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Published under direction of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid adquiritur, nihil est agricultură melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

VOL. III.

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY, 1878.

No. 11.

Ten Copies of this Journal are sent, Postage Prepaid, to every Agricultural Society in the Province, in payment of which a reduced charge of \$4 is deducted annually from each Society's Grant. Societies requiring their copies addressed separately to individual Members will be charged \$5. Any greater number of Copies to one address may be obtained at the same rate of \$40 per hundred. The Annual Subscription for a single Copy is Fifty Cents, payable strictly in advance.

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 unrually in premitius 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 jackass, 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 obyious 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 hardier cattle on the face of the earth than the Devons and Short Horns.

Then a charge is made that highsounding 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

a boar and sow, whose stock, in after years, fell to the level of the onlinary breed of the country. Very likely, if means were not taken to infuse new blood.

Further it is alleged, in portations of animals are made by individual farmers, so that Societies are not required for this purpose. If so, why should they be required for sheds and compost heaps?

However, Mr. Dickson's letter contains much sensible matter. He points out how the country adapts 'itself to its most urgent wants, and how Agri cultural Societies may prove most effective. In the encouragement of orchards, and grain and root-growing, we believe the Parrsborough Society has done good service to the district. The Board of Agriculture has but one wish in regard to it, and that is that its efforts may be wisely directed to objects that are really worthy of the attention of such a longestablished and respectable organization. The Society may be conservative in its ways; if so, let it adopt the D'Israeli motto, the motto of the right kind of conservatism, to keep what is useful of the old, and throw away what is useless, to make room for the new.

WE are always glad to see the newspapers notice prodigies on the farms. The following is from the "Pictou Standard:"

"Mr. John Meagher has now a three year old heifer that turns the beam at 1010 lbs. The beast was raised by Mr. John Dunn, of Merigomish, on his farm, and is of common, though of good stock. This example shows that our native cattle, if properly cared for, will result as well as more famed breeds, the animal spoken of having received no extraordinary care beyond good feeding and treatment. Those not having a clear idea of the weight of cattle will better understand by the statement that this fine heifer weighs precisely as much as two good beasts of the same age owned by Mr. Meagher."

The above reads like a plea for "our native cattle." We would observe, however, that it is not an occasional exceptional beast that makes profitable farming. What is wanted is stock with a uniformity of character, whether for beef or dairy purposes. This can be obtained only by using thorough-bred bulls that have the capacity of impressing upon the stock the quality desired. Occasionally a giant in size, or a profuse milker, rises up spontaneously out of the common herd, but this is merely an accident. With thorough-bred or high-grade cattle we can obtain any desired quality. Size is one, and an important consideration, and is to be attained chiefly by using Short-Horn Durham stock. The Pictou boss heifer is not so remarkable for size when compared with these. Last month we gave particulars of a three year old steer that weighed 22001bs. after being driven 6 miles to the scales, and of a three year old steer that weighed 2555 lbs.

WE have to thank the publishers, John Dongall & Son, of Montreal, for a copy of Vennor's Winter Almanae and Weather Record for 1877-78. It is a neat little sandwich of advertisement leaves and weather realing, spiced by proverbs and personal experiences. The chapter on meteorological instruments is the most useful in the book. Our first thought was that the Almanac might be a nice, intelligible, account of our weather, for Canadians to send to their friends in England, to enable them to realize what kind of a climate we really have in this part of the world. But, alas! when we read "the year 1877 reviewed," our surmise was at once dispelled. The facts stated are no doubt perfectly true to the letter, but they consist for the most part of the meteorological calamities of the year. It is in fact a Winter Almanac that carries stormy weather all through the Summer.

January: "The first of January found us well snowed in." "The last week of 1876 was especially blustry," "trains blockaded," "heavy drifts and snow falls," "snow fell on 19 days, making a total snow fall of 23.6 inches." At Montreal, in January, "14 clear days," "9 of snow," "3 rain or sleet," ten "cold" days, 8 "extremely mild or thawing," "altogether a severe month." Between 11th and 12th, thermometer fell to 21° below zero. Then follows elaborate accounts of the blocking of railroads and roads from Winnipeg to Halifax, and the havoc among water pipes, ending with the thermometer in New Brunswick on 23rd, at 39 and forty degrees below zero. No, not ending, for we turn the page only to find a thunder-storm on 20th, which set on fire the Roman Catholic church steeple at Cacouna. As if all this were not enough, the United States are ransacked for additional weather sensations. In Massachusetts the snow lay from 2½ to 3 feet on the level; ice was 16 inches thick, snowy owls abounded in such numbers, &c. A snow storm destroyed nine houses near Alta, and buried the occupants, the last mentioned being apparently the only benign, redceming, fact on the page. The estimated loss to New York city by the great snow storm was \$1,-000,000.

February: "Memorable for its exceeding mildness," and "the small amount of moisture," &c. The good weather is briefly dispatched. Our author gets rapidly again into his favourite war of elements. "Old Boreas came down to-day good and strong, and everything is freezing up." "On the western road snow-ploughs have gone through drifts 8 feet deep." "The tops of the fences are covered along many miles of road, and there are drifts the like of which have not been seen for many years. In Gaspe, "travel completely stopped."

