

we have acted up to its terms faithfully and honorably, and that we have shown a proper appreciation of the interests committed to our care. This is our maiden effort in the matter of exhibitions, and I, therefore, claim for it that generous consideration which is usually extended to first attempts. All previous exhibitions have been organized by, and under the immediate auspices and control of, the Local Government, who, with the inexhaustible coffers of the Provincial Treasury at their back, (hear, hear) have had comparatively little pecuniary responsibility. With us it is different. We are more or less tied down, so that the undertaking assumes something of the risky character of a speculation. Nevertheless it is one into which we have entered with good heart, wishing to keep pace with the "spirit of the times," and endorsing in this practical manner what we believe to be the growing sentiment of the people of Nova Scotia in regard to the principle of annual exhibitions. May I not say that it is asserted very practically here to-day, in a manner which leaves no doubt of its popularity, and which must convince all who witness and all who read of the scene before us, that it is the declared wish of the people that these displays and competitions shall be of yearly occurrence in our Province. In this we are only following the example set us by the larger Provinces, and if we may judge by the frequency of exhibitions held in Ontario, we may truly say that the feeling there has reached fever heat. During the last six weeks some seven or eight, perhaps more, agricultural shows and fairs have been held, and each one has been attended with a full measure of success. Of these the largest were, of course, those held at Toronto and Ottawa, which were monster gatherings, opened under vice-regal auspices, and attended by thousands from all parts of the Dominion.

While I am alluding to the Ottawa Exhibition, I may be permitted to enter a mild protest against the term *Dominion*, as applied to that exhibition, inasmuch as that the Maritime Provinces were not represented in any measure there, nor do I believe that they were intended to be; in fact there was no representation from this Province, and I have yet to learn that Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba, which divided the honors and spoils, constitute all Canada. The term was a misnomer, and was practically admitted to be such by His Excellency the Governor-General, who in his opening address upon that occasion, advocated as an original suggestion an annual exhibition to be removed from Province to Province in each successive year. This would give it a *bona fide* Dominion character, and as the idea emanates from a source, which of all others commands most attention in this country, we may hope that it will not be a lowed to rank as a mere passing allusion, but that it will ripen into action, securing to each Province the privilege of being, as it were, the host of all others, drawing us closer together commercially and socially, thus advancing the moral and material interests of the whole.

Coming from the contemplation of this higher order of things, to the level upon which we stand to-day, I may say it is not my place or intention to attempt any reference in detail to the accumulated treasures which surround us. The representatives of the press have been busily engaged in preparing these, and will place them before you in a full and reliable manner. I desire, how-

ever, to refer to two or three objects which add much to the interest of the display in this building. Suspended from the southern gallery is a fragile boat, termed a "shell," which has a history. I had also hoped to have been able to point to a handsome piece of plate, which also has a history. I have just been informed that it has not yet arrived, but will, in all probability, to-morrow. I refer to the Merchants' Cup, so that we will consider it as one of the exhibits. These jointly proclaim the prowess of our Nova Scotian youth on sea and land. The one is the boat in which Warren Smith sped away from the champion oarsmen of New Brunswick and Pittsburg, the other is the London Merchants' Cup, carried off by our volunteers in the recent rifle contest at Ottawa. They tell of victory to our Nova Scotian arms, bloodless, it is true, but none the less deserving of the best praises we can sing. There is also a very interesting specimen of our productions in a glass case, under the opposite gallery, in the shape of a brick of gold from the Montagu mines, valued at seven thousand six hundred and fifty dollars, and forming the best recent illustration of the mineral wealth of the Province. These are all sent here to add to value of our collection and not for competition, and I consider that in singling them out I am merely making a recognition to which they are entitled.

