EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown—RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all."

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FIRST EXHIBITION

OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Well, Messrs. Editors, the day has come and gone which produced so much sensation; one which will form in time to come, an epoch in the history of our county. I am much mistaken, or it is destined to be regarded as a great *era* in georgical, especial in *Prince* georgical annals. For bipeds and *quadrupeds* it shall be esteemed a happy omen to have been born in the year of the *first Cattle Show at Marlboro'*! And whether bouncing boy or bull calf, you shall see him going through the world, prospering and to prosper, fattening and to fatten, with a bright eye, a bold trout, a strong loin, and a "full chest"—all good things in their way, and the last not the least in these times of low prices and bad currency.

To be serious, and come down to the particulars of this well-ordered and well attended first show of our Society, the difficulty is the common one, of not well knowing *where to begin*!

Were it my object to flatter at the expense of truth, and to gratify without caring to serve, the whole story might be told summarily, and with as much respect for facts as is usually observed on such occasions. I might say, viz.—All was well *gotten up*, and *sreut off* still better. But indiscriminate approval would ill requite the hospitality that claims my gratitude, and that zeal on the part of the Society which looks to candid criticism for its most appropriate encouragement.

"Oh! wad some Power the giftie gie us
"To see ourselves as tthers see us."

was the wise and conservative prayer of a poet, the philosophy of whose closure enabled him to find subjects for his charming muse in the humblest characters and incidents of life. True, he would sometimes get a little *fou'*. But then, think of his untameable spirit, his vicissitudes of fortune, and then the high authority he pleaded for thus occasionally drowning his "sorrows."

"Gie him strong drink until he wink
That's sinking to despair;
An' liquor gude to fire his blaid
That's press'd wi' grief an' care;
There let him bouse, an' deep carouse,
Wi' bumpers flowing o'er,
Till he forgets his loves or debts,
An' minds his griefs no more.'
[Solomon's Proverbs, XXX. 6, 7]

Poor, but noble hearted Burns! Peace to thine ashes, honor to thy memory! And now let us revert to the cattle show; and first,

OF THE CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS.—What struck me most auspicious of ulterior success to this Society was the great number and high respectability of the people with the cheerful, inquisitive, and hospitable spirit that seemed to animate every man, woman, and child, upon the ground. Many came under the apprehension that, like certain other attempts on this side of the Blue Ridge, this first essay would prove an abortion—little knowing what buoyant spirit had presided at its conception. For cattle, sheep, hogs, implements, and all other things sent by members or strangers, far or near, ample space and other provision had been made, and to their owners was paid the kindest and most considerate attention; and if any defects were visible, and assuredly there were, both in the rules and regulations, and the objects exhibited, it would be worse than useless—it would be ill-natured—to recite them here. All that need be said is, that this, like all first movements in new and laudable enterprises, has served the valuable purpose of indicating the ground that has been lost, and is now to be made up. This most useful and honorable association may be likened to the new and industrious proprietor of a long-neglected old farm. His sagacious mind tells him at a glance that this ditch must be cleaned out, that fence must be righted up, these galled spots must have a sprinkling of manure, briers must be eradicated at the *proper season*, houses repaired at seasons of leisure; and, when more and better provender is prepared, the *stock*, too, must all be overhauled. By judicious crossing and better care, lessening their number and augmenting their food, the cattle must be improved; they must have their heads and necks diminished, and their hips and whole stern parts widened and enlarged. Hogs must have their roach backs straightened, their flat sides rounded, their heads shortened, and their hams lengthened; and the sheep, bred in and in, until they have nearly run out, must be well tupped, and by better living come to have better livers, and thus get clear of that greater opprobrium to the shepherd than the sheep dysentery and dirty noses.

