

would more than counterbalance the amount of remuneration arising from the sale of the grain for such a purpose, and argues that a rapid improvement would soon be visible on our farms from such a course of procedure, and that no necessity would exist for the purchase of foreign manures, and contends that a great deterioration of the soil must ensue from an opposite practice. He exhibits the true independence of a practical scientific farmer, and places the agriculturist in his proper light, as engaged in a most honourable and needful employment, which makes him at once a safeguard to the state, and the most genuine benefactor of the whole human race.

We cannot suppose our correspondent aimed at mystifying us,—the general tenor of the communication precludes such a thought; but while the style borders on the hyperbole, we must confess that it nearly passes our limited comprehension how to separate the pure metal from the glittering tinsel.

We believe, from a conviction of the native good sense of our correspondent, that he will take these remarks in the kindly spirit in which they are dictated, and that his next paper,—which we hope soon to be favoured with,—will exhibit *solid*, without highly wrought superfluous matter, and we are quite sure it will be generally acceptable to our readers.

TO THE PRESIDENTS, VICE-PRESIDENTS, DIRECTORS, SECRETARIES, AND MEMBERS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES, THROUGHOUT WESTERN CANADA.

GENTLEMEN:

At a Meeting of the Directors of the Provincial Agricultural Association, lately held at Toronto, an extract from the proceedings of which is hereto appended,* you will observe that amongst other things, the President is directed to address the Agriculturists throughout the Province in behalf of the Association.

You are aware that an Act incorporating this Institution has been recently passed, and that under its provisions, two Exhibitions have been held,—one in Toronto in October 1846, and the second in Hamilton, in October last. It is also decided that the next Exhibition shall be held in Cobourg, in the Newcastle District, on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in October next.

The Premiums awarded at the two former Exhibitions, amounted to about twelve hundred pounds; of this sum, nearly three hundred pounds remain yet unpaid. The amount required for Premiums at the next Exhibition, will fall little short of seven hundred pounds.

Thus, Gentlemen, you will see that nearly one thousand pounds will be required for the above purpose, and for this the Provincial Association are wholly dependent upon you.

An application will be made at the next Session of the Legislature for a grant from the public funds in aid of this important Institution, and it is confidently expected to be successful. But it must be clearly understood that no part of this can be got for this year's operations; and under these circumstances, the Society must, as on former occasions, appeal to you for the contribution of a sum equal to the amount of Premiums to be awarded at the next Exhibition.

It is proper that you should be informed that, in future, all sums of money, voted or otherwise, raised for this object by the several Agricultural Societies throughout the Province, shall be applied solely to the payment of Premiums; and that the local expenses, for enclosures, erections of buildings, and other necessary preparations, shall be borne by the inhabitants of

the locality in which the Exhibition for the time being shall be holden.

Besides the sum necessary for the last mentioned purpose, which will not be less than £250, to be raised by subscriptions in the vicinity of Cobourg, I am authorised to state that the several Agricultural Societies in the Colborne and Newcastle Districts have appropriated nearly £250 towards the Premiums.

Placed, as I have the honour to be, at the head of this Institution, which must, if properly supported, command an influence upon the destinies of Canada beyond that of any other Association, it would indeed be surprising, if on that account alone, I should not feel a great anxiety and lively interest in the success of our infant society. But being a practical farmer myself, and having spent nearly half a century amidst the practical operations as well as the science of Agriculture, in a part of Her Majesty's dominions which stands unsurpassed for spirit, zeal, and industry in the cause of husbandry, I cannot sufficiently express to you the deep solicitude with which I regard the dawn of a scientific system, which has done so much for the Farmers of the British Isles.

Amidst the various Associations formed on every hand for the purpose of fostering and protecting the arts, sciences, and the numerous learned professions, it would indeed be strange, as it would be disreputable to the people of this Province, if this Association, calculated as it is to support and encourage that great class of the community to whom all others must look for the supply of food, should be permitted to languish for want of pecuniary sustenance.

It has been charged, and I fear with too much truth, upon Agriculturists, that improvements in husbandry encounter great difficulties, if not direct opposition, from those whose interest it is to support them, and therefore work their way very slowly; whereas innovations and improvements made in the mechanic and manufacturing departments are seized upon and turned to advantage as soon as promulgated. The reason of this is obvious. Manufacturers, mechanics, mercantile men, and various other classes, are generally residents of, and congregated in, the towns and villages, and have intercourse and interchange of sentiments, by reason of greater facilities than the farmers, from their isolated position, can ever possess. We must therefore, if we would improve our condition, either physically, morally, or mentally, remove the obstacles by increased exertion, and determine to unite and make common cause with our brethren all over the world, in placing our profession upon a scientific foundation, by which, with far less labour and toil, we may expect to reap advantages which every other effort and exertion in the power of man will fail to accomplish.

From such considerations have arisen those numerous public Societies from which so many advantages have been produced,—Societies for promoting science and literature, arts and manufactures, and for encouraging knowledge, industry, and virtue in general. Foremost amongst these Associations, may be classed those for the support of manufactures and agriculture.

Now, as *all* are more or less intimately concerned in the benefits, and dependent on the skill of the tillers of the soil, it behoves *all* to aid and assist in all measures calculated to benefit the community at large. It is, indeed, imperative on all who have a spark of patriotism, to combine with such bodies as are formed for carrying out to the utmost the whole available resources of the country, and the genius and abilities of its population.

In proportion as we can raise amongst ourselves those necessaries which *all* demand, and those supplies which the more wealthy require, in such proportion will be our true happiness and independence.

Wealth, in whatever shape, must in Canada, as an agricultural country, spring from the soil, and proceed from the skill and industry of the farmer; and to encourage that industry and develop that skill, such Societies as "The Provincial Agricultural Association" are formed, and in the benefits arising from such institutions, every class must participate—artisan, mechanic, manufacturer, and merchant.

* Note from Minutes of Committee Meeting:
Resolved.—That an appeal to the several Agricultural Societies of Western Canada be drawn up and circulated, urging the necessity of renewed and vigorous action on the part of the Friends of Agriculture, Manufactures, &c. &c. throughout the Province, especially for the purpose of sustaining this association; and that Thomas Page and Henry Ruttan Esqrs. of Cobourg, be a Committee to carry this resolution into effect.