March: "Heavy gales." "The weather has a very Vennor-able appearance."
"Street railway blockaded in Surnia."
"A heavy full of snow accompanied by thunder and lightning." Ico soon disappeared from harbours.

April: Mild, hawks 2 weeks before their time. "Heavy floods," "serious loss of life." The bridge opposite Montreal caved in near both shores, and a general shove took place." "Bridge" is a Montreal localism for the ice on the river. At Ottawa "a little boy was affected by sunstroke;" "a thunder-storm."

May: Favourable spring. "Spring (in France) continues to be as capricious as a woman—one day a smile, and the next a concealment, mocking, poor citizens." But in New Brunswick, "a foot of snow fell." "Great bush fires;" "two cases of sunstroke." On 18th a very disastrous storm which blew down the Roman Catholic church at St. Hypolite, killing Rev. Mr. Boileau and his son; heat almost unprecedented.

June: Very warm, "Two nights of frost," crops destroyed, snow, hailstones the size of walnuts, lightning struck down houses, barns and trees, and killed valuable cattle.

July: "The stormiest on record for a number of years." Church spire struck, houses unroofed, trees torn up, a terrible whirlwind in Wisconsin, vessels driven ashore and wrecked at Gaspe, City Hall bell at Ottawa struck. A furious storm, the heaviest hailstones ever witnessed, church windows smashed, ground covered with grain, an earthquake on land and at

August: The driest in a score of years. "Heavy rains of last week have done great damage to the grain." A hailstorm of unusual severity. Whilst our author was driving forty miles north of Ottawa. a terriffic storm occurred, hailstones "as large as plums." "The hailstones, during the storms which were of daily occurrence between the 10th and 15th, frequently lay on the ground for 24 hours without melting." "Some of the hailstones were as large as good-sized hen's eggs." " Fowls were killed, and travellers were obliged totakerefuge," &c. In Onslow many thought "the end" was at hand. At Aylwin the school-house was struck, the heels of a girl's boots were torn off by the lightning, eight bushels of peas per acre were threshed out by the hail, and the electric fluid shocked a sergeant in the Montreal Central Police Station.

September: The daily record, no sensational facts.

October : Do.

November: Earthquake (two pages) is the only kind of weather set forth in this month.

December's casualties were not ready, we presume, when the Almanac was issued.

We believe that Mr. Vennor has done good service in keeping up an interest in Meteorology, whatever we may think of his predictions; but, if his object in "reviewing" the weather of the past has been to give anything like an accurate account of the climate, for the information of those wishing to form an opinion of the country, we must say that he has made a lamentable mistake. We acquit him of any bad motive, but no enemy of the country could possibly draw a grosser caricature than he has done by collecting and condensing into one picture the winds, snows, hails, lightnings, floods, whirlwinds, bush fires, and appalling accidents of a continent, as if they were the normal condition of Canada. The book contains ample evidence that the author could, if he liked, give us a thoroughly scientific Manual of Meteorology, that would be useful here, and might serve, by circulation in other countries, to correct the extraordinary views that provail in reference to our climate. We hope that next year's issue will be of such a char-

WE are much pleased to hear of the organization of a Poultry and Pet Club in Halifax. We don't know much as yet about its rules and regulations, not even what its name will be, but as its promoters include in their number such live ornithologists as Mr. Downs, Mr. H. Crosskill, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Piers, Mr. Mackinlay, jr., Mr. Egan, as well as florists like Mr. Harris, we feel assured that the scheme will be carried out with success. We hope the ornithologists and poultry keepers all over the Province will join the Club, and help to form a strong organization, so that Exhibitions worthy of the Province may be held. For many years past, much attention has been given here to the raising of thorough-bred Poultry, but, for want of association, improvers have hitherto been working in ignorance of each other's doings.

Since writing the above, we find the following in the papers:—

Poultry and Flower Association.—This Association, the probability of the formation of which was mentioned in the Herald some days ago, has been organized, and officers have been selected, as follows:—Andrew Downs, Esq., President; II. Harris, Vice-President; Mr. R. J. Wilson, Secretary; Mr. T. Gondge, Assistant Secretary; A. Mackinlay, Esq., Treasurer. The Association starts with good prospects of a successful and useful existence, as the gentlemen who have taken it in hand are all earnest in the work. Though mostly annateurs, there are some professionals, such as Mr. Downs, whose reputation as a naturalist is world wide, and Mr. Harris, with a reputation as a florist something more than Provincial."

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held yesterday afternoon, it was slag doubtless, not from decided to hold the first exhibition of stated in the paragraph.

poultry and flowers on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 26th, 27th and 28th February, 1878. Place to be decided on at a future meeting of committee.

Notice.—Halifax Veterinary College.—The Classes of the Halifax Veterinary College will commence on the third of January, 1878, and not on the 3rd of July, as stated in last copy of this Journal, by an error in setting the type. Gentlemen being Members of any Agricultural Society in the Province, can have, free of charge, on sending a stamped envelope with address, professional Veterinary Advice on the diseases of the domestic animals.