Premium Animals not bred by their owners.—Some there were, more hypercritical than considerate, who remarked, in disparagement of this first exhibition, that few if any of the premium animals were the 'growth and produce' of the farms from which they came! not reflecting that this must necessarily be the case for a few years; but query: Is not the man of means who spiritedly goes abroad to purchase, at a high figure, and introduces in his neighborhood what is elsewhere to be found most excellent, entitled to more credit than he who only avails of them after they have been thus thrust under his very nose by the enterprise of his neighbor? Tell me, ye cavillers, who more richly merits the reward of praise and gratitude than he who first brings into this country a choice fruit, or a beast, whose animal economy offers the greatest profit to the breeder? What good man but would rather have his name handed down to posterity as connected with a fragrant pear, like the Seckle, or a beautiful apple, as the 'Lady's blush,' than to have given his name to the 'Paixhan gun,' or 'Colt's rifle, instruments of blood and carnage.' To manufacture, for example a race of hogs, to be called the Ducket breed, or a strain of horses, y'cleped the Holland or Flemish breed—invaluable for *slow draught*! our names becoming thus familiar as household gods in every domestic circle of a well-regulated family! When time shall have been allowed to rear within the limits of the Society domestic animals of improved breeds, doubtless it will be prescribed that none shall take its premiums but such as have been bred by the competitors.

Hogs.—The most lively competition appeared to be for the *swinish* premiums. We have not seen the report of the awards. No doubt the official account will appear in that worthy journal, the Marlboro' Gazette. Of their justice I presume not to doubt; nor would it become me to express it, if I entertained any. My observation was too general to have my judgment formed or feelings enlisted in behalf of any breed or individual, whether King's, or Bement's, or Law's which are inferior to none; yet was it sufficiently particular to see that the pens contained remarkably fine specimens. Their fatness, however, from high feeding, kindled the apprehension that it may impair their breeding properties; as obesity, except, perhaps, with the opossum, at once the fattest and the most fruitful of animals, is said not to favor prolificness in any of the orders of God's creation from the highest to the lowest. If from some were heard grunts of disappointment at not getting all the premiums for hogs, they were fortunate in other lines of competition; and it may not be denied that the most impartial committee on these occasions are sometimes suspected of mingling, with admirable tact, a little policy with their judgments.

Bulls.—To those who had a touch of humor, some novel sights were presented on this occasion.

"And as he stood
On a log of wood,
He saw a sight surprising."

When all else was on the ground, there was seen to arise in the distance, in the southwest, an immense cloud of dust, more dense than fog of Indian summer, accompanied by an awful roaring which some folks took for 'the roaring of the lion, and the voice of the fierce lion,' as mentioned by Job. The fears of the multitude began to subside when they found it only a large *Bull*, destined to take the premium. This noble animal, so deservedly honored with the prize, was the property of that distinguished agriculturist, R. W. B., the President of the Society. So modest, and so strong was he withal, (that is, the bull,) that it took four yoke of oxen, such as they were, to drag him up for public inspection. His eyes shot fire. "He moveth his tail like a cedar, and the sinews."—*Job, chap* XL. 17. The name of this bull was Leviathan; and better, methought, would have been the management and example of the honorable President, if he had caused a ring to be put in his nose. Then might he have thus addressed the committee: "Behold Leviathan, whom thou leadest about with a hook, or a rope which thou fixest upon his snout. For, with such "fixins," it ought to be generally known, a child may lead the wildest bull that roams the deserts of Arabia. There was on the ground another Bull about 17 hands high, which attracted universal admiration, in a certain sense. In that sense, I, too, should have admired him, had not my philosophy taught me long since what the sight of this monstrous bull served but to confirm, "*nil admirari*."

Ruffled Turkeys.—A much more innocent, if not a greater curiosity, was presented in some uncommon turkeys which Mr. CLAGETT was persuaded to send of plumage that would vie in richness and beauty with that of the great Naturalist AUDUBON, in his splendid collection of American birds. The gobbler was a magnificent gentlemen. His neck was ornamented with a beautiful ruff, and on his head he wore a crown of jet black plumage, soft, to all appearance, as down of eider duck; just fit, methought, to make a muff for some fair lady's soft, white tapering hand.

"——whose touch, whose very touch, would force the feeler's soul to the oath of loyalty."

