

# WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

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HALIFAX, N. S. OCTOBER 22, 1863.

## AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

We complete in this number the list of prizes given at the Kentville Exhibition, which we commenced in our last, and take the opportunity of offering a few remarks on the benefit of such institutions.

It is not very many years since they were commenced on an extensive scale in the Mother Country; but the advantages resulting from them, are widely apparent. Long since cattle shows or exhibitions were occasionally held in the chief towns of England and Scotland, and their proved utility, with the increasing importance of scientific agriculture, has led to popular exhibitions of grains, fruits, roots and culinary vegetables in our own day.

An exciting impetus is thereby given to farmers and gardeners to vie with each other in the production of the best articles, and this leads to a careful and interested attention to the means of raising and nourishing them, and bringing them to the most perfect state of excellence in their maturity. Every method is thought of and duly considered—tillage and manuring become worthy of the strictest attention; and the drainage or management of each field, according to its peculiar situation or condition, is no longer neglected. Thus *two blades may be made to grow where only one grew before*, and when the agriculturist sees the great improvement produced by his care and attention, although he may not be the most successful, and obtain no prize, he is gratified in his own mind, and encouraged to proceed in the course with hopes of "better luck next time," or at least with the satisfaction that he is increasing his prosperity, and sees what he really can do by attentive industry.

We think that our young friends might contribute greatly to the interest and benefit of such exhibitions. Let their parents allot them small portions of their farms or gardens to raise what grains, vegetables, or fruits they may select in their own judgment—give them advice and encouragement when attentive, admonish them if idle or careless, and give them the benefit of the prize, if they should be so successful as to obtain one. This will be laying a good foundation for their future success and welfare in the world, and train them to habits of industry far better than by any lecturing or coercion.

We observe that Agricultural Exhibitions have been held last week at Pictou and Antigonish. Of the former the *Standard* says that the number of exhibitors were not as numerous as on former occasions, and, on the whole, the exhibition did not give a fair estimate of the capabilities or even the actual productions of the country. Also, it is stated that there was a good assortment of domestic manufactures, horticultural and dairy products. There were fine samples of blankets, flannels, woollen cloth, shawls, quilts, balmoral skirts, and hearth rugs." Of the latter, a correspondent of the *Express*, reports it altogether a grand success. He says, "The show of stock was extensive, there being over 500 head of horses, cattle and sheep on the grounds. Fruit was small in quantity, but of fair quality. The exhibition of cereals, particularly wheat, is represented as being creditable to the Eastern counties. It is said there was a fair display of home manufactures. Much interest was taken in the show. The horses shewn, it is stated, were superior specimens of that noble animal."

## THE POTATO BLIGHT.

We are extremely sorry to notice the re-appearance and alarming extent of this mysterious disease throughout the Province this year. However Cape Breton is an exception, as the latest reports from thence are favorable; but it is expected

that the whole crop will not exceed the requirements of the Island. It appears that we must greatly depend upon Prince Edward Island for our supply this winter and next spring. The crops there are said to be good and healthy, and we only hope that there may be abundance.

## EXPORT OF LIVE STOCK.

Large quantities of live stock are being sent from hence to Bermuda: the greater portion on Government account, and the remainder for the subsistence of the Bermudians. This is occasioned by the prohibition of the Yankee Government of shipments from the Northern States—probably from an apprehension that they might find their way into the Confederate States. But we do not see why American cattle and sheep might not be easily driven across the lines into New Brunswick, and thus relieve us from the present heavy drain of our own.

A correspondent of the *Christian Messenger* reports several shipwrecks at Co's Bay, C. B. on the 11th and 12th inst. with the loss of some lives. Two brigantines belonging to Yarmouth, and a bark belonging to New York, were driven on shore by the fury of the waves. They now lie upon the rocks in a wretched condition. By means of ropes extended from the vessels to the shore the crews of the brigantines were all saved; but the bark lay farther from the shore, and no assistance could be rendered by the hundreds on the bank. The mate, after a struggle with the waves for more than half an hour, was rescued in an exhausted state. It is reported that seven of the bark's crew were lost. Two men were also lost out of a vessel for New York, from New Brunswick, which was wrecked a few miles from Schooner Pond.

On Friday morning, between 2 and 3 o'clock, a fire broke out in the upper part of the new Colonial Market on Argyle Street. The firemen were promptly on the spot, and succeeded in arresting the progress of the fire before much injury was done. The interior of the building was considerably damaged by the quantity of water thrown on the fire. The gable of an adjoining house caught fire, but the flames were subdued before they gained much headway.—*Chron.*