

have much pleasure in noticing these facts, particularly as it has, in some quarters, been insinuated that a portion of the funds of the Association is given to these extra objects, with a view of rendering the Provincial Shows permanent at Kingston—an allegation which, it is almost unnecessary to say, is altogether imaginary. We will only remark further, that the Local Committee are striving to do their utmost in providing ample accommodations both for visitors and articles for exhibition. The wharfingers have liberally consented to forego all charges for landing and re-shipping Stock and all articles for the Show; while the President of the Association has generously promised to supply the necessary amount of hay without any charge, either to the exhibitors or the Association. We trust that such efforts will be nobly sustained by the country.

IMPORTANCE OF COLLECTING RAIN WATER.

Much might be done towards lessening the evils and discomforts occasioned by droughts by collecting in tanks, built underground, the rain water which falls on the roofs of houses and farm buildings. There are few families but what suffer inconveniences, more or less, during the driest portions of the season in Canada, from an insufficient supply of soft water; which is an essential in many of our domestic operations.

Rain water is undoubtedly the best not only for many domestic, but also for most garden and agricultural purposes; and an adequate supply of so essential an agent ought to be a primary consideration with every owner of a house and the smallest plot of ground. It has been carefully ascertained by actual experiments, that every hundred cubic inches of rain water contains more than four cubic inches of air, of which more than half is carbonic acid gas, and the remainder nitrogen and oxygen, in the proportion of 62 of the former to 38 of the latter. Rain water also contains a peculiar substance analagous to the extractive matter and glute of plants, though differing from them chemically. Compared with all other water naturally produced, it is so pure and so abounds with the gases beneficial to plants, that none other can equal it for their service. Water obtained from ponds and springs invariably contains matters offensive or deleterious to vegetation. The worst water is that called "hard water," containing, as it often does, an excess of salts and magnesia. If pond water be stagnant and loaded with vegetable extract, it is as bad as hard water, for it contains carburetted hydrogen and other matters exceedingly hurtful to vegetables. These last may be somewhat improved by the addition of an ounce of carbonate of ammonia to each gallon. Water, heat and air are the three active principles in inducing the germination of the seed and the after developement of the plant. Remove any one of them and their existence ceases. The purer each of these elements are the better. Water containing deleterious ingredients, artificial heat produced by fire beyond certain limits and unaccompanied with a due proportion of humidity, and vitiated air, are all alike inimical to vegetable existence. Rain water is usually much warmer than that derived from springs and wells, and on that account is much better adapted to the purposes of the farmer and gardener in reference to the promotion of the growth of plants; many of which are often injured rather than benefited by the injudicious application of cold spring water.