In the hands of a regular humbug manufacturer this noble gobbler and his mates might prove a 'jam speculation!' If you had only seen him, as I did, in the morning going forth at the head of his seraglio, like some oriental despot, his gorgeous vestments reflecting the rays of the rising sun in all the colors of the prism! Solomon himself in his robes of majesty, surrounded by his thousand concubines, was not more elate than he! As with proud strut, he drew his wings quickly along the ground, the air reverberated with the sound, and, in the brightness of his flashing eye, you might clearly read the expression, "that's my thunder." The humbugger in this case might call them the ruffled turkey from the Rocky Mountains, procured from Rattlesnake, Chief of the Black Feet Indians, at a high figure, by one of Col. CHOTEAU'S fur traders—qualities, viz. Eggs all yolk, and livers as large as a Rohan potato, and these you know lately sold for a dollar a piece! By the by, there are few things which ought to be more amusing to the farmer than experiments in breeding, to variegate and beautify every species of domestic fowl from the turkey down to the puddle duck, and up to the pigeon—which all pigeon fanciers know may be bred to a feather! We know an excelent matron who sells 500 pigeons in a year, and says they are the most profitable poultry she can rear. She is the wife of mine excellent host GOODWIN, on the the Fairfax Court-house road, ten miles out from Alexandria, a man in whom Nature blended dignity with politeness, and keeper of the few old-fashioned, clean, and comfortable country taverns that has survived the rage for flying over the face of the earth. It is worth a ride there any morning to sit down quietly to breakfast on nice biscuit, sweet fresh butter, and that rarest of all things now-a-days, *a chicken well fried*!

Of Saddle Horses.—The show was a good one, yet one of them, Mr. C. HILL'S, was so eminent that, for a while the award of the premium to him met, I believe, with general acquiescence.

Show Sheep.—Very—so so!

Or Agricultural Implements—Especially from the well known manufactory of Messrs. Sinclair and Maynard, there was a large display in number and variety; and, what, has not happened always at such places, all were readily sold at liberal prices. And here again, it may be repeated, that the best spirit was manifested by the gentlemen of the county to give all sorts of encouragement to those who contribute to the exhibition; and this alone ought and will go far to insure success and perpetuity to this recent association.

Best Bounce.—In reference to the premium awarded for this article, it was rumored that the oftener the judges tasted of the many samples offered, the more their powers of perception became confounded, until, having emptied all the bottles, a dispute arose as to which of them was the real Simon-pure. The rule of decision laid down was, to give the prize to the one which was *freest from spires* and all foreign admixture; but, alas, for human fallibility! When the committee at last announced their decision, a certain *Christian* present, of keener preception than his fellows, disapproving altogether of this object for a premium, putting the neck of the honored bottle to the handle of his face, swore, as it may be with a spice of malice, that, of the whole lot, that very bottle was most *odoriferous*! No oil of cloves from the Island of Molucca, said he was ever more aromatic than the dregs of it which remained at the bottom. This raised another laugh; and thus, Mr. Editor, we had lots of fun all day.

Mutton.—It has been already intimated that the show of Sheep was by no means such as ought to have been expected in a neighborhood as superior for general intelligence and knowledge of what is going on in the agricultural world, as it is for the richness of its lands. Hence, the more agreeable the sight and taste of some saddles of *mutton*, that would have done honor to the flocks of a Barney or a Reybold, as they did in fact serve to grace the tables of a PRATT and a BOWIE. There was one saddle that I happened to see exhibited by W. W. W. BOWIE so superior as justly to extort a premium, though strangely, none had been offered for that object. This honor may be the more prized, as it is understood that the Judges took counsel together, with knife and fork in hand, and the subject of investigation stretched out quietly on the table before them. It is but an act of due encouragement to a young farmer to say here, of that gentlemen, *en passant*, that, though bred to what is commonly called a liberal profession, few if any surpass him in industry and management as a *practical farmer*; and his unequalled perseverance in collecting and carrying out manure, in the midst of the usual operations of the plantation, is mentioned as no equivocal test of his discrimination and forecast. No better bank for farmers, says he, than a good bank of manure; but, then, no bank can yield dividends if you don't put the capital in active use. And now for

