

ph to make. This, there is no help for, and I could here suggest the procuring of judges, for me of the most important classes, from our asins across the lines: but I am well aware at has been tried with ill success.

However, I do not quite despair of some improvement being effected on the present system choosing the judges, provided more pains be taken by the officers of the several county societies, when applied to for judges, in making themselves more fully acquainted with the actual requirements and faculties of the individuals intend sending down to the different classes which they are solicited to act. It strikes me we cannot have been the requisite and indispensable attention necessary, paid to this matter. The Board should also be better versed in the propriateness of its application to different judges for such and such judges. For instance, should not commit the error of sending into the backwoods for judges of Durham &c. or other improved breeds, as the great liability is, that there are not perhaps three in the whole county or township with the critical experience requisite to become a judge in such important classes.* Nay, the probability is, that many not have bred or owned an animal in their whole lives of the breed they are asked to adjudicate upon!

Again, with regard to implements, a judge should be not only a practical farmer, but a practical mechanic, to enable him to discharge his duty well and efficiently in such a class.

The same remark may also be applied to the judges of grain—for instance, it does not follow that a farmer, who has not been in the habit of sowing barley should be a competent judge of article at a Provincial Show. Nor should a farmer, who has been accustomed for years to grow but one or two kinds of wheat, consider himself (with perhaps very limited experience in the growth of that grain as well,) quite competent to decide upon so important a class as the Canada Company's, and the Society's prizes in article. Indeed, such men should have the sense and resolution enough to decline the honor, where, in some cases, they must be found conviction of their own incompetency to discharge so onerous and responsible a duty. But in many instances the desire for a ship, with some men, is so powerful and compelling, that any considerations of self-interest is ignored altogether.

It would of course carry these observations to a greater length, but it is not necessary: alluded to the evil, and having suggested a remedy that occurs to me at the present time, I hope that some one else may be able to throw more light thereon.

I have little doubt, Messrs. Editors, that I quite think with me, that there cannot be much importance attached to the selection of competent judges! Indeed, it may be

considered the mainstay of our agricultural societies—for who, let me ask, after a succession of disappointments and wrongs will continue to have resolution sufficient to impose upon himself the trouble, expense, anxiety, and, in some cases, severe loss which exhibitors are doomed to suffer.

There is one other circumstance which I shall think it necessary to allude to before I close my observations, connected with the duties of the judges in the several classes in which they are engaged. It is the permitting, and in some instances, almost courting the presence and interference of parties who are, themselves, exhibitors in such classes. Nay, to such an extent is this carried, that I have myself witnessed exhibitors accompanying the judges in the classes in which they are more immediately interested (particularly in stock) through the whole of their examinations. Can this practice, I would ask, be sufficiently deprecated?

The evil, I am sorry to observe, has not pertained to the Hamilton Show alone. I have witnessed it at other Provincial Shows, but it certainly ought not to be tolerated. We permit nothing of the kind in our county and township shows, and let us hope it will be effectually guarded against in future by the proper authorities at our Provincial Shows.

Hoping, Messrs. Editors, that the few remarks proffered, may be received with the same kindly feeling they are given, and prove productive of some good, I beg to subscribe myself,

A WELLWISHER TO THE PROVINCIAL SOCIETY.
County Wellington, Oct. 10th, 1860.

Communications from Practical Farmers Valuable—Grape Culture.

EDITORS OF THE AGRICULTURIST.—Now that the long evenings have arrived, I trust that many of your readers may be induced to use their pens, and communicate, through the columns of the *Agriculturist*, their experience and observations of another year. For the past two years I have been a subscriber to the *Albany Country Gentleman*, and no department of that paper was so much relished by the writer as that portion containing the "Correspondence." Nor do I believe that in any other way the same amount of valuable information could be brought together: for the simple reason that these facts and observations come from practical farmers, not theorists.

Believing that example is better than precept in this, as in every thing else, I shall, from time to time, (with your permission) address you. Not that I am so vain as to believe that I can enlighten the dullest of your readers, but that by enquiries and observations on what appears in your columns, I may induce others to communicate fragments of their hidden stores of knowledge.

* Judges of pure bred stock were asked for, except from those where such stock were known to be bred and raised.