more convenient to attend than the meetings of the District Society, which are always held in the city of Toronto, and not to an entire disregard of the important benefits such societies, if properly sustained, are calculated to produce.

In view of this subject, the retiring officers beg to suggest the idea of endeavouring to awaken a more general interest, by holding its meetings in the different sections of the District alternately—say in the most suitable place in each Riding. The advantages of this regulation, it is conceived, are many and important, and it is now suggested for the purpose of bringing the subject under the notice of the leading agriculturists of the district. One necessary preliminary measure is important, in view of such a course being adopted; that is, that the section wherein the spring or fall show is to be held, should forego their township meetings, and throw all their strength into the district meeting for that season.

The officers regret that the attempt to get correct statements of the mode of culture, and the other information sought to be obtained by offering extra high premiums for grain and root crops, have not been fully accomplished. But it is to be hoped, that by a steady perseverance in the plan to obtain satisfactory and useful information, the society may be more successful; and it is therefore suggested, that as little deviation as possible be made from the established regulations of the society on that subject."

A tabular form, for the statement of the several facts which should be furnished by the competitors in grain, roots, &c., is annexed to the report, but as we think it rather imperfect, and unnecessarily inconvenient, we shall not take the trouble to publish it. In all probability, the directors will cause appropriate forms to be printed for public use before next fall, in which case we shall notice them. The Treasurer's account shews that the sum of 141*l*. 11*s*. 7*d*. was deposited by the township societies (nine in number), for the purpose of drawing a portion of the government grant. The sum of 65*l*. 4*s*. 8*d*. was apportioned among them out of the said grant. The whole amount in the treasurer's hands during the year was 453*l*. 15*s*. 10½*d*., of which he paid in premiums 142*l*. 10*s*., to the Provincial Association 50*l*., and the re-