THE LADIES, "God bless them," as your correspondent *Marlborough* says. 'There was one incident in this display of Prince George's zeal and good feeling that particularly attracted my admiration; for there I beheld a matron, young and fair, with a span of long-tailed handsome chesnut horses, in an open carriage, with some pretty nicely dressed children that might have been showed for a premium, cause her servant to take a commanding position where she could have a view of the whole exhibition; and, as I passed near, I fancied I could hear her talking to herself after this manner:—"Here then, I see before me choice specimens of the zeal, and the care, and the husbandry of my own and all my good neighbors' husbands. As in their houses and their domestic affairs it is *our* province and pride to display our taste and economy, their approving smiles our sweetest reward; so this, *their* theatre of action, and of their honorable and manly rivalry 'that makes ambition virtue,' it becomes us to give our countenance, and to bring our children, that here *they* may participate in their fathers' emulation, and get a foretaste of their own future pursuits. The products here exhibited are all the fruits of peaceful and honest industry. The trophies to be won are the voluntary contributions of *gentlemen*, associated for common benefit. Let them, when won, be worn, as they are won, all *in good fellowship*; and let us still keep up the salutary contest to see who shall, with the best grace, most excel, husbands or wives, *every one in their appropriate sphere of duty and of love*."—And, having heard her thus soliloquize, thinks I to myself, there's a good housewife! "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; and her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Household Manufactures, including Butter.—The range of these, for which premiums were offered, was very limited. Some of the articles, *quilts* among the rest were said to be beautiful; but whether manufactured by the exhibitors or by ladies of 'the olden time," this deponent, not knowing, saith not. The truth to tell, I was not invited to see them. The gentlemen were all much better employed on their several committees, & *différence* as you know, or would know were my vizer up, being the idiosyncracy of my constitution, and, even yet more dreadful to admit, being no favorite with the sex, I ventured not to approach beyond the vestibule of the hall of justice, which was gallantly appropriated to their use on this occasion. Taking a faint peep, as the premium was awarded for *butter*, I overheard one disappointed lady remark, on the judgment of the committee, that she had always understood Justice was blind, but she *never so well understood it before*! By the by, sir; on this subject of the butter premium, too, you could not but admire the great caution of the judges—how they proceeded from roll to roll, and from print to print, before they could make up their mind, and then the kindly skill with which they essayed to soothe the disappointed. One lady, of honorable distinction on the score of good housewifery, lost her premium because her butter was not sufficiently SALTED! showing that the more some things are sophisticated the better some people like them; but so shall it never happen with ladies themselves among men of good taste. Who does not know that skill in butter making consists not in the salting, but in the handling and management of the milk and cream? Understand me not as detracting, in the slightest degree, from the excellence of the premium article. The best proof that it made the strongest impression on the judges was, that the impression was reciprocal; for it is said to have melted away before their searching operations even faster than 'butter before the sun.'

Oxen.—Two very superior yoke appeared upon the ground One of pure Devons, bred by G. Patterson, Esq. and exhibited by an honorary member of the Society, and to these the premium was awarded. The other yoke was country bred, but very large and well-formed and powerful; but they wanted the blood like look, the full mild eye, the rich yellow skin, the deep red and soft hair, the fine muzzle; in short, the *tout ensemble* of color, style and symmetry, quick action and docility for which the north Devons are distinguished above all living races for the yoke.

Your reputed correspondent 'Marlbro' took two premiums, which old planter Moxly, doubtless with equal candor and bluntness, remarked, were two more than he deserved, and I can assure you were more than I expected him to get.

I was pleased to see on the ground that veteran agriculturist, Major Mercer, of Cedar Park, with specimens of his fine stock, showing as usual their high breeding and good keep. The effect of this first attempt of the Prince George's Agricultural Society was well evinced by greatly increased subscriptions, that will enable it to offer premiums at the next Fair far more numerous and valuable than those distributed at this one.

