

### SPRING FAIR OF THE HOME DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Exhibition of this Society was held on the 10th inst.—The animals were of good quality, but few in number. There were but few implements on the ground, and nothing particularly attractive or novel in their appearance. The reaping machine of Mr. Bell was again exhibited, and there being none to compete with it, obtained as a matter of course the first prize. We have nothing to say against this reaper, but on the contrary, believe it a very valuable implement; but we have something to say against the practice of taking the same animal or the same machine to all the Shows within reach, for the purpose of carrying off the first premium; and especially do we condemn the practice of allowing the same animal or thing to be entered for premiums at the same Show two, three or four times in succession, after it has obtained the first premium.—This is an abuse of the funds of a Society, and in no degree tends to accomplish its objects. When an animal has had the first premium awarded to it at the Provincial Show, it should not be allowed to compete at a District or Township Show. Its character has been established—it has received the highest honors—and the owner should be satisfied. He should consider it derogatory to compete on meager ground. The object of premiums is to stimulate and encourage improvement among the many, not to bring into existence one or two animals of such great superiority as to shut out all hope of successful competition. The general rule should be laid down and acted upon, (or our exhibitions will become a mere mockery) that when anything has received the first premium at the Show of a higher class, it shall not be allowed to compete for a premium at the Show of a lower class. We believe the custom in the State of New York is, to allow such things to be exhibited, but to give them only a certificate or diploma. We hope to see some regulation of this kind put into practice forthwith. There is no satisfaction in seeing the same Bulls, the same Horses, the same Cows, and the same Implements appearing every spring and fall, with as much regularity as the return of the seasons, to carry off the same prizes. We get used to them; "familiarity breeds contempt," and we begin to think they are not so good as we took them to be.

After the Show was over we understand a large company sat down to a good dinner provided by Mr. John Elgie. We were unable, from other engagements, to be present; but somehow or other we have never been quite convinced that there was much to be learned, gained, or enjoyed, by drinking toasts to the "Queen," the "Army and Navy," &c. &c., and listening to the stereotyped and unmeaning speeches that usually follow such toasts. The occasion, it seems to us, is not the proper one. Besides, it is highly important to unite all classes if possible, in the good cause of agricultural improvement; and while there are large numbers of our most worthy farmers conscientiously opposed to all drinking usages, and will therefore not attend meetings where they are indulged in, we think it is unfortunate that such a custom has been introduced at our agricultural meetings. A well-conducted discussion, or a good lecture on subjects connected with farming, after a good dinner, would, we believe, be more agreeable, and productive of much more benefit.

FOR A KICKING COW.—A few weeks ago, we stood for some time to witness an attempt to milk a cow that had just had her calf taken from her, and who kicked so furiously as to render it dangerous to attempt the operation. Coaxing and beating were of no avail, and it at length struck us to suggest that the kicking leg be tied up. A cord was procured, a slip-knot in one end passing round the leg below the knee, and the other end thrown over a beam; drawing away on this, she soon had no leg to spare to kick with, and was as quiet as a lamb.

### AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES.

Of all the varied occupations and pursuits of man, that of Agriculture requires the most study and research. The mechanic, after he has learned the use of tools, and a few certain rules, which always produce the same results, is master of his trade; he forms his creatures and they retain their shape; he knows what effect each blow or effort will produce. How unlike the science of agriculture: a man, in order to become a good practical farmer, must devise means in order to keep a portion of the vegetable and animal kingdom in existence, and multiply their products to the greatest extent; and to destroy or retard the growth of such as would be injurious. The farmer should study the laws of nature, and the effect that certain causes will produce; hence, the successful farmer requires more book, as well as practical knowledge, than the mechanic. As far as books are concerned, the farmer should profit by the example of those who follow the various professions. The lawyer who ever expects to become eminent or successful in practice, must not only carefully study the general principles upon which the laws of nations are founded, but make himself acquainted with the laws of the country or state in which he practices, as well as the decisions of the superior courts. It is no less necessary that the farmer should study the laws that govern the vegetable kingdom, and keep himself familiar, by attentively reading a good Agricultural paper, with all the improvements that are being made in the various modes of culture, the application of manures, the improvements in farming implements, and new inventions, the introduction of imported stock, &c., &c. The Physician must study years before he is allowed to practice; and, then is behind the age, unless he receives a weekly or monthly medical journal, reporting the new diseases that make their appearance, and the new and different remedies applied to each. By looking over the long list of diseases that the farmer's field-crops, his garden, his fruit-yard and orchard, his horses, cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry, are liable to, all must admit that the farmer's library should be well supplied with books and periodicals, describing new diseases and giving the remedies. It is gratifying to know that there has been a great change brought about, within the last few years; the term "book-farming" is not, as formerly, a by-word—farmers are seeking information relating to their business, and science is lending her aid in advancing the general prosperity, by elevating the Agriculturist. Many valuable books and periodicals have been published; and it is hoped, that every farmer will, at least, add some one of them to his library, as well as to subscribe for and read *The Cultivator*, or some other periodical advancing their interest. While upon this subject permit me to suggest to the different County Agricultural Societies, the propriety of offering a premium, at their next fair, for the best Agricultural Library. If our farmers will but read and reflect, it will teach them what they are and what they should be. Let knowledge and labour go hand in hand, and then the practical farmer will feel that he approached nearest to fulfilling the design of his Creator—that he can, and should be, emphatically, "the noblest work of God,—an honest man."—*Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society.*

### PEACH TREES.

Whether the assertion below as to the exposure is true in Canada or not, we are unable to say. So far as our knowledge goes, Peach trees are tender and difficult to raise, and we had supposed our cold climate was the cause. On this assumption a southern aspect, or at least shelter from the north wind; would seem requisite. What say our readers who have had experience in the matter? *The Albany Cultivator*, speaking for the State of New York, says:—

Peaches should be grown on the coldest part of the farm. Orchards that are exposed do well while those secured from the north wind often fail. While trees are young, they need particular attention as well as a child. Remove the buds that would form improper shoots and pruning will be unnecessary. The rough bark should be scraped from trees, and they should be washed. The following composition is good: 1 part plaster, 1 soft soap, 1 cow manure, applied with a brush. It should be used twice a year, when the flies are plenty laying their eggs on the trees. Hard soap was good to put on wounds made by pruning. Some will not set trees lest they shall not