

own proper classes, and in "Other large breeds." So also Suffolks were shown in the "Suffolk" class, and also in "Other small breeds." Essex pigs were shown as Berkshires, and also in "Other small breeds." This ought not to be allowed. The class "other breeds," is intended to be quite distinct from any known and established breed otherwise provided for in the Prize List. While speaking of pigs, we may take the opportunity of urging that the Essex should be recognized as a distinct breed, and premiums offered for it as such. It is at least as good a breed as the Suffolk. We think it much better; and we happen to know that several Essex breeders who own very fine specimens will not bring them to the show because they have no chance except as they are lumped in promiscuously among 'Other small breeds.' We would also urge a larger provision of close horse stables. A number of horses were obliged to be sent home this year, after their owners had been at the expense of entering and bringing them, because there was no room for them. Meantime, as Mr. R. L. Denison stated at the Annual Meeting of the Association, a number of horse stables were occupied by grooms as sleeping rooms. This is certainly wrong, and ought not to be permitted hereafter. A stall built and offered for horse accommodation is perverted from its true use when chartered as a man's bed-room. We would further submit whether there ought not to be a number of close cattle stalls provided, which the owners of choice animals can have by paying an extra price for them. Complaints of favouritism have been loudly made because certain parties were allowed horse stalls for the accommodation of their cattle. Such privileges, if allowed, should be offered to the general public on the condition of the payment of a stipulated price for the extra accommodation. We venture to throw out these hints, and shall be glad to receive any additional ones which readers and correspondents may desire to make now while the recent date of the Exhibition is likely to suggest such things. Too often hints for improvement are first delayed and then forgotten.

New York State Fair.

[EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

SARATOGA, N. Y., Sept. 14, 1866.

THIS noted resort of valetudinarians and fashionables has been filled, for the past four days, with a very different class of visitors from that which usually hovers about its precincts during "the gay and festive summer time." The annual exhibition of the New York State Agricultural Society has just come off here, and multitudes of plain, practical matter-of-fact farmers, whose muscular frames and weather-beaten faces contrast strangely with the dandy forms and lily white countenances of the few specimens of American upper-tendom that remain at this late period of the "season," have crowded the streets and shady walks of this lovely retreat. Sentimentalism and idleness have been superseded for the time by a thoroughly earnest utilitarianism.

The fair has proved a complete success. It was predicted by many that the place chosen for it would be unfavourable to the best results, but these fears have not been verified. A town or city on the line of the great Central Railroad, is the most convenient locality for such an exhibition. Saratoga is reached by branch lines of railroad, but the effective arrangements made by the officers of the Agricultural Society and railroad men have obviated pretty effectively any inconveniences that might have been anticipated from that source. Timely agreement on a scale of charges by the hotel keepers, prevented complaints on the score of excessive expense, a serious difficulty as it appeared to not a few when Saratoga was first announced as the locality for the Fair. It is notorious for extravagant hotel charges; but the fixing and advertising of rates no higher than those charged by houses of a similar grade in other towns and cities, removed a most weighty objection to the "watering place" as the scene of the Exhibition. The Saratogians contributed liberally and exerted themselves much to make the thing go off with *éclat*, and they have had most gratifying and creditable success. The display made

by exhibitors, the arrangements and accommodation, and the attendance of visitors all conspired to secure a satisfactory result. We have attended several New York exhibitions, and with the exception of Rochester, which has obviously superior advantages to those of any other place in the State, no locality has, in our opinion, outdone Saratoga. The weather was rather unfavourable on the first and last days of the show, but Wednesday and Thursday, it was all that could be desired; and it is estimated that not less than 20,000 people visited the grounds on each of those days. Upwards of \$11,000 have been taken for admission fees, and the treasurer, Mr. Luther H. Tucker, of the *Country Gentleman*, is highly pleased at the condition of the Society's exchequer.

All excellence in this world is comparative, and the best way of conveying to Canadians an idea of a foreign exhibition is to state how it compares with their own. Taking the Provincial Show as a sort of standard, the New York Fair is, in most respects, inferior to it. The implement department is the only one in which there is decided superiority; and, in regard to that, the Americans so utterly eclipse their Canadian neighbours, that contrast, not comparison, is the word by which their relative achievements must be expressed. In portions of some other departments, New York equals, and even excels, Canada. Mention will be made of these in the proper place.

In particularizing a little, we may begin with the live stock. Our American cousins are great on horse-flesh, but this part of the Exhibition was not quite up to the usual mark. The New York Society, with commendable wisdom, eschews all trotting matches at Fairs, and this, no doubt, prevents the attendance of "the fancy" and their horses. Roadsters and saddle horses were, however, pretty well represented, and the deficiency was more in the direction of draught and farm-stock animals. The display of horses, though not extensive, was good, and some really fine creatures rewarded the gaze of the admiring beholders. Almost the same style of remark may be made about the cattle. The most approved breeds had a few very select and choice representatives; but in grades, working oxen, milch cows, and fat stock, the show was deficient. The number of Short Horns on the ground was but small, yet it comprised several animals of rare excellence. They were chiefly from the herds of Messrs. Cornell, Sheldon, Thorne, and Hayes. Almost every creature was above mediocrity, and among the young stock were some of wonderful promise. Mr. Sheldon's 2nd. Duke of Geneva is a Short Horn prodigy, both as to size and points. Only eighteen months old; he weighs 1,800 pounds! An average growth of 100 pounds per month is, indeed extraordinary, and speaks volumes as to the aptitude of this breed to take on fat. Mr. Sheldon stated that he had another young bull at home that at twelve months old was more than 1,200 pounds in weight. Mr. James Howard, the celebrated implement manufacturer, from Bedford, England, who is now on a tour in this country, was at the Fair, and greatly admired the second Duke of Geneva. He expressed the opinion that the animal for size and development could not be equalled by any Short Horn breeder in Britain. Mr. Hayes' "Rosy Duke" one year old, is a very fine animal. Some heifers from the herds of Hon. Ezra Cornell, and Mr. Sheldon, are very beautiful and promising. Very choice Devons were shown by Messrs. Hilton and Swart. The bull "Prince of Wales," owned by the last named gentleman is indeed a beauty, and well deserved the red ribbon with which the judges adorned him. Alderneys were shown by Messrs. Dinsmore, Hayes, Eaton, and Pomeroy. Among several fine specimens, a yearling bull, bred by Jno. Giles, of South Woodstock, Connecticut, and exhibited by Mr. Hayes, particularly attracted our notice. Messrs. Wolcott & Campbell, of Oneida Mills, N. Y., were almost the only exhibitors of Ayrshires. Their stock is excellent. Only three Herefords, a bull and two cows, were on the ground. They were nothing extra. The Galloways,