Local Advantages of Marlbro'.—It may be well doubted whether any equal space of country this side of thickly settled and highly cultivated New England affords greater resources for annual displays of excellence in domestic animals, in agricultural machinery, and in all the products of the soil as well as the soil itself. The poorest lands for twenty miles around, in both counties, command from twenty to thirty, and their improved lands from fifty to sixty dollars an acre. The price obtained for tobacco giving them immense advantages over *farming* districts. The best breeds of animals, the most improved machinery, the best sources of information, and a convenient market are all within their reach. Would it not, then, to men, whose lot is thus happily cast, be a burning shame were they to fail in the very line of their business by neglect of these advantages; as it would disgrece a mariner to put to sea with a compass that would not traverse, or a doctor of the healing art to be unprovided with *calomel and lancet*?

And now for the winding up.—If my pen, wayward as it is, dared violate the sanctuary of the parlor and the social board, what a story it might tell 'out of school,' of the joyous reunion around the mahogany of *old schoolmates and friends*.

'Take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne!'

I could tell of the generous flow of wit and wine, and song and story that gave zest to our enjoyment. I might speak of the sumptuous dinner table, and all its nice appointments, and how, at the sight of these I could but glance at the hostess with the scarce suppressed thought in my mind, 'she looketh well to the ways of her household.' All of us were in up top spirits—one, perhaps, a leetle higher than the rest—

"Kings may be blessed, but Tam was glorious
O'er a' the ills o' life victorious."

Even those who got no premiums forgot their disappointment. Some were heard to sing who never sang before, and *could not sing then*! In short, Mr. Editor, but not telling you *where*, good cheer, good friends, good humor, and a good cause *buoyed* us up most joyously until the midnight crowing of the cock. I might narrate many funny particulars; for you know how I relish every thing when I can steal away into the country and break the bread, and drink the —— milk of honest farmers; but as to this *finale* to the first Marlbro' cattle show as Armstrong says in his 'Art of Preserving Health,'

"There are sweet follies, frailties to be seen
By friends alone and men of generous minds."

NOTTINGHAM.

SCENE IN RUSSIA.

THE ADVENTURES OF A YANKEE BOY.

Mrs. Child, in her "Letters to a Friend," details the following story, as having been related by Mr. Dallas, as an incident with which he met while he was Ambassador to Russia.

THE ADVENTURES.

One day a lad, apparently about nineteen, presented himself before our ambassador at St. Petersburgh. He was a pure specimen of the genus Yankee, with sleeves too short for his bony arms, trowsers half way up his knees, and hands playing with coppers and ten-penny nails in his pocket. He introduced himself by saying, "I've just come out here to trade with a few Yankee notions, and I want to get sight of the Emperor."

"Why do you wish to see *him*?"

"I've brought him a present all the way from Amerikey. I respect him considerable, and I want to get at him, to give it to him with my own hands."

Mr. Dallas smiled, as he answered, "It is such a common thing, my lad, to make crowned heads a present, expecting something handsome in return, that I'm afraid the emperor will consider this only a Yankee trick. What have you brought?"

"An acorn."

"An acorn! What under the sun induced you to bring the Emperor of Russia an acorn?"

"Why, just before I sailed, mother and I went on to Washington to see about a pension; and when we was there, we thought we'd just step over to Mount Vernon. I picked up this acorn there: and I thought to myself I'd bring it to the Emperor. Thinks says I, he must have heard considerable deal about General Washington, and I expect he must admire our institutions. So now you see I've brought it, and I want to get at him."

My lad, it's not an easy matter for a stranger to approach the Emperor; and I am afraid he will take no notice of your present. You had better keep it."

"I tell you I want to have a talk with him. I expect I can tell him a thing or two about Amerikey. I guess he'd like mighty well to hear about our rail-roads, and our free schools and what a big swell our steamers cut. And when he hears how well our people are getting on, may be it, will put him to doing something. The long and the short on't is, I shan't be easy till I get a talk with the Emperor, and I should like to see his wife and children I want to see how such folks bring up a family."

"Well, sir, since you are so determined upon it, I will do what I can for you; but you must expect to be disappointed. Though it will be rather an unusual proceeding, I would advise you to call on the vice chancellor, and state your wishes: he may possibly assist you."

"Well, that's all I want of you. I will call again and let you know how I get on."

