

leaf off down to near its junction with the parent stem; insert it down to near the blade of the leaf in pots of well drained light sandy soil—peg the blade of the leaf down on the surface of the soil, and set the pot in a shady place,—if with a little bottom heat, all the better

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.

THE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION AT EDINBURGH.

DALKEITH, AUGUST, 1869.

Mr. Editor,—“For the purpose of improving the condition of the Highlands” was the motto with which the Highland Society of Scotland started some three fourths of a century ago. But as time rolled on its influence and operations increased, and it now ranks as one of the most flourishing societies in Britain. Instead of looking after things poetical and political, its operations are devoted solely to the advancement of agriculture. And one of the means taken in order to attain this end is the holding of agricultural shows in the principal towns and market-places in Scotland. Edinburgh was the chosen place this season, and the inhabitants of that fine city did all in their power to advance the interests of the show. The scene on entering the yard was very pleasing. Standing out in bold relief in the back ground was Arthur's seat like a lion couchant, while on the right and left were belts of ornamental trees, which helped to relieve the gay and gaudy tints of the flags of many nations, whilst the machinery resplendent in copper, steel and brass, threw back the rays of the sun on the many fair faces that adorned the scene. Then the noise was perplexing, pleasing and puzzling—the crunching of the stone-breaking machines, the pulling of the engines, the whirr of sewing machines, the buzz of winnowing machines, the lowing of cattle, the neighing of horses, the bleating of sheep, the crowing and cackling of poultry, the performances of a fine band relieved occasionally by the shrill notes of the bagpipes, the uproar occasioned by twenty thousand human beings on the tip-toe of excitement. Talk about monster concerts, even Brother Jonathan's last effort in that line was eclipsed. After pacing the yard which I found to be 700 yards in length by 150 in breadth. I commenced a survey of the machinery, but as there was something like 1600 entries I can only give a few of the most prominent features and objects. The many

implements to which steam is applied as a motive power was truly astonishing—mowing, raking, hoeing, ploughing, winnowing, thrashing; and the most novel and one that drew a great number of spectators was the stone-breaking machine, which reduced stones of good size in a very few seconds. The great drawback to most of the steam-machinery is the high price, and until something is done to remedy this, farmers will have to content themselves by jogging along in the old way. The machines requiring horse-power consisted of both good and bad examples, some of them looking as if Tubal Cain had lent a helping hand. What is the reason for making such ponderous implements I cannot see the why and the wherefor. Nevertheless, there were some good specimens of ploughs, harrows, grubbers, mowers, rakers, and potato-diggers, which were ordered for trial. The carriages were really handsome, being light and well made, and everything that could be desired in regard to fitting and finish. Carts also were in abundance, and mostly intended for heavy work. They would never do for the Nova Scotian breed of horses. Hoes, rakes, spades, shovels, and forks were well represented by both British and American manufactures, but Jonathan is far ahead of John in this section, both in style and finish, and (as far as my small experience extends) durability. Wire-fencing, hurdles, and iron gates occupied a considerable space; but as they are not likely to be required in Nova Scotia for some time, I need not say more on that score. Excellent specimens of harness were also shown, and looked as if they would stand some wear and tear. Grindstones also had a place, and I found by referring to the catalogues, that they came originally from Nova Scotia, and on inquiring I was told that they had been sent from there to the United States, thence to London, and from the last named place to Edinburgh. How is it that they could not be sent from Nova Scotia direct, and thus give the benefit of all profits to the original producer? There were also some very nice horse-shoes,—one in particular struck me as being just the thing required in Nova Scotia. It consists of a narrow shoe of wrought iron, and an Indian rubber web which covers the whole foot, excepting the frog. Amongst the many advantages claimed for it is that horses shod with it do not require sharpening in frosty weather. Will not some of your enterprising coach and cab proprietors give it a trial. That essential department devoted to domestic economy is well supplied and we may add well patronized. With what eagerness do the buxom dames and bonnie lasses examine the novel churns, the easily-worked mangles and washing machines, and the many different forms

of sewing machines,—all of which are warranted to do their work effectually and well. Even the juveniles are not forgotten, for at a stand many a jolly looking farmer purchases for his darling one of those latest inventions in the way of tops, called a gyroscope. Leaving the implements we pass the refreshment booths, take a glance at the stands occupied by the Edinburgh nurserymen, pass by the post office, telegraph office, press office, and committee-room, give the police office a wide berth, and we find ourselves amongst the short-horned cattle which are fully represented, excepting cows. Most of the animals are fine examples of pure breeding, the broad and expansive framework being evenly and well covered. Moreover they stand touching well, and many a good pole they got. In the classes devoted to the Highland breeds there were some excellent examples of that shaggy and useful race. Galloway cattle were but sparingly represented; but polled cattle were really superb. In the classes devoted to fat stock there were some extraordinary examples of what can be done by careful breeding and feeding, their well shaped frames being evenly covered with flesh of the most appetizing nature. The 212 horses exhibited were very fine, especially the draught horse. What wonders a few such animals would work in Nova Scotia. Sheep, black and white faced, long and short-woolled, Cheviot, Leicester, &c., were first-class, and proved one of the most attractive features at the show. Swine, although deficient in quantity, were A1 in quality. Last, but not least, the poultry was a fine show, being in excellent condition, and all classes well represented. The grand total of animals in the yard was 1985. The amount of premiums offered was £1600 stg. The show lasted three days, and the total receipts were about £4000 stg.—certainly a great advance since the year 1822, when the amount offered for prize was £78 stg., which sum brought forward 59 head of cattle and 8 pens of sheep. Here then is encouragement for the farmers of Nova Scotia to go and do likewise. Do not be frightened by folks saying that such shows will do very well in Britain, but Nova Scotia is too young a country. Look what has been accomplished by the great Provincial shows; but they do not take place often enough. Instead of so many local shows, let a Provincial show be held yearly in some central locality—let the farmers one and all unite, and take a pride and interest in the “Annual Provincial Agricultural Show,” and I have no doubt that the public will throw aside all local and petty jealousies, and do all in their power to make such a show a success.

Yours,

HALLIGONIAN.