

TOWNSHIP OF WHITBY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

By invitation, we attended a most spirited Ploughing Match, on the 15th inst., on the farm of Mr. Henry Hopkins, in the neighbourhood of Perry's Corner, East Windsor, which was managed by a Committee of Arrangement appointed by the Whitby Agricultural Society. The Committee deserve great credit for the masterly manner in which the whole performance came off. Twelve competitors entered the field, and each ploughed two roads in a most creditable manner. We have frequently had the pleasure of witnessing similar exhibitions in other parts of the Province, but in no instance do we recollect of seeing such a uniformity displayed in executing the work; and have seldom, if ever, seen better specimens of ploughing than those which were performed by the enterprising ploughmen of Whitby.

The number of spectators on the ground were both numerous and respectable, and apparently the greatest possible interest was felt by every individual present, in giving the ploughmen and judges a fair and equitable chance for the proper execution of the work allotted to each.

As soon as the ploughmen and spectators left the field, the judges entered, without previously knowing by whom the different specimens were executed; and the whole body of spectators retired a short distance, where they were addressed in a long, able, and practical speech by their worthy President, Peter Perry, Esq. Mr. P. pointed out to his intelligent audience, the great advantages that would result to the Agriculturists of Whitby if they would each come to the resolution to sustain, both by their purse and influence, their infant Institution. That they would thus establish a fit model for their neighbouring townships, and would very shortly increase the amount of intelligence and wealth of the township at least 100 per cent. He explained to them, in a very clear and forcible manner, the importance of cultivating a kindred feeling towards each other, and in no instance could it be so practically and efficiently done as on occasions such as they had met to celebrate that day. They had met for one common object, viz., the advancement of the Agriculture of their township. Every man, although hostile to his neighbour on party or sectional questions, should take him by the hand and cordially co-operate in this great movement, as though no difference of opinion existed on other questions which have no bearing on Agriculture. He could not allow this favourable opportunity to pass without complimenting his fellow-farmers and townsmen on the very friendly and cordial manner in which all parties co-operated, at the present period, in advancing the Agriculture of Whitby. In his humble opinion, it only required this feeling to be carefully and judiciously fostered to make their township the wealthiest, most populous, intelligent, and best cultivated in every particular in the Province. That the officers and members of the Whitby Agricultural Society would endeavour, by every possible means, to circulate all the information in their power among their neighbours, there can scarcely be a doubt; and that every farmer and operative, when fully made acquainted with the objects and advantages that will follow from the general diffusion of knowledge, as well as the laudable spirit of emulation that will be created in the breasts of every enterprising man in the township, would feel a pride in sustaining the character of their Institution, will, also, scarcely be questioned; with these prospects before them, he would recommend those who have influence in the township to cordially and energetically co-operate with each other in this truly great work.

In the course of the long and very eloquent speech, which, to do justice, would require a number of columns of our magazine, the worthy speaker pointed out, in a clear and comprehensive manner, the advantages that would result to the

Agriculturists of Whitby by deep ploughing—application of marl (carbonate of lime), of which an abundance of the richest description abounded in every concession of their township—and also a variety of other equally important Agricultural topics, of which time and space forbid us to report.

Before the assemblage dispersed, Abram Farewell, Esq., and our humble selves addressed a few congratulatory remarks, which were listened to, as throughout, with the profoundest attention. At the close of which three cheers were given "to the Ploughmen of Whitby," and the party retired to their homes well satisfied that the day was well spent.

The exports of Whitby, during the past year, equaled in value the sum of £45,000; and we have no doubt but that the amount will be increased fully 50 per cent. the present year. But few townships in the Province have greater advantages and more extensive resources, than the one under notice, and we are happy to add, that the people are abundantly intelligent to be aware that those resources and advantages are useless unless made available.

