

1846. He was the following year elected again to the same office, and it is not too much to say that that prosperous organization, which has done so much for the agricultural and mechanical arts of Upper Canada, owes more to Col. Thomson than to any other individual, however zealously and successfully many others have laboured in its behalf. At the subsequent organization of the Board of Agriculture, he was unanimously elected its President, a position which he continued to hold till the period of his death. Those who had a personal knowledge of the practical working of the Board, will readily and gratefully acknowledge the time and assiduous attention which the late President devoted to his duties, which were uniformly discharged in a faithful, efficient and conciliatory manner.

Col. Thomson belonged to a class of Canadians, now almost extinct, who, notwithstanding the absence in their early days of the means of liberal education, managed to educate themselves, and by their persevering industry, force and integrity of character, laid securely the foundation of the domestic and civil life of the colony. He was always the consistent and zealous advocate of our broad system of national education, and his mind was ever open to welcome light, from whatever source it might come, that would tend to dissipate the darkness which hung around both the science and practice of agriculture. In 1836, he was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly, for the second riding of the county of York, now the county of Peel, and evinced much energy and a truly patriotic spirit, during the critical time of the rebellion, in restoring peace and order on the basis of constitutional freedom. In politics he may be said to have been a liberal conservative, and as a magistrate, to have enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the public. At both World's Exhibitions in England, in the years 1851 and 1862, he was appointed by the Government as one of the Canadian Commissioners, and faithfully discharged his duties, with no small advantage to his native country. He held also several other offices of trust and importance, among which may be specified, the Wardenship of the Home District Municipal Council, on its first organization, for several years. He was president of the Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and a director of the Canada Landed Credit Company.

Col. Thomson was thrice married. First, to Miss Terry, of Scarborough, by whom two sons and one daughter survive him. Second, to Miss Ketchum, daughter of Jesse Ketchum, formerly of Toronto, now of Buffalo, by whom he had one son, who survives him,—and third to Mrs. Chisholm, daughter of the late Dr. Lee, of London, C. W., by whom he leaves one daughter.

The Colonel's vacant place will long be painfully felt, at several important Boards, as also his absence at the gatherings of many local agricultural societies, to which he devoted considerable time and attention. Being a good practical farmer himself, and having great experience in organizing and working agricultural societies, that numerous and important portion of the community had great respect for his judgment and ability. With his own hands he at one time or other performed every operation on the farm,—from the chopping and burning of the forest, to the perfectly cleared and level fields, and

well stocked pastures of the most advanced colonial husbandry. He was among the first to import and advance the breeding of pure stock, of the various kinds, which are now such striking characteristics of the advanced state of Canadian agriculture.

Mr. Thomson, at various times, undertook large contracts on several public works of the Province, amongst which may be mentioned the Rideau Canal, the Credit Harbour, and the Welland Canal, all of which were executed faithfully and satisfactorily.

The writer of this hasty and imperfect sketch of the life and character of Mr. Thomson, whose intimate friendship he enjoyed for nearly eighteen years, would direct the minds of bereaved relatives and sorrowing friends, under so solemn and sudden a visitation, to the hopes and consolations of our common christianity. Mr. Thomson was an attached member of the Church of Scotland, and occupied an important position in that branch of the British Church in Canada. He took an active part in the establishment of Queen's College University at Kingston, in connection with that body, and was for some years one of the trustees of the institution. He was also for many years a Vice-President of the Upper Canada Bible Society. He closed a long, exemplary and most useful life, suddenly, but we cannot say prematurely; his work was done, and he breathed his last, it may be said, while on his way to perform a public duty. A long train of appreciating and sorrowing friends followed his remains to the grave, and deposited them in a well grounded hope of a blessed immortality. — *Canada Farmer.*

VEGETABLE IMMIGRATION IN NEW ZEALAND.—In a paper on the flora of Otago, New Zealand, Dr. W. Lauder Lindsay remarks that hardy immigrant plants are gradually displacing the more delicate and rarer herbaceous natives of Otago and New Zealand. In the majority of cases it is to the detriment of the colonist, whose fields or pastures are destroyed by the luxuriant intruders, though in certain exceptional cases, for instance in the pasture grasses and clovers, he is decidedly and largely benefitted. Nova Scotia has suffered less from this cause than most colonies, certainly much less than Canada, which is becoming over-run with thistles and other large weeds, in spite of legislative enactments.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications are to be addressed (pre-paid) to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Prof. Lawson, Dalhousie College, Halifax, N. S. Communications must be in the Editor's hands not later than the 15th of the month, if intended for the ensuing number.

MANURES.—We regret that the Printer cannot find room this month for the valued communication of BEDFORD, on the subject of Manures. It will appear in our next number.

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