

But beyond this my object is to improve the condition of the art generally in the Province, and, to do this, sundry means present themselves. The first I would mention is the publication by the Society (if they think proper) of this letter and illustrations. I am aware that its statements will be new to many, to some no doubt displeasing. Those who shoe as I have described the cultivators of long toes and perpetrators of heel nailing will not like it, but this I cannot help, improvement must not keep back for them. If their modes will bear defending let them defend them, if they will not, let them give them up for better, and either way the public and themselves will profit.

A second means that suggests itself is the sending copies of this to parties at a distance where opposition need not create prejudice, and from which some of those who practice the art may come and see for themselves the advantage of plans better than their own, and learn them. A third means is altogether in the hands of the public. It is for those who care for the welfare of their horses, and like them to have all the advantages of a good shoe well put on, to send them though but once to have a trial and then to judge for themselves.

Gentlemen interested in improvement visiting St. John, though only now and then, by having their horses feet at such times put in proper shape and well made shoes put on them, might soon be the means of spreading a better system than the present to quarters not otherwise likely to be soon reached, other means might be named, any in fact by which better information could be spread, and more rational practices introduced, and we might hope soon to see the long toes disappear and with them the "sprung knees," "corny heels," "ring-bones," "contractions," and other collateral evils.

In conclusion, Mr. President and Gentlemen of the St. John Agricultural Society, it would ill become me to advertise my own claims to business by your means, where you are not interested, and to benefit as well as me: your Corresponding Secretary, in his letter to Professor Dick, to which I have already twice referred, says, "If you have any friend for whom you wish to provide comfortably, here is a favorable opportunity for now doing so." I have no wish, gentlemen, for such "provision" as is here indicated: all I ask is such a share of employment in the calling which you sought me to come here for and practice, as may enable me to live by it. Nor do I ask this without offering you, as I have endeavored to show, advantages in exchange, which you can no where else obtain: but do not take this on my word, look into the matter yourselves, observe the number of horses crippled in the different ways I have named, and, if fortunate in your own having escaped, reflect that it may not be always so, that he is as liable as others to be the victim of a bad system. Ask if art and science, where these have most been cultivated, can do anything to remedy or prevent such wholesale mischief, and, if you find that they can, give them at least a trial, and do not be content to live fifty years behind the rest of the world, even in the treatment of your horses' feet.

Gentlemen, I have the honor to be,
Your most obedient servant,

M. A. CUMING, V. S.