C. H. BYRNE, V. S., Principal, Grafton Street, Halifax.

It is well known that some species of wild duck show a preference for the seaside and sait water; but the domestic duck is supposed to be exclusively a fresh water species. Salt, it is often said, is a poison to ducks. It appears that this idea is completely erroneous. Our Yarmouth correspondent, C. E. Brown, Esq., writes :-- "It is new to me that salt wat r was supposed to be prejudicial to the duck. Our largest flocks are where the ducks have free access to the salt marshes and creeks, and maintain themselves on shell fish until the fattening season approaches. I had an odd case of adaptation to circumstances a year or two since. A turkey's egg was placed with a setting of ducks, merely to fill out, and partly from curiosity, and when hatched the product was allowed to go to the water; the turkey accompanied them, waded in and swam with the rest; the mother, a hen, considered herself too old to learn to swim, and followed her broud along the shore."

An active member of one of the County Agricultural Societies writes as follows, in reference to the next Provincial Exhibition:—"There should be enterprise and public spirit enough to raise the necessary fund without recourse to taxation. The difficulty, no doubt is to find men who have ability and leisure to take it in hand. The hotel keepers and the traders will profit most largely, and should subscribe liberally.

30,000 visitors \$20 each.........\$600,000 500 traders to average \$1000. 500,000

Say.....\$1,100,000

to be expended in the city during Exhibition week.

Profession How has kindly sent to us a sample of the slag wool referred to last month, which was made from British slag doubtless, not from Nictaux slag as stated in the paragraph.

N. S. PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

Provincial Library, Dec. 20, 1877.

Present: His Worship the Mayor, in the chair; Wm. Duffus, Esq., Chairman of Committee of Halifax Co. Agricultural Society; G. J. Troop, Esq., Alexander Anderson, Esq., J. E. Chipman, Esq., Professor Lawson, Secretary.

Resolved, That the Committee recommend that application be made to have the Provincial Exhibition held in the city of Halifax, in the year 1879.

That a draft be prepared of an Act to empower the Court of Sessions for the County of Halifax to add to the yearly assessment the sum of \$10,000 for the erection of suitable Exhibition Buildings, in or near the city. Mr. J. Norman Ritchie, Q. C., to be requested to draft the Act.

That the draft be submitted to the Court of Sessions of the County, the City Council of Halifax, and the Town Council of Dartmouth.

The Committee are of opinion that if a sufficient extent of land in a suitable locality can be obtained, and buildings erected thereon by a joint stock company, who may utilize them for other purposes, such as cricket ground, driving park, skating rink, poultry and flower shows, concerts, and other public assemblies, it will be preferable to any other scheme that has been submitted. Messrs. Duffus, Troop, Anderson and Chipman, were named as a committee to wait upon influential citizens with a view to carrying this into effect.

HALIFAX COLLEGE OF SCIENCE.

A SECOND meeting of the gentlemen interested in the establishment of a College of Science and Technology in this city was held in the Library room of Dalhousie College on 21st Dec. There were present, Profs. Lawson and Macdonald, and Doctors Honeyman, Sommers, Page, Mackenzie and Bayne; and Messrs. Liechti, Gilpin and Keating.

Dr. Lawson, as Chairman, laid before those present the steps that had been taken at a previous meeting, and explained fully the object contemplated by the movers in the matter. He intimated also that already offers of class-room accommodation for teaching purposes had been made; that the Hall in the Public Gardens and the Provincial Museum would, no doubt, be placed at the disposal of the projected school of science; and that the Chemical and Physical Laboratories of the Medical College and Dalhousie College would also be accessible to students, as well as his own Botanical Herbarium.

Dr. Honeyman showed that the collection at the Provincial Museum, which would be at the disposal of the faculty for teaching purposes, afforded excellent facilities for instruction. The Ichthyological collection had been rendered almost complete by recent additions from the United States by the Scientific Commission who had spent the summer in this city,—and thus, together with the very extensive Geological and Mineralogical collections, afforded peculiar advantages in teaching Natural Science.

Various opinions were expressed as to the nature of the contemplated course. It seemed to be the opinion of the majority that two objects must be subserved by any school of Science in this province. (1.) the imparting of an extended scientific course of instruction, such as would qualify for a science degree, and form in itself a liberal education. (2.) the supplying of special instruction in certain professional subjects. The College must have a practical as well as a theoretical Technical education should be provided in order to meet the wants of an industrial and commercial people, and the provision of such instruction did not seem incompatible with the higher aims of a scientific course. The attendance of individuals upon partial courses of study might at once be hoped for. Affiliation with the University of Halifax would secure for the College students preparing for the degrees in Science of that University. The gentlemen present intimated their willingness to assist in the instruction to be provided. Some Professors from other parts of the Province had intimated their sympathy, and also willingness to aid in the work, if requisite.

A committee consisting of Dr. Lawson, Mr. Keating, Dr. Mackenzie, Dr. Honeyman, and Dr. Rayne, was named to consider in detail the subjects of a course of study, and to report at a future meeting.

