

ADDRESS OF ISRAEL LONGWORTH,  
ESQ., AT THE CLOSING OF THE  
TRURO EXHIBITION.

While not unmindful of the honor conferred upon me, in being asked to close the first agricultural and industrial exhibition for District No. 4, composed of the counties of Cumberland, Colchester and Hants, I have had too much experience of the unreasonableness of the honor of speech-making, amid the hurry and din of exhibitors in collecting their exhibits for home, and the noise of stock in leaving the grounds, to attempt anything like a lengthy address, which in the case of the gentleman who opened the Exhibition, was not only most appropriately, but very cleverly done. By all of this bustle, however, I am forcibly reminded that it will never do for me to follow the example set by Colonel Drayson in his admirable inaugural address, by which he left it a moot point with many of his hearers, whether the triumphs of the plough were not even greater than those of either the sword or the pen; but that in performing the duty assigned to me I should be as brief as Cæsar when he uttered those memorable words that expressed so much: "*Veni, vidi, vici!*" or as Dean Swift when he preached his famous charity sermon.

When the Board of Agriculture succeeded in prevailing upon the Legislature of 1875 to pass an act appropriating \$4,000 for a Provincial Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, many persons who consider a dollar as large as a cart wheel, when given to a general object, viewed the expenditure as a great drag upon the public chest; yet, out of that beneficial measure, has arisen the necessity for the grant every second year to exhibitions like the present, seven of which will be held in Nova Scotia this season; and, in view of the large amount of success that has attended these exhibitions, and the present one more particularly, who can speak disparagingly of this as a farming country, or dare venture to circumscribe the incalculable amount of influence for good that public shows are exercising in hastening the full development of the vast and various resources of our fine province.

These public annual exhibitions, and the periodical ones that preceded them, are a necessary corollary of the agricultural problem so ably demonstrated by Agricola in his day; and the immense benefits they have already conferred upon the province can only be understood by contrasting the state in which John Young found the husbandry of Nova Scotia, when he wrote his admirable "*Letters of Agricola*," with its present condition. This can best be done by an extract taken from Guthrie's *Modern Geography*, London edition of 1792, which

gives a good idea of the farming done in the Province when Mr. Young came on the stage in 1818.—"Nova Scotia or New Scotland was, till lately, almost a continued forest; and agriculture, though attempted by the English settlers, has hitherto made little progress. In most parts the soil is thin and barren, the corn it produces is of a shrivelled kind, like rye; and the grass intermixed with a cold spongy moss. However, it is not uniformly bad; there are tracts in the Peninsula, to the southward, which do not yield to the best land in New England; and in general the soil is adapted to the production of hemp and flax. Flattering accounts have been given of the improvement making of the new settlements, and on the Bay of Fundy."

From such a picture we have only to glance at the various departments of this exhibition to appreciate the great change the agriculture of the Province has undergone during the past sixty-four years; and, in view of the lovely face Nova Scotia now presents from the honest labors of her husbandmen, the question may well be propounded,—

"Where's the coward that would not dare  
To fight for such a land."

But it is not my intention to detain you by a detailed account of the departments comprising this exhibition, from which you have learned many valuable lessons, and will retain in your memory as one of life's pleasure gardens. Not to mention, however, the flowers, would be an oversight as great as the loss to the Exhibition, had that department been unrepresented. Too much cannot be said in favor of the beautiful flowers. The greatest Teacher who ever appeared among men, in His sermon on the Mount, observed: "Consider the lilies of the field, they toil not, neither do they spin, and yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

On an occasion like the present, I feel it would not be out of place to pay a just tribute to the public services in the cause of floriculture, of the Huttons, the Harriss, the Leahys, the Wilsons, and a number more whose names the flowers bring up, who have followed the occupation of florists for years with a zeal and devotion that would have insured success in any other branch of agriculture, and for this reason they are all the more entitled to grateful recognition at this time, for when they have done all in their power to bring their art to the highest state of perfection, minister to our delight, increase our comfort, beautify our homes and add to our contentment and happiness, they have reaped for themselves no adequate returns. And why should we not acknowledge the services of the men who, at their own cost and charges, have

worked up this most interesting department to the greatest degree of excellence, in which we beheld it to-day; and by their zealous and praiseworthy efforts have gained for it as enviable a position as that occupied by any of the more lucrative departments fostered by the Board of Agriculture, and promoted with public funds. On behalf of the Board I tender these gentlemen warmest thanks and commend their services and their well stocked gardens and nurseries to the agriculturists of the province. I would also, for the men who have done so much to cultivate a general taste for flowers, recommend the officials of the Agricultural Societies, in their deliberations and endeavors to advance the agriculture of their respective districts, to act a little more the sentiment of Goethe, who said, "We should do our utmost to encourage the beautiful, for the useful will encourage itself."

Mr. Chairman, had not you, sir, in introducing the military gentleman who gave the fine opening address, given expression to the wish that your hearers should contrast the present display with former exhibitions, and draw their conclusions as to the merits of this show, when compared with those that have preceded it, which request was very adroitly turned to good account by Col. Drayson in apposite remarks relative to the great importance to farmers and others, "cultivating their faculties of observation," I fear I should tax your patience with my own observations on the lessons taught by this exhibition. Under the circumstances, it only becomes necessary for me, on behalf of the Exhibition Committee, to thank you for your attendance, and to express their regret that you were not all exhibitors. But, without giving my own views, I would like to inform you that the judges of roots, in their report to the Committee, gave it as their opinion "that the exhibits in this department for excellency of quality, as well as for size, and especially in potatoes, have never been surpassed at any previous Nova Scotian show; and they doubt if as good a display has ever been witnessed on the continent of America."

Considering the very large amount of money that is usually collected from the sale of potatoes, from what has been seen here, no one hereafter will accuse our farmers of paying their debts in small potatoes, and, only think of Councillor Craig's squashes weighing 119 pounds, and citron melons 26 pounds, that would do credit to a corporation dinner,—while the first prize tomatoes were 6 inches in diameter, by 3½ inches deep. The Judges' report was repeatedly endorsed in my hearing by leading agriculturists from abroad, who have attended great