

but not so decided an improvement as that in the cattle; or at least there is this difference, that while some of our cattle will compare favorably with the best English specimens, these others will not. Some pigs exhibited were of a large size, and were said to be of good quality."

From these remarks it will be easily learned that the first Provincial Exhibition was a decidedly primitive affair, and the country is to be congratulated on the enormous advances that have been made in the fifty-three years that have elapsed since it took place. According to the prize list there were only eleven prizes given for horned cattle, four for sheep, two for pigs, five for horses, sixteen for horticultural products, twelve for seeds and roots, and ten in the ladies' department for useful and ornamental work. In domestic manufactures, woollen and flaxen goods and potteries, there were ten, five and fifteen prizes offered respectively, and there were one or two other classes in which prizes were also awarded. Among the prize-winners are to be noticed the names of John Helliwell, for a Hereford neifer; Ralph Wade, of Port Hope, for sheep; J. G. Worts, of Toronto, for pigs; George Leslie, of Toronto, for apples; Joseph Pape, of the same city, for celery; Richard L. Denison, for white turnips; Captain Alexander Shaw, for spring wheat; St. George Scarlett, who is still living in Guelph, for Indian corn; and Miss Thomson, who also is still living and residing in Toronto, for a pencil sketch. On the evening of the first day, at half-past seven o'clock, between 200 and 300 persons sat down to a public dinner in one of the rooms of the old Government House. The President of the Association, the late Colonel Edward William Thomson, presided, and among those present were: Mr. William Henry Boulton, the then Mayor of the City; Chief-Justice (afterwards Sir) John Beverley Robinson; the Hon. Adam Ferguson, the Hon. Robert Baldwin, Mr. William Hamilton Merritt, and others. The toast list was a very long one, no less than twelve

different bodies being toasted, commencing with Her Majesty the Queen, and ending with the Press. In the light of recent events the following toast, which was ninth on the list, may be quoted. It was this: "Great Britain and the United States. May that friendly intercourse which now subsists between the two countries be perpetuated; and may there be no rivalry between them, other than a desire to promote to the greatest extent the prosperity and welfare of the citizens and subjects of their respective countries."

In the sentiments expressed by the Provincial Agricultural Association at its first exhibition fifty-three years ago, on this subject, I am quite sure that the Ontario Historical Society will cordially acquiesce.

It was decided when the Provincial Exhibition was inaugurated that it should travel annually from town to town in the Upper Province; accordingly, in the next year, Hamilton was the place selected, then Cobourg, then various other towns, and in 1852 it again came to Toronto.

The Exhibition of 1852 was held on a large space of open ground which then existed on the spot where now runs McCaul and the upper portion of Simcoe Streets. The principal entrance was situated almost where Erskine Church now stands, and outside was an immense space of open ground. It proved a great success during the four days it was open, some 40,000 people visiting it. As an instance of how in the few years that elapsed between 1846 and 1852 the country had prospered; in horned cattle alone no less than 105 prizes were awarded in 1852 against eleven in 1846, the principal classes exhibited being Durhams, Devons, Herefords, and Ayrshires. The principal prize-takers in these classes were: Baron de Longueuil, of Kingston; Nathan Davis, of York; Ralph Wade, of Cobourg; John Howitt, of Guelph; John Wade, of Port Hope; Colonel Thomson, of Toronto; J. P. Gage, of Wellington Square, now Burlington; J. B. Ewart, of Dundas, and