YARMOUTH Co. AGRICULTURAL EXHI-BITION .- The Exhibition evinced continued progress in agricultural matters in this County. The improvement in fruit was especially noteworthy. Who would have imagined, only a few years ago, that to-day Yarmouth would rank tourth in the Province as an applegrowing County? Yet such is the fact. The samples of peaches raised by Capt. Hugh Cann were as fine as any we ever saw in the States, and indeed all the fruit exhibited was very creditable. In vegetables we believe Yarmouth will favorably compare with any other part For example, Mr. of the Province. Zachariah Patten exhibited 3 squashes weighing respectively, 124, 136 and 142 pounds. Mr. Jos. Burrell took the first prize for cabbage, but Mr. James Jeffery had some which weighed from 211 to 27 lbs. each.—Y. Herald.

SOME NEGLECTED ARTICLES OF FOOD.

(From a Lady Correspondent.)

The following is an extract from a paper in "Cassell's Family Magazine," which, I hope, will be read by the farmers in Nova Scotia, for it applies to parts of Nova Scotia as well as to England:

To any person accustomed to American life and habits, there is nothing more extraordinary than the absolute disfavour and neglect with which two prime transatlantic favourites are treated in England. Bereft of Indian meal and the pumpkin, the American housekeeper would be indeed a lost woman, and breakfast, dinner and "high" tea be shorn of more than their attractions. The prejudice against the former is to me a source of continual wonder, and when we discover that the principal sufferers from it are little children, we shall be rather sorrowful too, the nursery dictary being, at best of times, a very limited one. Perpetual bread-andbutter or bread-and-milk, with occasional diversions into oatmeal porridge, and boiled eggs, are the daily food of most children throughout the United Kingdom; and if this talk on paper should persuade one mother to add Indian meal in its infinite varieties and possibilities of preparation, to the list, it will be a rich reward for the trouble of writing it. Servants' prejudices are the general cause, I fancy, of the rejection of this delicious food. Children, as a rule, if carefully guarded and brought up, have really no likes or dislikes, I think, although they are too ready to pick up ideas of what is "nice" or "nasty" from their elders. In proof of this we see likes and dislikes continually expressed by little children, evidently copying papa and mamma, who have, in our hearing, frequently said the same. As I have mentioned oatmeal porridge I will begin with what our American cousins call "mush," a very pleasant substitute for it, and much more nourishing.

"Mush" is made in the same way as ordinary porridge, the meal being carefully stirred into the water, while boiling, until the mixture is of the proper consistency; a little salt should be added, and the whole boiled about ten minutes. It can then be turned into a dish, and eaten with milk or "golden syrup."

"Mush" is known amongst the lower orders in Italy under the name of "polenta," and forms a great part of their daily food, and is sometimes mixed with the flour made from the chestnuts which flourish so wonderfully there.

A careful analysis, made by the late Professor Johnson, proves the corn meal to be richer in gluten and fatty matter than wheaten flour, with much less starch is excellent, as any flavour can be given.

and water, to which circumstance it owes its extremely nutritive character. The attempt made by Mr. Cobett to introduce the cultivation of it in England failed, owing to the variableness of the climate. It can be grown in the Channel Islands, however, as I have eaten it there as a green vegetable, boiled, and brought to the table on the stem or in "cobs," they are called; and a most delicious addition to the table it is, though mostly used at breakfast. English people, upon first arriving in America, are usually much shocked at the primitive way in which it is "gnawed" off the cob by the natives, and fancy they never could fall into such a really disgusting-looking habit. A few days' futile and discouraging attempts at cutting and shaving it off with a knife are usually sufficient, and they quietly drop into the manners and customs of those about them, to their own evident enjoyment. When cold, "mush" is very nice fried-cut into thin slices and fried a nice brown. It can then be eaten with preserve of some kind, or with sugar and a squeeze of lemon juice.

Hommy, which is a different method of preparing the corn, can now, I hear, be obtained in London. The corn is ground nearly into meal, the broken grains being larger than a pin's head. The flour is then sifted from it, and the husks and bran carefully taken away. The way of preparing it for breakfast, to be used as porridge, is by boiling one pint with two pints of water for about twenty minutes, by which time it will have soaked up all the water; skimming carefully and standing it on the hob for twenty minutes more to soak again. It is eaten either warm or cold, with milk, sugar, butter or treacle. Boil half a pound in milk, add three-quarters of a pound of butter, three or four eggs, nutineg, and a little grated lemon-peel, with sugar to your taste. Mix the ingredients carefully, and bake in the oven in a pie-

The other neglected esculent is the pumpkin, called in France—where its virtues are much esteemed—"Le Roi Potiron," (King Pumpkin), a grand fête being held in his honour at the Halles Centrales in Paris, at about the middle of September, when the beautiful, bright yellow-green gourd is in perfection. It can be grown equally well in England, I am told, and certainly would prove a very valuable addition to the food of the people, could they be induced, by the example and precept of their superiors to adopt it. In America the pumpkin is an old and well-established favorite, and pumpkin pies, jams and preserves are made in every ferm-house. As a groundwork to the latter, the pulp of the pumpkin is excellent, as any flavour can be given.

Parrsborough, 6th April, 1877.

