

ent centre round which to rally, a room where they can display their handiwork, and exchange their thoughts, with a view to mutual improvement and combined co-operation.

There are others who, on such an occasion as this, it would be gross ingratitude not to remember, associated as their names and labors are with our material progress. The Duke of Kent brought the first fine breed of horses to Nova Scotia. Lord Dalhousie lent the influence of his high station and zealous personal exertions to the improvement of our agriculture, and his example, as well said on the opening day, was followed by Sir Gaspard LeMarchant. Thomas King, of Windsor, made Retreat a model farm, and the Hon. Charles Prescott devoted a long and useful life to the improvement of our orchards, both by precept and example. To Titus Smith we owe the first dawnings of natural science in this country; and to Dr. McCulloch we are indebted, not only for some knowledge of chemistry, but for lessons of thrift, conveyed to our agricultural classes in a homely style, at once quaint and attractive.

There is one name that the Chief Justice did not mention on the opening day; one that is rarely mentioned now, but that, on such occasions as this, ought never to be forgotten, the name of his father the late John Young. I am old enough to remember when the Letters of Agricola created almost as great a sensation among the farmers of Nova Scotia as did the Waverley novels among the literati of Great Britain, and his subsequent rural and political life was passed under my observation. I knew him well, and it is no disparagement to his sons to say that he was an abler man than either. Though somewhat too portly he was a graceful and impressive speaker, and a writer of singular eloquence and power. His range of knowledge on economic questions and rural affairs was extensive and profound. Coming from Scotland at a time when Sir John Sinclair and other practical thinkers had vastly improved its husbandry, he soon became keenly alive to the defects in our own; and his pen, ranging over the whole field, roused our farmers to greater exertions as with a blast of the trumpet. At that time wheat was rarely cultivated; oat mills did not exist, and oat-meal, only used for gruel, was imported by the druggists. Our ploughmen were not skilful, and sub-soil ploughing, the use of lime, rotation of crops and composting were but lightly valued or little known. Our breeds had run out, and our farmers took little pride in an occupation which, after the high prices of the American war had passed away, seemed hardly worth pursuing. It is but fair to own that all this was changed by the letters of Agricola, and by the exertions of the Central Board and the County societies which were organized after their publication. The growth and expansion of our rural life, as I have sketched it, and the improved production of our soil, as illustrated by this Exhibition, date from this period; and I am sure you will pardon me for thus lingering for a moment beside the grave of one to whom we are so much indebted for the material prosperity we enjoy.

But you ask me what of the future? Of the political aspects of our