I will now say one word in regard to our enterprising mechanic, to whose pluck and energy we owe the presence of this, the most capacious wooden structure ever erected in the Province of Nova Scotia. The contract was taken at a comparatively late moment, and at a figure which was considered very reasonable; and, without committing myself to an approval of its details, I may say the general effect is all we can desire. It is substantially built, it exhibits within and without the evidences of skilled labor, and is on the whole a building to which the people of Halifax, who own this building, can point with pride, and reflects infinite credit on its contractor, Mr. M. E. Keefe. I cannot close these remarks without expressing my great gratitude to this assembly, and in the name of the general committee I extend to all here and to all who may visit this great scene, a hearty and sincere welcome.

He then, in accordance with the usual routine, handed the Exhibition over to Col. Laurie, President of the Board of Agriculture.

COLONEL LAURIE'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Mayor, your Excellency, your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen.—In taking over from you the present Provincial Exhibition, I must naturally express my gratification at the success which has attended the efforts of the Executive Committee, which have resulted in placing the Annual Provincial Exhibition for 1879 far in advance of any yet held, and by none will this be more readily allowed than by the managers of the late Provincial Exhibitions at Truro and Kentville.

I shall certainly not attempt an argument as to which is the most suitable locality for the Provincial Exhibition, but we must all recognize that if the metropolitan town is really in earnest, its wealth and resources give it an advantage that no country locality possesses. Former Provincial Exhibitions have been held here, but under the auspices and at the expense of the Government; held at uncertain intervals, they displayed the

resources and progress of the province, but the impetus given by each died out before the next was held, and hence the system now in force of annual exhibitions was established. That Colchester and Kings should at once have stepped in to take advantage of the terms offered was only what was to be expected of the energetic inhabitants of those thriving and prosperous counties. Grand successes those Exhibitions were, far in advance of what had been anticipated, and the agricultural interests of the province owe those two counties a debt that cannot easily be repaid.

All this time a few Halifax residents were quietly urging on the community the importance of securing the Exhibition for the city; but the expenditure seemed immediate, the benefit only prospective, and the response was *tardy*. This year, however, the energetic men have carried the day; the citizens have awoken to their interests; the country has shown no selfish spirit, but has responded nobly to the Halifax efforts to make the Exhibition a success; and in the splendid exhibit of to-day we see what Nova Scotians can do if they will only pull together; and this leads me to a subject on which any one connected with agriculture must touch at a time like this. I allude to the food supply of the Old World from our markets. For a long time past the return freights of Atlantic liners have been largely composed of grain and farm products; but lately the dull times in the United States so reduced their purchasing powers, that Ontario beef raisers were deprived of their accustomed markets, and the experiment of shipping live cattle to England was tried in order to clear off the surplus stock. All know how successfully it turned out, and how suddenly the trade has developed to enormous proportions, until now, instead of agricultural produce being simply taken as a return freight, the carriage of food has become the trip on which ships depend for their returns, the outward voyage being made on any terms that may offer.

In addresses lately delivered at Toronto and Ottawa, Lord Lorne very eloquently enlarged on ideas associated with this trade, and drew a happy contrast between the Spanish vessel of three hundred years since, bearing to old Spain the golden treasures of America, won from the deep mines by the toiling subjects of the imperious masters of the New World, a relation of the countries unnatural in itself, and which brought misery and ruin to ruler and ruled, and finally led to the entire disruption of all ties between parent and child; and the position we occupy in the present day, sending our rich and golden tribute to our dear mother land, furnishing her millions with cheap and healthy living, thus enabling her to hold her place in the van of the nations; a tribute not followed as of old by curses denounced against the recipients, but with warm feelings of thankfulness that of our plenty we can provide for her wants from the fertile acres that under Providence we have reclaimed; a tribute too, that instead of impoverishing brings us wealth and makes us more powerful as a portion of the Empire to which all our feelings bind us.

But what is our share as a Province in this trade and in this prospect of profit? In the winter, thanks to what nature has done for us as the only open port in Canada, we see Ontario cattle run past our doors and find shipment here; whilst during the summer months cattle from the Lower Provinces are taken by rail to Quebec and thence shipped