DEAR SIR,-

I DULY received your letter of the 1st February, 1877, " calling, by direction of the Central Board of Agriculture, the attention of our Society to the terms of the Act for the Encouragement of Agriculture, respecting the expenditure of monies, and conveying their opinion that the giving of premiums on so large a scale as our Society does for compost, growing of crops, &c., is not so desirable as the improvement of live steck."

The letter was read at a meeting of our officers and members on the 3rd inst. A member who is a practical and successful farmer, following no other occupation, being present, remarked that we ought to import a Jackass to breed with our Marcs, so as to have mules rather than horses and oxen, which are so expensive to rear and feed, to do our work, as is done in some other countries. The mule will live on very little hay and that of the poorest quality, and labor with great endurance.

The fault or misfortune with a great many here, who cultivate land, is that they strive too much to keep stock, so that when there is a short crop of hay, (their chief dependence for fodder), great expense and loss falls upon them. This was the case last year, causing a regular stampede from here to Amherst, Maccan, Minudie and Nappan for hay, on the first sledding the winter. The price was high in those places, and it is estimated that the cost to Parrsborough for hay bought out of it this winter was from two to four thousand pounds, and it is still coming in vessels. The same thing occurred about twelve years ago, when it was said the Parrsborough people bought at least four thousand pounds worth of hay that year. It occurs also, but to a less extent, almost every year. You will see in this fact one reason why there is less enthusiasm among our farmers about purchasing imported stock than is witnessed in many other parts of the Province, where there is a greater supply of good hay, and larger crops of grain, potatoes and turnips, enabling their farmers to raise and fatten cattle to advantage. We never hear a complaint here of poor cattle, but constantly of poor feed, small quantities of it, and of the minimum quantity of bread stuffs raised by ourselves. The 1 sion of our Society, therefore, has been to stimulate all in its power the raising of larger quantities of hay, grain, and vegetables, as the proper basis for improving With this view, to enlarge our stock. the manure heap, and increase its value as a fertilizer, was always considered by us an object of the first importance. We know by experience that with an abundant supply of such food, we can make our cattle anything that can be desired in the saving importation from England, the bred imported stock, any one, two or

way of Beef, even without the intervention of imported breeds. The largest pair of oxen ever raised in Nova Scotia up to the year 1860, were just the native breed, specially cared for from the time they were calves; they were raised in Colchester, and their beef, in Halifax, weighed nearly 4000 lbs. The owner, however, lost heavily by them. He only obtained £60 for them at six years old. He was offered £50 for them when about three years old. The last winter he fed them they cost about £8 per month. Farmers in the lower towns so called, viz :- Windsor, Cornwallis, Horton and Annapolis, still feed their beef cattle two seasons before sending them to market. In Cumberland, Colchester and counties to the Eastward, they are only fed on grass and hay, for one season, and it has generally been allowed that farmers from these counties have had the clearest profit from their beef cattle. A farmer here some thirty years ago was offered £17 for a yoke of oxen by a Horton farmer to whom he was indebted that sum. He said no, I will feed them with hay and potatoes through the winter, take them to Halifax in the spring and then get cash for my feed as well as cattle; they only brought enough to pay for the hay and potatoes they ate or for the cattle in the Fall; thus all he got for the hay and potatoes the cattle consumed in the winter was the manure they made, which was not worth enough to pay for their care and the expense of taking them to market. Formerly, fifty, sixty and seventy years ago, when hay and potatoes were less than half the price they have been of late years, and when beef was about the same price it is now, the stall feeding of cattle could be done with more profit than at present.

There are other reasons why the farmers here have not such a phrensy for imported stock as they seem to have in other parts of the province. Among these are their great cost, often very far above their intrinsic value. Different sales of the importations by the Central Board of Agriculture, not only of late years, but in former years, during the time of "Agricola," shew this. Being Being raised in a milder climate, and where there is richer feed, imported cattle detoriorate when brought here and become in a few years like our own, unless kept up with an abundance of short feed. Until acclimatised they are in fact inferior to our own. Our farmers think that the proper way to improve their breeds is to educe them from the best animals of our own herds. Constantly pursuing this plan the best of breeds for all the different purposes required, viz :-- labor, beef, and the dairy, can be obtained, thus

United States, the Upper Provinces of Canada, or elsewhere. The proposed Stock Farm favors this idea. It has been repeatedly noticed here, that our cattle, when taken across the Bay, or to Cumberland Proper, where the feed is so much richer than ours, that they immediately improve, while the reverse is the case when cattle from those places are brought here. Another reason is that our farmers are constantly making purchases themselves to cross and improve their breeds, and sometimes with good success. Another reason is that in those instances where we have deviated from our general rule, and bought animals with the funds of the Society, we have not noticed any very marked improvement, while it has been attended with much trouble and expense, in some instances with the loss of the animals. Another reason is the many accidents and failures that we hear of and read of, where animals have been procured at great expense by societies and individuals.

