

*Noble Patron and Gentlemen of the Provincial  
Agricultural Association, Friends, and  
Brother Farmers :*

If any thing could inspire me with oratorical powers, it would be the scenes this day presented to my view ; and I most sincerely regret that my place is not now occupied by some one better qualified to do justice to the subject upon which I am about to address this large and highly respectable assemblage. But, inadequate as my powers are, I will yield to no one in a sincere desire to promote the important objects for which this Association has been formed, namely, the development of the resources of our country.

The Provincial Association was formed, little more than a year ago, by a few gentlemen sincerely desirous of promoting the best interests of Canada ; and the first public exhibition was got up, in a very hasty manner, at Toronto, in October last.

In all our proceedings, we have taken as our model those highly useful societies established in the countries of which we are proud to be natives, or from which we have derived our descent ; and while we avoid every thing like party politics, one object of our Association is to concentrate the power and bring the influence of the agricultural community to bear upon those matters that are connected with the prosperity of the country. Accordingly, at the meeting held for the election of officers, the day after the exhibition (and at which meeting an amended constitution was adopted), it was determined to petition the legislature for an act of incorporation and a grant of money, which was done, and the act was granted ; but, for some reason known to those in power, the grant of money was withheld.

By aid from some of the District Agricultural Societies, the liberality of individuals, and the indefatigable exertions of the local committee we have been enabled to get up the creditable exhibition we have this day witnessed, and which I think warrants the hope that if our efforts are judiciously persevered in, they will be crowned with some degree of success. And it is under the influence of this feeling that I now attempt to advocate the cause of agriculture, which of all employments is the most important to this country, and that from which the greatest amount of independence, comfort and happiness, can be derived. That agricultural pursuits are most

conducive to health (without which blessing all earthly enjoyments are comparatively valueless) is abundantly manifested by the blooming cheek, sparkling eyes, and athletic forms, with which we are now surrounded.

In endeavouring to attract your attention, and in illustrating the importance of the farmer's calling, allow me to recommend to your attention the writings of those who, with a thorough knowledge of chemistry and other branches of science bearing upon agriculture (to which I make no pretensions, but, as a practical man, duly appreciate), have given their views to the world.

The present is an important period in the educational history of Canada. A Normal school, at the public expense, is about going into operation, at which are to be taught those to whose care are to be entrusted the education of a large portion of the youth of the country ; and who again, in their turn, are to educate the next generation. How important it is then that the commencement be made upon a proper system, and that the heaven that is to lighten the whole mass of future generations be pure. The desire to bring this important matter prominently before my brother farmers, was a powerful element in inducing me to consent to assume the responsibility of delivering the address on this occasion. True it is, soil and labour are the portion of the farmer ; for

"He that by the plough would thrive,  
Himself must either hold or drive."

But what then ? Is not the vigour of his body and mind promoted by labour ? he enjoys his wholesome food, and his sleep is sweet and refreshing. And though at certain seasons his anxieties are great and his labour severe, there are other periods that afford him leisure for the improvement of his mind and the enjoyment of the innocent pleasures of life, to as great and perhaps a greater extent than any other calling or profession.

No class being more immediately dependant upon the superintending care of an all-wise Providence, no employment is better calculated to call forth the aspirations of gratitude and love to that Almighty power, without whose blessing we labour in vain.

The farmer may be doomed occasionally to experience disappointment from the failure of crops, from blight, mildew, or the ravages of the diminutive insect ; all are, however, ordered to teach him