

other, buying, borrowing and many other malpractices, too numerous to mention; such a system as this is no encouragement to agriculture in any shape or form. It is only calculated to encourage all manner of frauds. The last County of Quebec Agricultural show was a most complete farce; not a well bred animal on the ground, and no classification of the different breeds; every age and kind mixed up together, and no rules or regulations for to go by. And a great gang of people were pushing and crowding after the judges. True there was a few overgrown turnips upon the ground, but no one could say if they were the *bona fide* property of the exhibitor or not. From what I could learn, several of the adjoining turnip fields had been visited a few nights previous to this exhibition. And, further, to show the ignorance of the managers, dairy produce and agricultural implements were omitted. Now I would ask any one interested in the agricultural prosperity of this fine county, what benefit such shows are to agriculture? Only to a few prize catchers, upon whose farms the very worst systems of cultivation are to be seen. Then, why not the Committee of Management apply a portion of the funds to well managed farms, and growing crops, which is the only true way to improve our agriculture? The County of Quebec Agricultural Society has spent several hundred dollars these few years back, and I defy them to point to one single improvement they have made by their shows. They have not imported an animal of any kind, or a single bushel of grain. What animals we have of improved breed in the County we are entirely indebted to a few public spirited agriculturists, such as Col. Rhodes of Benmore, John Gilmour of Marchmont, and the late James Gibb, Esquire, and a few others. Mr. Editor, I would simply ask the question,—what has raised the standard of agriculture in the Island of Montreal, to its present high state of cultivation—from what I have seen from late visits? It can now compete with any part of Canada. The question is easily answered. In the first place it is solely attributable to such patriotic and energetic men as the late lamented John Dods, Esq., and James Logan, Esq., Wm. Boa, of St. Laurent, and several others whose names I do not recollect at present. And latterly the Montreal Agricultural Societies whose systems for the improvement of Agriculture in the importation of superior male animals and grain, and the

giving of prizes for well managed farms and growing crops, is beyond all praise. I would urge upon societies the importance of supporting the present Agricultural Journal, which as a means of communication between Societies and the Board of Agriculture, and the diffusion of agricultural knowledge is worthy of all support. I would respectfully draw the attention of the farmers of the County of Quebec to be up and doing, and put men into the Committee of Management, who will attend to the interests of agriculture, which hitherto has not been done. Mr. Editor, I hope you may receive good patronage and support from the agriculturists and all who have the interests of Canada at heart. Mr. Editor, with your permission I shall return to this subject in a future number and, in conclusion, I wish you many happy returns of the season.

Your most obedient servant.

MATTHEW DAVIDSON.

St. Foy Road, County of Quebec.

As the daily press says "we must not be held answerable for the opinions of our correspondents." Nevertheless, we desire to court their patronage, and hear their opinions; and, whenever their communications are properly authenticated, they shall have all the prominence in the *Agriculturist* we can give them, and receive the most particular attention at our hands. Mr. Davidson writing us from Quebec tells some doubtless unwelcome truths. But he is a practical, and experienced farmer, who was probably himself an eye-witness, or has personal knowledge of what he describes. His comparison between this district, and that where he writes is very flattering indeed; long may Montreal carry off the palm. We await his further correspondence with some interest, and if the Society at Quebec have anything to say in defence, we shall also be glad to hear from them. We may mention *en passant* that communications for the French or English editions of the Review, should be addressed to the Editors, postpaid, drawer 250, Post-Office, Montreal.

WORKING HOGS.—The *New England Farmer* says: "We do not work our hogs, either in harness or on the manure heaps. Very well, but still we see no objection to letting store hogs root in the barn yard and pick up scattered grain, &c. On a farm where much grain is fed out, a few young hogs can be wintered in this way at a very trifling cost.