

cultural produce there has been a signal reduction of imports during the last year, and in oats and in barley we have obtained an export for the first time. All these important views and facts, for the satisfaction of the province, I have thrown into a tabular form, which is subjoined to this Report, and the results of which abundantly establish our growing prosperity.

At the desire of his Excellency the Governor, an account of the Imports and Exports for the years 1818 and 1819 has been obtained from the Custom House in order to ascertain the agricultural state of the province before the existence of the Provincial Agricultural Society; but it is unnecessary minutely to go into all these particulars, as it would too much complicate the details now presented, to carry the comparison so far back. This Society began its operations in the spring of 1819 and can be supposed to have influenced but slightly the agricultural produce of that season. I shall just observe, that although the imports of both these years fall short of those of the succeeding, they swell greatly beyond those of 1822. In the first of those years we imported 51,095 barrels and 1181 half barrels of flour; and in 1819 the further amount of 50,716 barrels, 2043 half barrels and 350 bags, with bread, wheat, Indian corn and meal in proportion.

These statements should suffice to banish all despondence about our future prospects, and to inspire an unhesitating confidence in the capabilities of a country, which has repaid our efforts with so much liberality. They should also have a due effect on the guardians of the public expenditure,—inasmuch as undoubted proofs are furnished that the former grants have neither been unprofitable nor misapplied, and that every shilling taken from the treasury has been a mean of lessening our imports, and of thus saving our circulating medium; to say nothing of the great addition made to the provincial wealth. To sum up the whole, I am inclined to believe, that in the history of domestic improvement, no parallel can be found to the prodigious advances we have made in the short space of four years; and that if the mechanism now in motion, by which this province is ascending so fast to independence in corn, be neither broken down nor materially clogged in its operations, we shall soon rise superior to all our difficulties.

Halifax, March 12th, 1823.

JOHN YOUNG, Secretary.