

case, there would not be seen fourteen English dukes on one side, and eleven on the other, in this fiscal battle. While convinced that these measures had passed with a view of affording food for the lower classes, at a low rate, yet he believed if their calculations failed, that England, through her Legislators, had firmness enough to retrac her steps.—Among the other advantages, there was this one, that formerly the policy was to prevent manufactures in the Colonies, and this policy might have had much to do with the severance of the connexion between the United States and Britain, but now, when our products were to go in free, they would no longer hold us bound as before, or evince a jealousy at our progress in manufactures. It was not to be thought that all would confine themselves to agriculture: to some nature had given a delicacy of touch and a turn of mind that was ill suited to these things, and which made it certain that they would not be kept within a given scope. Until the Society had conferred on the labouring classes the belief that they had the means not only to keep but to raise themselves higher in the social scale—until they should have improved their dwellings, affording the comforts of study—but little good would be done—because with this they would afford them opportunities to become contributors to the good work in which they were engaged. He would not detain them longer, but hearing the toast, his mind was drawn to the reading of the royal commission. He hoped, however, that this was not so long, as some of the gentlemen would occupy their attention on toasts to be submitted.

Mr. Sheriff RUTAN then rose, intimating that the toast in his hands—"The Queen Dowager, Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family"—always followed that given by the President. He would not say many words; he had intended to address a few observations to them, but following the learned Chief Justice he felt he could say nothing.

Mr. Justice HAGERMAN having heard the Sheriff express a desire that he should attend, had met them. Although not in the habit of attending public dinners of late years, yet he could have no objection to attend this meeting,—the first of the Provincial Agricultural Society for Canada West. He had never hesitated to give his opinion on subjects involving the welfare of those among whom he moved, and glad was he of the opportunity of doing so when this society was making its position. He thanked God that he was enabled to think we should always rejoice that we in Upper Canada could drink to a Royal Family. We have a Queen that every Canadian must love and honour. With respect to the Royal Family, something might be said in connexion with agriculture. To go no further than George the Third, in whose reign this Colony became permanently annexed to the British Crown. He set an example which all have followed. But the other day, one of the two surviving Royal Dukes were seen battling in the House of Peers the innovations, and seeking by all and every means to defeat a measure which he thought injurious to the great agricultural interests; therefore, we could not only look to them with loyalty but gratitude. Nor is the Royal Consort behind those whom he had alluded. It was well known that

his Royal Highness spent the greater part of his income in agricultural pursuits for his own amusement, and with a view to benefiting and promoting the breed of stock. The Chief Justice had said "this was an era in the history of the province;" indeed it was, and the institution one that should be supported. With reference to the injury, if any should result, from the alteration of the Imperial corn laws, it was difficult, indeed, to say what might be its effect. When in England, after the receipt of the address from the provincial legislature, which caused some anxiety there, he was often asked whether he thought the measure would be injurious or not to the Colony. His answer was (whether correct or not,) "that Canada had nothing to fear from competition with the United States;" that if she feared competition at all it was with Europe and Africa, from whence large quantities of wheat were imported. These were his reasons: he believed that the peninsula bounded by Lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron, contains a greater proportion of land adapted for wheat growing, than any other portion of the globe. Here the growth is scarcely ever less than twenty, and is in many instances thirty bushels to the acre. Taking the Genesee valley and Ohio, it would be found that they did not exceed twelve bushels to the acre; and considering that, competition need not be feared. In Michigan, it might be greater; but when the heavy expense of transport was considered, it need not frighten us. But as to "price," this has hitherto been regulated by, and is dependant on England; but henceforward it will be regulated by New York, the *London* of this continent! And, if it be allowed us to send produce by way of the American Atlantic ports, they will become the purchasers of all our produce, if it were with none other object than getting the shipments. He would have farmers look at the great question presented to them practically—there was no use in evading it,—buying, as we shall do, broadcloths and other goods as cheap in New York as in Quebec, with far less expense of transit, she must become the great market of the western continent. We may be assured that it cannot be long before a canal is constructed from the port of Oswego to the tide-waters of the Hudson, which will complete the water communication which they now enjoy. It, of course, depended on certain contingencies; but we might fairly assume that they will go by the way of New York, if the expense were not greater. Remembering that the harbour of New York is open all the year—not closed, as is the St. Lawrence navigation, seven months in the year; and that merchants—no matter where they might be thrown—care for nothing but profit, they might fairly anticipate the result to which he alluded. Seeing his friend Mr. Merritt, present, he would ask him what was to be done—perhaps he would explain to them? It is now for the farmers to consider for themselves, and firmly to express their views on the great changes that have taken place. It might be, that in another four or five years, a statesman may arise, who will deal with the great question submitted to him in the spirit of an Englishman; but this, he would say, it must be done, or the day would be rued when this relaxation were given effect to; and while he said this