

mination which has made so glorious a victory in the past, is now actively at work among you—the Exhibition this day is one of the many evidences of it—and herein do we see the elements of Canada's future greatness. Where so much good work has already been done, we may reasonably hope that much good work will still be done. The hand that cleared away the forest has not lost its cunning. In this Society you have an important instrument for good. It is to Societies like this that Agriculture owes its advancement in Europe. The Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Highland Society of Scotland have for many years kept before agriculturists the importance of improvement and the means by which it was to be accomplished; they have directed the researches of scientific men on the one hand, and the experimental practices of the farmer on the other; and now we have in many parts of Britain an amount of success in farming which its most sanguine promoters could not have anticipated. But these leading Societies have not done *all* the good work. Valuable results have from time to time been obtained by farmers, and proprietors, and chemists, working apart and in seclusion. But it is to the County Societies in the old country—to Societies such as this, limited in their operations to a certain district—that we are to attribute much, very much, of the good that has been done, and of the genuine interest that has been awakened in improved cultivation. The discussions at *some* of these County Societies no doubt reach you through the press; but many more are actively at work unknown beyond their own circle, surely and unostentatiously evolving good fruits, year by year solving more and more fully the problem of increased production, of growing two blades of grass where only one grew before, a problem which acquires a new phase through every new discovery.

This Society has a noble work before it, and I trust that it will meet with that support which it deserves—the support of farmers and proprietors and amateur agriculturists on the one hand, and of the general public on the other. The cultivation of the soil is not a subject which affects only that class of persons who are actually engaged in its operations. On the contrary it forms the first stratum of civilization; more extensive than all others, it is the one upon which they all depend, the one upon which all our institutions are built up; it is the originator and the supporter of all the other arts of peace.

“The profit of the Earth is for all; the King himself is served by the field.”

In all time, the farmer has been honored above all men, and the cultivation of the soil is held in all civilized nations to be the most honorable employment of man. Even the imperious senators and warriors of ancient Rome, amid all the excitement and glory of successful war, sought, in the culture of their lands, relaxation from the dangers of the battle field, or the cares of the state; and according to a writer of that age, “the Earth delighted to be ploughed with a share adorned by laurels, and by a ploughman who had been honored with a triumph.” And in our own day, the glory of our arms has not diminished the lustre of the ploughshare.

In England our noblemen and our merchant princes are now exchanging the turf for the cornfield, which they find as pleasant and as profitable; and while I am speaking to a people so loyal as the Canadians, can I omit to remind you that our Queen Victoria's husband—the Prince Consort—is an Aberdeenshire farmer, and grows very good turnips indeed.

When the hero of Kars set foot on Canadian soil, who was it that gave him a first welcome? who but the farmers of Hamilton. They showed their appreciation of the gallant soldier, and the soldier showed his appreciation of their peaceful pursuits. It requires a *strong* mind to make a man in war; it requires a *good* mind to make him great in peace; and when Sir William Fenwick Williams of Kars gave expression to his hopes and prayers that this country might go on prospering, that it might realize the hopes of its sons and of the British Empire, and that even in our day its vast wildernesses might be converted into smiling fields—he showed his claims to a new laurel which his Canadian friends know how to honor: one they will not soon let wither.

The good results brought about by this Society are visible in the improvements which we see around us on the farms of the district over which its influence extends; and their products are brought before you this day in forms which evidence more fully the good that has been accomplished. Let it then go on and prosper in its good work; let it be widely known that the Society expects every member to do his duty; and let every member, and every one connected with this Society, rejoice that he has it in his power to do something for the common good. And having done our part, let us seek the Divine blessing on our labors; let us remember that while Paul may plant and Apollos may water, it is God that giveth the increase.