In two or three days, he again appeared, and said, "Well, I've seen the Emperor and had a talk with him. He's a real gentlemen, I can tell you. When I give him the acorn, he said he should set a great store by it, that there was no character in ancient or modern history he admired so much as he did our Washington, he said he'd plant it in his palace garden with his own hand, and he did it—for I see him with my own eyes. He wanted to ask me so much about our schools and rail roads, and one thing or another, that he invited me to come again, and see his daughters for he said his wife could speak better English than he could. So I went again, yesterday; and she's a fine knowing woman, I tell you; and his daughters are nice gals.'

"What did the Empress say to you?"

"Oh, she asked me a sight of questions. Don't you think, she thought we had no servants in Amerikey! I tolk her poor folks did their own work, but rich folks had plenty o' servants. 'But then you don't *call* 'em servants!' said she, 'you call 'em help!' I guess, ma'am, you've been reading Mrs. Trollop? said I—We had that ere book aboard our ship. The Emperor clapped his hands, and laughed as if he'd kill himself. 'You're right, sir,' said he, 'you're right. We sent for an English copy, and she's been reading it this very morning!' Then I told him all I knew about our country, and he was mightily pleased. He wanted to know how long I expected to stay in these parts. I told him I'd sold all the notions I brought over, and I guessed I should go back in the same ship. I bid 'em good-bye, all round, and went about my business. Ain't I had a glorious time? I expect you didn't calculate to see me run such a rig?"

"No, indeed, I did not, my lad. You may well consider yourself lucky, for it's a very uncommon thing for crowned heads to treat a stranger with so much distinction."

A few days after, he called again, and said, "I guess I shall stay here a spell longer, I'm treated so well. T'other day a grand officer come to my room, and told me the Emperor had sent him to show me all the curiosities; and I dressed myself and he took me with him, in a mighty fine carriage, with four horses; and I've been to the theatre and the museum; and I expect I've seen about all there is to be seen in St. Petersburgh. What do you think of that, Mr. Dallas?"

It seemed as incredible, that a poor, ungainly lad should be thus loaded with attentions, that the Ambassador scarcely knew what to think or say.

In a short time his strange visiter reappeared. "Well," said he, "I made up my mind to go home, so I went to thank the Emperor, and bid him good-bye I thought I couldn't do no less, he'd been so civil. Says he, 'Is there any thing else you'd like to see, before you go back to Amerikey?' I told him I *should* like to get a peep at Moscow; for I'd heard considerable about their setting fire to the Kremlin, and I'd read a deal about Gen. Bonaparte; but it would cost a sight o' money to go there, and I wanted to carry my earnings to mother. So I bid him good-bye, and come off. Now what do you guess he did, next morning? I vow he sent me the same man, in regimentals, to carry me to Moscow in one of his own carriages, and bring me back again, when I've seen all I want to see! And we are going to-morrow morning, Mr. Dallas.—What do you think now?"

And sure enough, the next morning the Yankee boy passed the Ambassador's house in a splendid coach and four, waving his handkerchief, and shouting "Good-bye! Good-bye!"

Mr Dallas afterwards learned from the Emperor that all the particulars related by this adventurous youth were strictly true. He again heard from him at Moscow, waited upon by the public officers, and treated with as much attention as is usually bestowed on Ambassadors.

The last tidings of him reported that he was travelling in Circassia, and writing a Journal, which he intended to publish.

Now, who but a Yankee could have done all that?

A NEGRO LEGISLATOR.—They have had some queer doings at the late election in the Bay State. It seems that in the town of Townsend, Mass., the Whigs Loco Focos and Abolitionists are equally divided, and each made a nomination for representative. As in that State a majority over all is necessary to an election, both parties urged the Abolitionists to withdraw their nomination, and even proposed to unite with them on a man, who should represent either Whig and Abolition principles, or Locofocoism and Abolition; but the Abolitionists would run their candidate or prevent a choice. After two or three unsuccessful ballotings, the two parties, vexed at the obstinacy of their Abolition brethren, determined to give them a full blooded Abolitionist, without mistake. They accordingly came to an understanding upon the subject, nominated a very black, but very respectable old Negro and marching to the polls in a body, elected him as a representative to the Massachusetts Legislature by an overwhelming majority! In Massachusetts there is no disqualification as to color.

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