

able growth of wheat; the remedy is lime. That substance will hasten their decay more rapidly, convert them into nutritious food, or render their remains harmless. Ashes will have the same effect. The lecturer concluded his remarks by stating that there existed no reason why the soil of Canada, under a judicious system of culture, should not produce as luxuriant crops as were annually attained in the mother country,—that from thirty-five to forty-five bushels of wheat per acre might with comparative certainty be depended upon,—but that it would require, in order to obtain such results, first, careful and deep ploughing; secondly, effectual draining; thirdly, a judicious rotation of crops; fourthly, the application of as much farm-yard manure as would equal in weight the crop taken from the soil; and lastly, a judicious use of lime, and in some cases common salt, especially on pasture land. It was not to be supposed, he observed, that in a single lecture, the rationale of agricultural processes could be more than hinted at. Time would not permit him to make any observation on the rearing of cattle, or that ratio which ought to exist between the amount of arable soil in cultivation on a farm, and the number of live stock which should be kept upon it,—a subject in itself affording ample field for much useful discussion.

THE DINNER.

This part of the proceedings went off exceedingly well; the only drawback being want of room. Mr. Dalby provided a good substantial repast, for the very moderate sum of three York shillings each. The chair was occupied by E. W. Thomson, Esq., the President of the Society; and we noticed several influential individuals, among whom we may mention, the Hon. W. B. Robinson, M.P.P., late Inspector-General, Wm. Baldwin, Esq., who occupied the vice-chair, J. Gamble, Esq., F. Boyd, Esq., Colonel McLeod, H. Y. Hind, Esq., of the Normal School, R. L. Dennison, Esq., Dr. Clark, Robert Cooper, Esq., Captain Shaw, &c. &c. The usual local toasts were most heartily responded to, including "our noble Patron," the Governor-General; Colonel McLeod responded to the *Army and Navy*. We copy the following, with one or two additions, from a city cotemporary.

The *Press* was introduced by the chairman with a few appropriate remarks. Mr. McDougall of the *Agriculturist* being called for, replied.

He said, he supposed he was called upon to reply to this toast in consequence of his connection with the *Canadian Agriculturist*, the only agricultural journal now published in Upper Canada. It was usual on occasions of this kind to speak of the mighty influence of the press, of its being a powerful engine for good or for evil, &c. &c.; but few persons who utter or listen to these trite observations, form any true or just conception of the real importance of the gigantic influence possessed at the present day by that great civilizer of mankind. Think of those wonderful establishments at New York and London, which issue 30 or 40,000 sheets every day, sending every variety of intelligence to all parts of the habitable world. The newspaper press is not only the organ of the public will, but it sets it in motion, modifies it, and often executes its decrees. All men who exercise any influence upon the community read, and all men are influenced by what they read. The press in all free countries may be said to have usurped the place of government. How important, then, that it should be rightly managed. He then referred to the im-

portance of the press to the agriculturist. Why should not the farmer enjoy the advantage of an inter-communication of ideas and opinions of the details on his art—the most important of all the arts? Why should every other class in the country—the mechanics, the merchants, the religionists and politicians have their organs to disseminate their views and advocate their interests, and the farmer, to whom the knowledge of discoveries, experiments and science is no less important in his business, be without any press that he can call his own? This should not be. The farmers of Canada, if they wish to advance in wealth and intelligence, must support a press devoted to their interests. Science is daily revealing some new facts relating to agriculture, the knowledge of which is of the highest importance. The value of the press, when devoted to the farmer's interests, has been abundantly proved by the experience of other countries as well as our own. In the neighbouring Union every state has its *Agricultural* paper, and some can boast of two or three. Can it be possible that the farmers of Canada West are either unable or unwilling to support efficiently one journal? He hoped not. He trusted that as there was now but one published in this section of the province, which he believed would bear a favourable comparison with other publications of the same kind in any country, it would be generously sustained, not by subscriptions alone, but by the pens of the farmers. The agricultural papers that had been started at different times in Canada had met with slight encouragement, perhaps some of them deserved no more than they got. For his own part he could say that he had made nothing by his efforts to keep up a respectable paper for the benefit of the class from which he sprang—the farmers of Canada. It had up to the present time been, not his good, but his *bad* fortune to be connected with the agricultural press. But he hoped its greatest difficulties were overcome. A gentleman who was present, and would he believed reply to another toast, one who is eminently qualified to impart instruction on those points which involve scientific enquires, as well as those exclusively practical, was now connected with and interested in the *Agriculturist*. Those who had examined its pages during the present year could judge whether it is not creditable to our country and deserving of support. He thanked the meeting for the hearty good will with which they drank the toast.

The chairman then gave *The Agricultural Association of Upper Canada*, and connected with the toast the name of the Secretary, Mr. Buckland.

Mr. Buckland, in acknowledging the compliment, begged to thank the company for the honour they had done him by so cordially receiving his name in connection with the Provincial Association, an institution he thought, if properly managed and supported, eminently calculated to benefit the country. He regretted that he had done so little for the Society, which was owing more to a want of opportunity than of will, and expressed his desire to see the institution placed upon a broad and permanent basis, receiving the support of all parties. He was glad to find that the claims of the Society had been appreciated and liberally responded to by the government, by a grant which would soon enable the association to pay off its outstanding liabilities. Some complaints had been expressed in reference to the management of the late exhibition; it was an easy thing to find fault, and there were some defects in the Kingston arrangements that are not likely to occur again. The great desideratum, he thought, to be a uniform system of management. He spoke of the zealous and disinterested services of the executive committee, and the liberality of the city of Kingston and the Midland District in supporting the exhibition. Mr. Buckland thought that the society should at once publish a report of its proceedings. Little is known at home of the soils,