There is yet another reason often lost sight of, viz:—the imposition practised by and upon those handling public monies. High sounding names and pedigrees are given to animals, and high prices accordingly asked and given, sometimes for animals utterly worthless as breeders. A gentleman in this county once gave £70 for a cow at an auction sale of imported cattle and the cow never produced a calf or a quart of milk. 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. About fifty or sixty years ago, several thoroughbred horses were imported from England, and it was everywhere remarked, a few years afterwards, that our horses were not so good as they were before this importation. They were good for the race course and the heavy draught work in England, but not well adapted for our purposes. There was therefore much dissatisfaction and disappointment, and seldom, from that time to this, have importations of thoroughbred horses been made with public monies. This kind of work left in the hands of farmers and horse funciers themselves would be more economically and more successfully done than by public bodies with public money. A Nova Scotia gentleman, about sixty years ago, had a boar and sow brought to him from England. They were beautiful animals, and their progeny for a few years were beautiful and apparently superior to the native breed, but in a short time they fell to the ordinary level of the ordinary breeds of the country. There was therefore no more desire for imported pigs at that time. If farmers in any locality had confidence in the great value of thoroughthree of them in any part of the Province, could do it themselves, and would do so without waiting for any society or the Central Board to act for them. Importations have been made repeatedly in this way by our farmers from the Upper Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, the United States and England.

Our Society was organized thirty-five years ago, with a view of promoting the growth of grain, other crops, and orcharding, and of circulating information concerning agricultural literature, rather than the holding of exhibitions or attending to the improvement of live stock. The terms of the Act then, as now, gave the Society a general scope of objects to expend their money upon, if they did not desire to have exhibitions, but with the permission of the Central Board. With the special permission of the Central Board of that day, and sanctioned by the different Central Boards over since, we have kept those objects steadily in view. Parrsboro' was considered then as now a backwoodplace for farming, compared with many other places in the Province, as it has so few marshes to supply hay or manure, and because navigation, ship-building and lumbering are the leading occupations of its people, yet much is done in the way of agriculture, and there is a chance for doing much more, when capital, industry and skill are properly applied to the business. Amidst the discouragement of long wireters, failures in crops, poor markets, high wages, and distance from our chief markets, many are persevering and studying closely how to make their farms fruitful and paying. Several have achieved a good measure of success both in crops and live stock, and their example in management and industry has a beneficial influence over those who-are still striving for the same success. There is a decided improvement looking back to thirty-five years in which our Society may fairly claim some credit for the encouragement it has given to the different branches of the farmer's business. Thirty-five years ago there was a prejudice against raising wheat, it was said it would not ripen near the sea-shore on account of fogs, we have proved that it ripens just as well on the sea-shore as on the inland farms. For forty years in succession it was sown on a farm lying on the seashore, except for two years, and never once was there a failure either from rust, weevil or fog. Inland farms were partially affected by the weevil during the years that insect prevailed, but no fields of wheat or farms near the sea-shore were attacked by it. It was also said that fogs would prevent us from raising apples on the sea-shore, that theory has also been proved to be erroneous from long

experience. Thirty-five years ago no attention had been paid to making composts. Agricola's twelve celebrated letters on composts and manures had not been road, or, if read, not acted upon. Now the compost heap is looked upon as indispensible about every barn, owing in a great measure to the stimulus given by the bounties of our Society and the information circulated concerning them by Covered sheds for saving manure under is now receiving special attention from the Society, with the decided approbation of the many farmers who have experimented with them. With plenty of manure of a good quality, the farmer can always have good crops, except when afflicted with providential scourge, such as the potato blight, the weevil in wheat, or an unpropitious season, such as a drouth, too much rain, a too late or too early frost. With plenty of hay and grain and large stores of vegetables, which compost and top dressing do much to ensure, he may always have his cattle, horses, sheep and pigs in prime condition, save when attacked by disease, or when they meet with accidents, maining or killing them. These cannot always be prevented, but they are frequently cured of injuries and sickness, so that the losses from these causes have generally been light in this district.

The country naturally adapts itself to its most urgent wants. In managing the Society here it has been governed by the most pressing suggestions of its members. These members are the practical farmers of the country, and know better what is needed than the Central Board itself, which is sometimes composed of men more theoretical than practical in their ideas and knowledge of farming, and not intimate like our own farmers with our local defects and wants. If the result of an experiment should be a failure, it would be no individual loss to any one of the members of the Central Board; but the same failure would be injurious to a week society or to the practical individual farmer. To meet the wishes of members who at different times have required the Society to experiment in Stock, it has purchased five bulls, six rams and a boar. A loss of sixteen dollars was sustained on the bulls, four of the six rams were lost, and the other two sold at a discount entailing a loss of about thirty dollars on the Society. No earnings from the rams is credited, but a good deal of indirect benefit is acknowledged. The boar, a white chester, cost upwards of eighty dollars for his keeping, for three years, and his earnings were some two or three pounds and as much more on being sold. The improvement derived from him is very generally acknowledged, although we had a very satisfactory breed of pigs able or not willing to make. We have

in the place before procuring him. We now have a resolution on our books allowing us to purchase a thorough-bred Ayrshire Bull, but limited to a cost of twenty dollars, and another resolution allowing us to purchase a thorough-bred Jersey Bull, limiting us to a cost of forty dollars, delivered here. The object in these purchases is, it possible, to improve our dairy stock, to which business considerable attention is given by our farmers. We are willing to carry out these resolutions, not merely to comply with the terms of our Agricultural Act, or to meet the wishes of the Central Board, but to answer the demands of those members of our Society who are urging it, and in the hope of conferring a great benefit on our section of the country. We wish, how-ever, to proceed slowly and cautiously for fear of imposition and failure, and thus damaging the standing and credit of the Society, and accomplishing little or

In offerring bounties on covered sheds for saving manure under and for top dressing, we had no idea that there would be so large a draft on our funds for them as there was last fall or we would have made them much smaller. As they were promised, however, we paid them in full to prevent dissatisfaction and willingly satisfied that it was every way beneficial.

