

Copies of this work are difficult to be had at the present time outside of Nova Scotia and probably in that province also. In a work of this kind there seems good reason for transcribing one at least of these letters in full and giving extracts from others so that modern readers interested in agricultural questions can have an opportunity of judging for themselves the quality of the work done in the interests of farmers in Eastern Canada nearly a century ago. Perhaps we, of this later time, may incur the risk of hearing it said, you have not improved your privileges.

Most of the letters were written before the public had the least idea who the writer was, and there seems to have been a very great curiosity to find out Agricola's real name. Writing on this subject to correspondents he says: "I must again caution my readers against all enquiries about myself, which have risen to an unprecedented height since the last public meeting. In every circle my ears are stunned with foolish speculation. The books sent me have been traced and watched. My handwriting has been subjected to every species of torture and examination. I have been compelled to steal from the notice of acquaintances the hours necessary for the hurried composition of later letters; and like the old woman in the fable the public seem determined to know the mystery of the eggs, although the experiment should tear the hen to pieces."

When the Central Agricultural Society was organized—one of the first practical results of the letters—Agricola was made the secretary, although the meeting at which the society was formed had no idea which of its members was being elected to that office. He was proposed for the position by the Governor General as the following shows: "His Excellency then observed that the next appointment being that of secretary, it was an office important to the success of the whole plan. In an agricultural society such a person ought to possess qualifications adapted to that particular object. It appeared to him there was one person extremely capable of the office, and that was Agricola himself. He again assured the meeting that he was totally unknown to him, and he did not wish that the prying eye of public curiosity should endeavor to discover him, but to leave that matter to himself until he judged of the opportunity most favorable." Agricola was therefore appointed to the position, Hon. Judge Haliburton agreeing to fill the office till Agricola should come forward and declare himself, which in a few days he decided to do.

Twenty-five societies were organized in the province within two years. The Kings and Hants Society, though counted among the twenty-five, dates its foundation thirty years earlier, or in 1789, during the gubernatorial term of Governor Parr. A society had been formed in Halifax at the same time that the Kings society was organized, but it proved short lived. The Kings and Hants Society, however, was in the hands of men who were able to appreciate the value of the institution and it was now in a position to take advantage of the enthusiasm created by Agricola. A letter addressed to Agricola by the officers and committee of the society under date of July 13, 1819, congratulated him on the grand work he was doing, and contained an