

abused by the old geographers, is not without its value." My friend stared, but being a Scotchman, began to hum, with natural enthusiasm :

"Weel may the Boatie row
That wins the bairns' bread,,

Of our mechanics what shall we say but this, that having been much abroad for the last six or seven years, and having when at home had but little leisure to inspect their workshops and factories, I was not at all prepared for the very creditable display which they have made at this Exhibition. But there are perhaps few persons here who can more duly estimate the advances which have been made within the last forty years. My mind goes back to a period when there was not a steam engine or gang saw mill in the country, and hardly a skilled mechanic or a labour-saving machine in this town. I worked, during my apprenticeship, at the old wooden hand press with balls, rollers and power presses being then unknown.

To change this state of things, to diffuse useful knowledge among our work people, to inspire them with pride in their pursuits, and to teach them to rely more upon the resources of science, a few men about 1830, combined their intellectual powers. A mechanic's library was formed, an institute was opened, and courses of lectures were delivered every winter for twenty years. Mr. James Forman and myself have alone been spared to represent those who originated this movement. Dr. Grigor, George R. Young, Andrew MacKinlay, Geo. O'Brien, John Naylor, John S. Thompson, and others, whose names I cannot remember, have passed away. General Cathcart who attended our first meetings, and zealously co-operated with us, fell at Inkerman, and sleeps on a hill side of the Crimea. By the mechanics of Halifax the memories of these men should be ever gratefully remembered; and let us hope that, now that our mechanics have increased in numbers, wealth, skill and intelligence, the Institute will be revived, that they may have a permanent centre round which to rally, a room where they can meet each other, where they can display their handiwork, and exchange their thoughts, with a view to mutual improvement and combined co-operation.

There are others who, on such an occasion as this, it would be gross ingratitude not to remember, associated as their names and labors are with our material progress, The Duke of Kent brought the first fine breeds of horses to Nova Scotia. Lord Dalhousie lent the influence of his high station and zealous personal exertions to the improvement of our agriculture, and his example, as well said on the opening day, was followed by Sir Gaspard LeMarchant. Thomas King, of Windsor, made Retreat a model farm, and the Hon.

Charles Prescott devoted a long and useful life to the improvement of our orchards, both by precept and example. To Titus Smith we owe the first dawnings of natural science in this country; and to Dr. McCulloch we are indebted not only for some knowledge of chemistry but for lessons of thrift, conveyed to our agricultural classes in a homely style, at once quaint and attractive.

There is one name that the Chief Justice did not mention on the opening day; one that is rarely mentioned now, but that, on such occasions as this, ought never to be forgotten, the name of his father the late John Young. I am old enough to remember when the letters of Agricola created almost as great a sensation among the farmers of Nova Scotia as did the Waverly novels among the literati of Great Britain and his subsequent rural and political life was passed under my observation. I knew him well, and it is no disparagement to his sons to say that he was an abler man than either. Though somewhat too portly he was a graceful and impressive speaker, and a writer of singular eloquence and power. His range of knowledge, on economic questions and rural affairs was extensive and profound. Coming from Scotland at a time when Sir John Sinclair, and other practical thinkers had vastly improved its husbandry, he soon became keenly alive to the defects in our own; and his pen, ranging over the whole field, roused our farmers to greater exertions as with a blast of the trumpet. At that time wheat was rarely cultivated; oat mills did not exist, and oat-meal, only used for gruel, was imported by the druggists. Our ploughmen were unskillful, and sub-soil ploughing, the use of lime, rotation of crops, and composting were but lightly valued or little known. Our breeds had run out, and our farmers took little pride in an occupation, which after the high prices of the American war had passed away seemed hardly worth pursuing. It is but fair to own that all this was changed by the letters of Agricola, and by the exertions of the Central Board and the County societies which were organized after their publication. The growth and expansion of our rural life, as I have sketched it, and the improved production of our soil, as illustrated by this Exhibition, date from this period; and I am sure you will pardon me for thus lingering for a moment beside the grave of one to whom we are so much indebted for the material prosperity we enjoy.

