

as last year, a quarter of a dollar each admission, *from Wednesday noon to the close of the show on Friday.* Intending visitors and exhibitors will do well to bear these things in mind, and carefully examine the Regulations printed in the prize-list.

The site selected for the exhibition is on rising ground, close to the town and railway station, commanding beautiful views of the surrounding country. About twenty acres will be substantially fenced, in which two capacious cruciform buildings, sheds, cattle-pens, &c., will be erected. The contract has been taken, and preparations are in active progress. The fence, buildings, &c. are not intended to remain; all will be removed after the show.

As Brantford is surrounded on all sides by a good and extensive agricultural country, having a large number of enterprising farmers and mechanics, and being now of easy access by railway from different points, there can be no doubt that the number of visitors and articles for exhibition will be unusually large; and the Directors are making their arrangements accordingly. A very efficient Local Committee has been formed, who will do every thing in their power to render the show attractive, and promote the convenience of visitors. Great and most praiseworthy efforts have been made by the worthy President of the Association, who has travelled through several counties, giving public addresses, in which he has set forth in a masterly manner the claims and advantages of the Association. A wider and deeper interest in the objects of the Society has thereby been imparted, and even municipal bodies, out of the county in which the show is to be held, have voted money to its funds. Mr. Alexander's disinterested and patriotic exertions have a strong claim on the gratitude of all who feel a pride and interest in the advancement of this country.

#### IMPROVEMENTS IN TREATING FLAX, HEMP, &c.

Among the more important novelties in the march of progress which the Meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England at Chelmsford produced, was Burton and Pye's proposition for the manufacture of flax, hemp, and like fibrous products. In all ages of the world the cultivation and first process in the manufacture of the flax plant (*linum usitatissimum*) have engaged the special attention of the agricultural interest; and although in England much prejudice has existed as to its growth, yet of late years, owing to the rapid progress made in agricultural chemistry, that prejudice has been fast giving way, and now the last objection has all but been removed. The discovery merits special attention, as the samples of flax and cattle-food exhibited in all the stages of manufacture seem to have proved.

The proposition has a two-fold object—*first*, to obviate the objectionable process of rotting; and, *secondly*, to work up the bolls and boon or woody part of the plant into food for cattle, both divisions coming in as an adjunct to Davy's system of separating the boon from the flax by mechanical means without the old method of steeping in water.

It is thus interesting to review the different links in the chain of progress; and to comprehend the real merits of the project before us, it will be necessary to take a retrospective glance at the whole.

Of the old process of steeping in water, spreading on grass, lifting, drying, breaking and scutching, we need say little to those engaged in it, being from first to last objectionable in every sense of the word. At every stage of the process, for example, the waste of flax is incalculable, while manual labour is dirty in the extreme, subjecting the labo-