Our Society, although it has had no exhibition of its own, gave liberally to the Provincial Exhibitions of 1853, 1868 and 1874. It has also done what it could in circulating Agricultural papers. took one year several numbers of the Maine Farmer, another ten copies of the Canada Farmer, and it has always patronized the Nova Scotia Agricultural papers issued by our Central Boards. First, for several years the Colonial Farmer, edited by the late Titus Smith; next for several years The Nova Scotia Journal of Education and Agriculture, edited by the late Dr. Forrester; and of late years The Journal of Agriculture for Nova Scotia, edited by Professor Lawson.

The Society also gave premiums and bounties extensively to promote orcharding, a branch of husbandry that had been very much neglected in this place. Now it is closely studied and practiced by many persons who have been incited thereto by the operations of the Society and by the papers and articles on fruit growing circulated by it among our members. We have made it known that apples can be raised here in abundance and of prime quality if only the necessary conditions are observed.

One, perhaps the principal, function of an Agricultural Society is to make experiments on objects or matters not understood, that an individual is not not hesitated to do this. We imported a polato digger at considerable cost from St. Catharine's, Ontario. It was highly recommended, but, notwithstanding this, it was a failure from the mode of adjusting and working with it not being understood byus. It, however, awakened enquiry, and we discovered that such implements were made in other places and successfully used. They will ere long be introduced, perhaps made here, aiding and benefiting our farmers in harvesting the potato crop, generally so difficult to get done by our present mode of digging them with a fork in the short and cold days of the fall of the year.

The work of an Agriculturel Society would be more marked and distinct, and perhaps more useful, it directed only to one object, such for instance as cattle, sheep, swine, horses, orcharding, draining, agricultural implements, farm buildings, poultry or bull keeping. Or it might be directed to some one of the different ramifications of any one of these different branches of Agriculture. In this way its efforts would not be frittered away from year to year on a multitude of objects, making no decisive or conspicuous improvements as guides for our further conduct in the ort of Agriculture. The Western Fruit Growers' Association is an instance of this sub-division of labor, and its advantages are easy enough to comprehend. Had this Association at the same time been engaged in improving the live stock, crops, implements and farm buildings of the Western Counties, it would not, I think, have attracted so much attention or accomplished so much good for the Provinces, or brought the raising of fruit to so much perfection as it manifestly has done.

Sensible of the impartiality and diligence of the Central Board, and thankful for its prompt attention to our every suggestion and request, and trusting that the statements and explanations herein given may modify the judgment of the Central Board respecting the expenditure of our monies in the past, and establish the necessary confidence in the acts of our Society for the future,

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obd't servant,
T. D. Dickson,
Priedt. P. Ag. Society.

George Lawson, Esq., Secretary to the Central Board of Agriculture, Halifax.

P. S.—4th December, 1877.—It am directed by the officers and other members of our Agricultural Society, to enclose to you the foregoing letter in reply to yours of the 1st February last, with the following additional remarks:—

1st.—That the country here this fall and two is overrun with cattle for which there is the club.

little or no market; that the hay and potato crops are very short; that excellent beef in the different markets here is only worth 4 cents per 1b. per quarter, and that a great deal of it is sold for from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per 1b. per quarter, whereas in previous years the prices have generally been 5, 6 and 7 cents per 1b. per quarter; that the present prices of cattle and beef afford farmers here but little encouragement to improve and increase their herds of cattle, especially short horns, with a view of making beef.

2nd.—That we now have plenty of excellent grade cattle of the Durham and Devonshire breeds, obtained through the importations of other societies, other Counties, and from the adjoining Provinces, the United States, and England, that we could have none better by procuring thoroughbred bulls of either of these breeds; that we have also had the services of a grade Alderney Bull through the present season, for which our farmers have had to pay one dollar for each cow put to him.

3rd.—That a farmer in this district is reported to have a cow of the native breed that gives from two to three pails of milk, or from 24 to 36 quarts daily, in the summer, with only ordinary care and feed, and that we do not expect any imported breeds to exceed this.