But you may ask me what of the future? Of the political aspects of our country I can here say nothing, though I may take an early opportunity, in some other place, freely to discuss them. But this I may say that Nova Scotia in all the vicissitudes and trials of the past has not wanted skill and energy to guide her.

Let us hope that with the blessing of a kind Providence, the resources of her statesmanship may not fail her now. Of one thing we may be assured, that her fertile soil will not fail if properly cultivated—that her artisans will prosper as they increase in skill and knowledge, that the sea will yield her treasures and our mines their wealth, if wrought with enterprize and industry. However institutions may change or politicians may wrangle, our firesides will glow, and our rivers run sparkling to the sea. The birds will sing, and the flowers bloom, and the stars will shine out at night upon the youngsters making love in the good old fashion. There will be orange blossoms in the churches, and babies in the cradles to replenish the earth, and come what may let us hope that every ten years Nova Scotia may have an Industrial Exhibition, and that each one may be an improvement upon the last.

FRUIT AT THE EXHIBITION.

Mr. G. A. S. Crichton of Halifax, addressed an interesting letter to the *British Colonist*, respecting the fruit at the Exhibition, which we copy below.

HALIFAX, October 9th, 1868.

To the Editor of the *British Colonist* :—

SIR,—The following memo. designates the list of quantity and name of Apples exhibited at our Fruit Show. As the information will be acceptable to many, especially among the Fruit Growers of the Province, I request you will give it an insertion in the *Colonist*.

LIST.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Doz. | Doz. |
| 29 Gravensteins | 1 Fall Pippin |
| 22 Ribston Pippins | 1 Red Astrachen |
| 21 Baldwins | 2 Giliflower |
| 15 Yellow Belle Fleur | 2 Early Bough |
| 10 Rhode Island Greening | 3 Early Strawberry |
| 9 Nonpareil | 3 Golden Ball |
| 5 Blenheim Pippin | 1 Hubbartown Nonsuch |
| 8 King of the Pippins | 3 Keswick Codlin |
| 1 York and Lancaster | 2 Munson Sweet |
| 15 Pomme de Nelze | 3 Porter Apple |
| 5 Drap D'Or | 1 Yel New Town Pippin |
| 8 Gloria Mundi | 3 Swaar |
| 10 Emperor Alexander | 1 Sponge Apple |
| 2 Blue Permaine | 1 Brabant Belle Fleur |
| 5 Pomme Greso | 1 Hughes Pippin |
| 5 Am'can Golden Russet | 1 Dressed |
| 5 Alsopus Spitzenburg | 1 Early Calkin Pippin |
| 12 Flushing do | 1 Green Newtown do |
| 3 Broadwell | 3 20 oz Pippin |
| 12 Northern Spy | 1 Wolfvill Beauty |
| 8 Pound Sweet | 1 Marsden Blush |
| 3 Sweet Russet | 1 Golden Sweet |
| 6 Colvert | 1 Bishop Bourne |
| 3 Canada Reinette | 1 Purple Giliflower |
| 7 King of Tomkins Co | 3 Toffan Sweet |
| 4 Calkins Pippin (Late) | 2 Strawberry Permaine |
| 2 Minister Apple | 2 Dutch Codlin |
| 3 Roxbury Russet | 2 Early River |
| 2 Golden Pippin. | 2 York Greening |

I weighed several varieties with the following results;—

| | | |
|--|---------|----------|
| 6 Canada Gravensteins | weighed | lbs. oz. |
| 6 N. Scotia do | do | 1 15½ |
| 6 Canada Belle Fleur | do | 2 11 |
| 6 N. Scotia do | do | 2 13 |
| 12 Canada Belle Fleur | do | 3 3½ |
| 12 N. Scotia do | do | 3 3 |
| 6 Gloria Mundi—called in the Canadian List—White Spanish Renette | do | 6 0½ |
| 6 N. Scotia Gloria Mundi | do | 2 13½ |
| 1 do | do | 6 2½ |
| 1 do | do | 1 0 |

—circumference 13 3-8