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Omniun rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturâ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero : de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

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By request of the President of the Parrsborough Agricultural Society, we publish his reply to a letter of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture.

The Parrsborough Society had been for many years expending a large portion of its means annually in premiums for compost heaps, growing crops, and the erection of manure sheds, &c., and the Board of Agriculture, thinking that enough money had been spent in that way to effect substantial improvement in the district, directed the Secretary to call the Society's attention to the improvement of live stock.

The Society replies that one of their number is in favour of importing a jack-ass, so that they may raise mules to "live on very little hay, and that of the poorest quality, and labour with good endurance." If these words represent the actual condition of Parrsborough, that the farmers do, or wish to, feed their animals with "very little hay, and that of the poorest quality," then there can no longer be any doubt but that the premiums offered for growing crops, composts and sheds have failed to effect as much benefit as could be wished. The cost of hay purchased by Parrsborough farmers last season, amounted by estimate to be-

tween eight and sixteen thousand dollars. The great want is want of feed. For this reason the object of the Society has been to stimulate the raising of hay, grain, and vegetables. It appears, however, by their own showing, that they have not succeeded, the obvious reason being that they have tried to enrich their farms out of nothing, by getting prizes for sheds and cellars and crops, instead of purchasing bone-dust, and guano, and superphosphates, or producing rich stable manure by high feeding,—the only ways in which the fertility of their land may be restored.

It is argued that they know by experience that it is feed and not breed that is wanted. This is a mistake. There has been no experience of thorough-bred animals in Parrsborough.

Another objection to thorough-bred stock is their great price; but Parrsborough farmers surely know that the just value of a thing is just the money it will bring.

Still another, that being raised in a milder climate, and with richer food, imported cattle deteriorate. There is no ground whatever for this assertion. There is no harder cattle on the face of the earth than the Devons and Short Horns.

Then a charge is made that high-sounding names and pedigrees are given to animals, and corresponding prices asked and given, sometimes for animals utterly worthless as breeders. A gentleman gave £70 for a cow that never produced a calf nor a quart of milk. That was an accident. How few out of all the animals imported by the Board of Agriculture have proved worthless! This Province has been remarkably fortunate in that respect; the number of barren animals has been less in proportion than in any public or private herd that we are acquainted with.

"Sheep have often been bought in England that died with the scab before they were landed here, and those that were landed infected and ruined other flocks." To this we can only reply that no infected animal has ever, to our knowledge, been either bought for, or imported into, this Province.

Fifty or sixty years ago horses were imported, and it was remarked that horses were not so good after the importation. Our correspondent has us here, as memory fails us. We cannot enter upon a geological discussion of fossil facts or fancies.

Sixty years ago a gentleman imported