T. D. D.

THE CELEBRATED BURNET GRAPE.-We desire to call the attention of our readers to the fact that the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario will send to each of its members a plant of this new grape vine. It was originated in Prince Edward County by Mr. Peter C. Dempsey, one of our most skilful hybridists. The fruit is large, purplish black, sweet and rich, and ripens earlier than the Concord. The vine is vigorous productive and hardy. It is one of the most valuable grapes for our country that has ever been grown, and the Fruit Growers' Association deserves great praise for their forethought in securing vines of this luscious grape, named in honor of the distinguished President of this Association. We counsel our readers to send at once the fee of one dollar to the Secretary, Mr. D. W. Beadle, St. Catharine's, which will entitle them to a copy of the report for 1877, now being printed, which is worth the full amount of the subscription fee, and, in addition thereto, a plant of this splendid new grape, which can not be bought for less than a dollar apiece. If any one would like to secure two of these grape vines, he can do so by sending the names of nine persons besides his own and ten dollars to Mr. Beadle, and a plant will be sent to each of the nine persons' and two plants to the person who gets up

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

North Sydney Herald. Report of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario for 1874.

Colonial Farmer, Fredericton.
Catalogue of the Theological Seminary,
Princeton, N. J.

Eastern Chronicle, New Glasgow.

Amherst Gazette.
The Poultry World.
Colchester Sun, Truro.
The Gardener's Monthly, Philadelphia.
The Carolina Farmer.
South California Horticulturist.
Toronto Globe.
Presbyterian Witness, Halifax.
Dalhousie Gazette, Halifax.
The Argosy, Sackville, N. B.
American Bee Journal, Chicago.
Monthly Bulletin of the American

Jersey Cattle Club.
The Pharmaceutical Journal, London.
Belcher's Farmer's Almanae for 1878.

Belcher's Farmer's Almanae for 1878.
The Resources of California, (monthly).
The Georgia Grange, Atlanta.
L. P. Rout's Garden Manual Bookford

J. B. Root's Garden Manual, Rockford, Illinois.

Vick's Illustrated Monthly Magazine for January 1877.

Vennor's Winter Almanac.

The announcement by the Secretary of the Institute of Natural Science that a Telephone would be "exhibited, explained and operated," brought an unusually large attendance to the meeting on the evening of 10th December, but only to meet with disappointment, for the telephone was silent. It was a case of aphonia.

"Chloroforming" animals before killing them may at first sight appear to be mere silly sentimentality. Recent experience has proved that the idea is not so wild and impracticable as it may appear. A correspondent of the Daily News recently gave minute directions for slaughtering a pig under the influence of chloroform. When the animal is about to be killed, a bag containing a piece of sponge saturated with chloroform should be quickly drawn over the face. In the course of one minute the pig becomes insensible, and the slaughtering can be proceeded with without difficulty. By adopting this method much time and trouble is saved, and the meat is no way affected by the chloroform. Killing animals under the influence of chloroform is clearly much more humane, and if this reason is not likely to influence butchers, the fact that it saves labour and time perhap may. - Agricultural Gazette.

Roor's Garden Manual for 1878, full of instruction on gardening topics, and price list of choice seeds, sent for 10 cts., allowed on first order for seeds. Address J. B. Root, Rockford, Illinois.

Age of Cattle.—The call is usually born with two fore or cutting teeth, and at a month old the whole eight are cut. The age is then guessed at by the wearing down of these teeth until the calf is eight months old, when they begin to become narrower and smaller. At eight months, the two centre teeth are smaller than the rest; and from that time until eighteen months the others gradually diminish, until the whole are very con siderably lessened in size and stand apart from each other. At two years old the two middle teeth are pushed out, and succeeded by two permanent ones; at three, there are four permanent teeth; six at four years; and all the eight at five, when they are said to be full mouthed, but he is not actually so until six years old, when all the eight are level.

A good judge of cattle will generally determine the age with considerable accuracy for many years after that. From six to nine, he will be guided by the wearing down of the teeth, and after that by the diminution in the bulk, as in the milk-teeth. At nine the two middle fore teeth are evidently smaller and narrower than the rest; at ten the two next are so; and so on until twelve, when, as in the steer of two years, the teeth again begin to stand singularly apart from each other.—American Stock Journal.

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THE pure-bred Jersey Bull ROUND ROBIN. Took first prize in his class at the last two Provincial Exhibitions. Present age 33 months. This Bull has proved a sure stockgetter, is of good size, form and colour, and is descended from noted prize-takers at the Jersey Royal Agricultural Show in 1870. Royal Agricultural Show in 1870, on both the sire and dam side. For price, terms, &c., apply to Dr. George Lawson, Halifax, or the subscriber

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Truro, Dec. Sth, 1877.

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the celebrated and fashionable Gwynne troe, and a very fine animal and pronounced by good judges superior to any imported of the same age.

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DULL "PRESIDENT," 3 years old, dam Margaret, sire Hartland 2nd, took 1st prize as 2 year old at Truro in 1876, and 1st prize as calf at Halifax in 1874. Price \$150.

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sor, took 2nd prize at Truro as 2 year old. Price \$150.

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Leifer Marigold, 13 months old, dam Violet. sire Havelock. Price \$60.

Heifer Poppy, 12 months old, dam Lily, sire The President. Price \$60.

Heifer Larispur, 11 months old, dam Mayflower, sire Havelock. Price \$60.

Heifer Carnation, 11 months old, dam Mayflower, sire Havelock. Price \$50.

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S., Edmburgh.

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Halifax, Oct. 31st, 1877.

nov-6m

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