

## CAVAN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We have been requested by the Directors of this Society to publish the Address delivered by the President at its late annual Exhibition. The day was wet and unfavorable, yet the number present was very considerable, and the display of horses really good. The show of sheep was fair, and quite an extensive assortment of *domestic wools* was exhibited, much superior to anything seen before. There are many points of the address that will interest our readers generally.

## ADDRESS

OF JOHN KNOWLSON, ESQUIRE,

PRESIDENT OF THE CAVAN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

GENTLEMEN, — (For I believe there are no Ladies present, having been prevented from attending, no doubt, from the unfavorable state of the weather, which is much to be regretted.) In conformity with a recently adopted By-law of your Society, the duty of delivering a written address on subjects connected with the science of Agriculture, devolves upon me as your President; but I am sorry to say that I come before you very badly prepared for such an important task. I might begin and tell you that I have been pressed for time, and make other, what may appear to me very valid excuses, yet I confess that although I should be telling you the truth, and nothing but the truth, these would not justify me in your eyes for having neglected a duty which you had a right to expect me to perform; therefore, I consider it more creditable to plead guilty at once of a dereliction of duty, rather than attempt an excuse, and so throw myself on your mercy, ready to submit to whatever penalty the Directors of your Society may think proper to inflict. These ill-digested and hurried remarks I only commenced to put together last evening, and concluded this morning on the Show ground; therefore what I have to say is quite an abridgment and curtailment of what I had previously intended, so that I fear it will hardly merit the appellation of an "Agricultural Address." My will to serve you on this occasion, I assure you was good, but as I have before hinted, I have no reason to expect you to accept the will for the deed, although I dare say you will agree with me that "wills" are sometimes looked upon as favorably as "deeds"; for instance if any of you were to inherit a nice, hundred acre, cleared farm, with substantial and comfortable buildings, and other appurtenances, I feel satisfied you would think as highly of the testator's will as you would of a free deed given by a friend; of a hundred acres covered with hemlock or tamarac swamp; so you see that wills are really not always to be despised. However, do not let me lead you to suppose that when I said my will to serve you was a good will, that it ever entered into my head to "will" any of you a farm; no, no such thing I assure you, but my intention was in all sincerity to impart the best information in my power, in order to instruct and enable you to improve the farms you already possess; and if I shall be able to say anything at all that

may give me the least claim to your pardon for not doing better, for not taking more time and care, as I ought to have done, in preparing this address, I shall feel myself your very grateful servant. Although, gentlemen, I am far from being a practical farmer, yet I assure you it is always a source of pleasure to me to study the science of agriculture. I have been in the habit like many of you, of reading newspapers and various periodical publications on different subjects, and I declare to you in all sincerity, that I find more real satisfaction, read with far more zest, such papers as treat upon agricultural pursuits than in reading the matter contained in any mere political paper; for instance such papers as the *Canadian Agriculturist*, the *Genesee Farmer*, and the like, any of which may be had at the cost of about half a dollar a year, and I believe it would be to the advantage of every farmer to introduce an agricultural paper into his family; in these you read of the best system of husbandry, of the best breeds of different kinds of stock, of the most approved implements, and labour-saving machines for cultivating the soil, and reaping the crops and preparing them for market; in these you also find many valuable recipes, besides numerous useful and valuable hints well calculated to promote economy, comfort, and wealth, amongst those engaged in rural avocations; therefore I would strongly recommend every farmer to subscribe for and read attentively, an agricultural paper; and this need not prevent you from taking a well conducted newspaper for general information besides. Before proceeding further, I would beg to be understood that what I have now to say in my imperfect and hastily got up address, is not intended by me, merely for a moment's amusement, or for no other purpose than merely filling up a portion of the time of this our exhibition day. No, gentlemen, my desire, and my intention is that the few hints I have to offer, should prove useful to you, and have the effect of producing practical results, viz., of promoting your welfare and prosperity. As I said before I am not a practical agriculturist, and therefore my remarks may be considered as worthy of but little regard. I can only say that I am presumptuous enough to persuade myself that although not a practical farmer, yet that my own pursuits do not preclude me from either making useful observations or noting down useful facts connected with farming operations when such present themselves conspicuously before me; and as I have frequent opportunities of becoming acquainted with the state of the markets for farm produce, &c., I am in some degree competent, I conceive, to impart at least a sprinkling of useful information; besides I think I am justified in believing that you yield some share of your deference to my judgment on these subjects, or I should not so long have been honored with your confidence by placing me at the head of your Society, therefore what more I intend to say is meant for your advantage, and offered freely and candidly. First, I would embrace this opportunity of congratulating you upon the beautiful and favourable harvest with which you have been blessed; one of the finest perhaps we have any of us ever witnessed; and such a temporal blessing coming from the hands of the Giver of every good gift, demands from us all a