WEST GWILLIMBURY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

On the 1st inst., we attended a meeting at the village of Bradford, in the above township, for the purpose of assisting in organising a Township Society, in connection with the District Agricultural Society, established at Barrie. Owing to the bad state of the roads, the meeting was not largely attended, but those who were present comprised a number of the most wealthy and intelligent inhabitants of the township. The officers for the present year are as follows:—Wm. Armon, Esq., President; Robert Hodgson, Esq., Treasurer; Adam Goodfellow, Esq., Secretary; Messrs. John Goodfellow and Isaac B. Rodgers, Vice-Presidents; and a large and respectable Board of Directors. The opinion is confidently entertained by a considerable number in the township, that, by a little extra exertion on the part of the officers of their Society, the two Societies collectively will be able to raise, by subscription, the £100, which will entitle them to the £300 of Government Bounty. There need be no doubt entertained on this score, if only the Directors feel a lively interest in establishing a creditable character to their infant Institution. A large proportion of the township of West Gwillimbury cannot be surpassed, in point of natural advantages. The land is beautifully undulating, and was originally covered with a dense forest of sugar maple, elm, white oak, and beech. The surface soil is a deep black vegetable mould, based upon a rich chocolate-coloured calcareous earth, which only requires to be brought to the surface to receive the action of the winter frosts, to constitute it the best wheat land in the world. The Society have resolved upon having quarterly meetings, to discuss Agricultural topics and to adopt plans for effecting the objects of the Institution most of which we hope to attend. Our readers may, therefore, expect to hear from the Gwillimbury Society at least quarterly.

TOWNSHIP OF ALBION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Farmers in the township of Albion have organized themselves into a Branch Society, in unison with the scheme published in the December number of the *Cultivator*. The officers for the current year consist of James Johnson, Esq., Chairman; Mr. Daniel Switzer, Secretary; Mr. Charles Bolton, Treasurer; and the following Board of Directors:—James Monkman, Esq., Wm. Atchison, Thomas Spinks, Love Newlove, Seth Wilson, James Goodfellow, E. Q., Samuel B. Sterne, Esq., Thomas Bowes, H. Hudson, and Richard Bradley.

But few townships in the Province are better calculated for sheep husbandry, than Albion, and

as there is a certainty of a profitable market for wool being established in the District, we would advise our friends in that quarter to turn their attention largely to the improving their flocks of sheep, both for the wool and shambles. The Cheviot breed are well adapted to the climate and situation of this township.

TOWNSHIP OF YORK FAIR.

On the 22nd instant, we attended a fair and cattle show at York Mills, which came off with considerable spirit, and would have been very numerously attended if the notice had been more general. There were a number of very superior horses, cows, and swine on the ground, and the show on the whole was rather creditable, when the circumstance is taken into the account that the printed notices were only circulated four days in advance of the exhibition.

As soon as the judges awarded the prizes, the party retired to the hotel of Mr. Wm. Ross, where about 30 sat down to a well-served farmer's dinner. After the cloth was removed, a number of questions relating to the interests of the Institution were discussed, and the most active officers and members evinced a determination to persevere in their efforts, by exerting their influence with their neighbours until every respectable man in the township had his name enrolled on their list.

RUSSIAN SPRING WHEAT.

We would recommend those of our friends who are desirous of purchasing a superior sample of Spring Wheat, to call and examine a variety in the possession of J. M. Strange, Esq., Yonge-street, which has been recently imported direct from Russia. We have been to the trouble to test its germinating powers, and find it well adapted for seed, and have also weighed a bushel, the weight of which was exactly 61 lbs. net. The sample in question is of a very large bold berry; and by its general appearance, might be supposed, by competent judges, to be Winter Wheat.

THRASHING MACHINES.

We have received some enquiries relating to the subject of Thrashing Machines, from the town of Cayuga, Niagara District, and also from an agent in the Province of New Brunswick; and have instituted enquiries relative to the description of machines they require, in the several parts of the country that we have lately passed through, and have, as yet, been unable to meet with a machine in every respect suited to the wishes of our correspondents. They are desirous of purchasing a small simple cheap machine that may be worked with one or two horses and three or four hands, of a portable description. We know of no implement of husbandry that would take as well, through the provinces generally, as one that would cost about £15, and thrash about 60 or 80 bushels per day with the power just mentioned. Our machinists would do well to tax their ingenuity, and, if practicable, turn out a number of machines of the character described. We would almost be willing to guarantee an immediate sale for 100 provided they were built in a good style, and would execute their work in a proper manner. Such machines are in extensive use in the United States, and although patented, it would not extend to this country. We would, therefore, recommend those engaged in the business of manufacturing Thrashing Machines, to make a journey to Rochester or Buffalo, where they may at once see the machines we have described in complete operation.