that form so striking a feature in the Canadian shows, had not a solitary representative. Merino sheep were, of course, in full force. To a British eye, the best of them are ugly, dirty-looking creatures, and it is difficult to account for the hold they have taken of Brother Jonathan's affections. Long-wools are evidently gaining in favour with American flock masters. Mr. Gazeley had some good Cotswolds, and Mr. Loomis, of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, had some excellent Cotswolds and Leicesters. Messrs. Wolcott & Campbell had some good Leicesters, and Mr. Wing, of Dutchess county, N. Y., had some imported Cotswolds of fair quality. Mr. Deuel exhibited a two-year old Cotswold ram, bred by Mr. F. W. Stone, of Guelph. The long-wool pens were greatly frequented, and much inquisitiveness was manifested by practical farmers as to the merits of their occupants. There are hopeful signs of a subsidence of the Merino fever among United States sheep men. The show of pigs consisted almost wholly of large breeds. I think no Canadian exhibition has ever had so fine a display of Yorkshires and Cheshires, as were brought together at this fair. The Berkshires were burlesqued by two pens—one containing a jet black sow and nine little pigs, a mixture of native, Essex, and Berkshire; and the other (save the mark) occupied by a coarse white sow and six little white pigs. No true Berkshires, Suffolks, or Essex, were on the ground. The display of poultry was decidedly good—as a whole, not up to the average of Canadian exhibitions, but in some classes better. The chief exhibitors in this department were S. & W. Allen, of Vergennes, Vt.; and Mr. O. Wendell, of Albany. Some noted New York fowl fanciers did not show at all. The Messrs. Allen showed 57 varieties of fowls, and among them the Brahmas, grey Dominiques, Sumatra, and Derby games; Hong Kong geese, bronze turkeys, Aylesbury ducks, and Bremen geese, deserve special mention. They also showed a nice collection of pigeons, among them a superb pair of Jacobins, and some fine Pouters, Trumpeters, and Fantails. Pigeons were also shown by Mr. Wendell, of Albany. The Messrs. Allen also showed coach and sheep dogs. The Scotch Colley is coming into use in this country among sheep-men, being found helpful in tending large flocks. It is hardly practicable in this communication to give a detailed account of the implement part of the show. We spent a great deal of time in close study of the practical working of many ingenious, labour-saving contrivances, and have a body of notes concerning them, sufficient to get up a decently-sized book. At some future time, perhaps, an effort may be made to get up a condensed account of some of them for the information of Canadians. It is well, however, to mention in this connection, that the award of the judges in regard to the great implement trial held in Auburn during the month of July last, which we attended, was made public on Wednesday. Never, perhaps, was so thorough a testing bestowed on rival implements than on that occasion. Nearly three weeks were occupied by the ordeal, and of course the result was awaited with much anxiety by the competitors and the agricultural public. The trial was conducted by men of large experience and undoubted impartiality, so that much confidence is deservedly placed in their verdict. The competition was chiefly in regard to Mowers and Reapers, and Canadian manufacturers and farmers have no little interest in learning the result. It is as follows:—In class 1, for Mowers, the "Backeye Mower," entered by Adriance Sherman & Co., was awarded the gold medal. The "Rhode Island Clipper" took the second premium. Class 2, for "Reaper and Raker" combined, D. M. Osborn and Co., were awarded the gold medal, and C. Wheeler, jr., the second premium. Class 24, "Self-Rakers," Seymour, Morgan & Allen, were awarded the gold medal, and C. C. Bradley & Co. the second premium. Class 3, combined "Mower and Reapers" and "Hand-Rakes," Walter A. Wood took the gold medal, and J. L. Herrington the second prize. Class 4, combined "Reaper" with "Self-Raking" attachment; Williams, Wallace & Co., gold medal, Seymour, Morgan & Allen, the second premium. Other implements were tested, but mention of the above must suffice for the present.

The display of vegetables presented nothing remarkable except some very big pumpkins. This department was far inferior to an average Provincial Show. "Domestic Hall" contained many specimens of useful articles, but none of special interest. "Floral Hall" was beautifully decorated with flowers, among which a splendid collection of Gladioli sent by Mr. Bliss, of Springfield, Mass., was the most conspicuous feature. Fruits as well as flowers were shown in this hall, and a very excellent lot they were. The apples and grapes were especially fine. In dairy products the show was remarkably deficient, considering the fame of New York in regard to cheese and butter. Whether the prospect of another "Mammoth Cheese" arriving from Canada frightened the men of Oneida and Herkimer, or not, I cannot tell,