

**ADDRESS,**

**DELIVERED BEFORE THE**

**Ontario Agricultural Society,**

**AT ITS SECOND ANNUAL MEETING,**

**OCTOBER 3, 1820;**

**BY THE**

**Hon. GIDEON GRANGER,**

**PRESIDENT OF SAID SOCIETY.**

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### GENTLEMEN OF THE SOCIETY—

**WHILE** we lament the death of **JOHN NICHOLAS, Esq.** our late President, and mingle our sorrows with those of his bereaved family, it becomes us, with humble gratitude, to adore that Power, who enables us to join in this celebration; and to devise such further measures as, with His blessing, may advance the prosperity and happiness of our people.

To me does not belong the duty of writing Mr. Nicholas' biography: But from his high rank in the land of his fathers, from his eminent services in the councils of the nation, from his ability and impartiality in our tribunals of justice, from his unaffected piety and religion, and from his course devoted to virtue and usefulness, it may reasonably be expected that some able pen will record the acts of his life for the instruction and improvement of the present and future generations.

A portion of the present time, justly styled "the Farmer's holy-day," cannot be more usefully spent than in forming a just estimate of our own and our country's situation; and in devising measures best calculated to remove our embarrassments, and to advance the people to the high destinies, which, with the aid of industry, economy and judicious conduct, it is evident, from the wisdom and freedom of our public institutions, from our geographical position and from the salubrity of our climate and fertility of our soil, were designed for us by

the Almighty. Nor will it be less useful to recollect the events which preceded our present condition.

On these subjects it is my duty to address you.—I regret that the task was not assigned to some person, better qualified by his pursuits in life, than I am, to perform this service.

The revolution found, and left, us poor. It found, and left, us without revenue. It found us without credit: it left us with the little we had acquired utterly prostrated.

It found us with a limited commerce, shackled by all the restrictions of colonial vassalage: it left us without commerce, and the only power with whom we had been accustomed to trade, hostile in the extreme.

It found us without debt: it left us with the expenses of eight years warfare with a nation then the most powerful on earth.

It found us without national compact: it left us with a Congress whose powers were *limited to recommendations*.

It found the citizens of the several districts unacquainted with each other, and ignorant of their relative abilities: and it left them with partial information, accompanied by all the passions which jealousy and rivalry engender in the human mind. Finally—It found us peaceful and untrained to arms: it left us a brave and warlike people; determined to defend and preserve the rights and liberties bestowed on us by the Creator.

A scene of distress ensued. The nation was inundated with foreign manufactures, and her means of remittance failed. The prices of the products of agriculture, of our fisheries, of our forests and of our labour, were below our present prices. The powers lately belligerent, fatigued with bloodshed, contended each with the other, as is usually the case, with the plough, the sickle, the jenny, the loom, and every other implement of industry. The commercial states, by imposts and excises, relieved themselves, and cast their burthens



on the planting and farming states. The limited states claimed of those of extended jurisdiction, portions of the unsettled lands, secured by the war. State strove with state in relation to charter limits; and even called to the field opposing armies. A spirit of insubordination existed among the thoughtless, which in some instances produced rebellion; while despondency almost established her empire over the minds of the intelligent. In foreign countries our friends trembled, and our enemies triumphed, at the prospect of the speedy destruction of the Republic.

From these difficulties we were relieved by the adoption of our Constitution and the operations of Government; by a spirit of liberality in the large states, who invested the nation with most of her extended domains; by amicable adjustments of the contested charter limits; and by those convulsions and wars which for twenty five years shook Europe to the center, impoverished her and threatened to subvert all her ancient institutions.

Our merchants became her merchants; they supplied her wants and vended her surplus.

Our farmers fed her people and armies; and our planters furnished the materials for a great portion of their clothing.

While the powers of Europe slaughtered each others people and wasted her youth, our population increased more than 4,600,000 souls.

We acquired an immense capital beyond what our merchants can employ, while other nations dissipated theirs.

We gained by negotiation a country naturally equal in value to France, while the warring nations, on the return of peace, retired within their former limits.

A thousand useful establishments arose: among others, manufactures, based upon and supported by a capital of from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty millions of dollars.

In this period, our vessels employed in foreign com-

merce, increased 500, our coasting vessels 360, and our bay and river craft, 560 per cent.

Our average exports, when not checked by embargoes, non-intercourse and war, rose to 360, and including those checks, to 300 per cent. per annum,—yet our people increased only 118 per cent. and even this excited the astonishment of the statesmen of Europe.

Evils usually follow in the train of unexampled prosperity. Peace was restored to Europe, and two millions of active subjects added to her productive labor.

As soon as their first harvest removed the danger of famine, our bread stuffs and meats were excluded her markets—the colonial systems revived—our carrying trade nearly annihilated—the nation deluged with foreign manufactures and other articles of commerce—and an irresistible effort made to annihilate our manufacturing establishments.

To effect this, foreign fabrics were sold below cost and duties, and if we may believe public report, an association was formed in one foreign nation, and funds raised by her wealthy subjects, to equalize the losses that might arise by underselling to such extent, as to drive American manufactures from our own markets.

This dangerous effort was successful : vast numbers of our best and most active citizens were ruined ; our work-shops closed ; and one of the three great pillars which support the American republic and people, undermined and nearly prostrated.

The sufferings of our farmers equal (and collectively taken, exceed) those of our manufacturers.

Most of the present day are too young to recollect the peace prices of 1774 and of 1789 and 1790 ; and a series of prosperity has obliterated this knowledge generally, from the minds of those whose age might enable them to embrace these periods.

The certainty of high prices for our bread stuffs, which the experience of years seemed to warrant, in-

duced a boldness in contracting, a liberality in expenditure, and an inattention to every kind of farming, other than the culture of wheat, which in the opinion of most, appear to indicate, under present circumstances, the ruin of a great portion of our yeomanry.

I am not one of those who presage destruction.

It is true that many of our citizens are deeply indebted.

It is true that the products of our agriculture scarcely command a living price.

It is true that our inland situation at present, excludes our grain from the Atlantic markets.

It is true that when Europe is at peace, the continuance of which state is very doubtful, we cannot, in foreign markets, expect high prices for our bread-corn.— We must provide home markets and introduce a wise distribution of labour.

It is no less true that we have reason to hope for a cheap conveyance to the ocean by the Grand Canal, whose benefits, when completed, no man has sufficient length and breadth of understanding to estimate; and its formation will furnish us important temporary relief.

It is no less true that many of our yeomanry have lately migrated into this country, and under any times they have not had a sufficient period to pay for their farms; indeed, when I reflect on the state of this country, I am more astonished at what has been done, than alarmed at what remains to be performed.

And it is no less true that I perceive, or think I perceive, a redeeming spirit in this people, and a course of measures which will remove our embarrassments. Nor will I doubt that we shall have the resolution to adopt and practise them.

We are to be relieved from our embarrassments :

By unceasing industry, judiciously applied.

By the practice of rigid economy; which is not meant to exclude the education of youth, alike essential to their happiness and the public prosperity; or the



useful improvements of our farms and buildings ; or the real, true, enjoyments of life.

By abstaining from the purchase of every thing unnecessary, and of all foreign fabrics ; and supplying our wants by barter and exchange of commodities, instead of contracting for, or disbursing specie.

By taking the most vigorous and prudent measures to obtain exoneration or security, where we are holden for others ; and by avoiding all suretiship, except such as reciprocity or humanity requires.

By exercising a spirit of forbearance, each towards the other, as far as our relative circumstances will possibly permit. In which case the debtors must carefully prevent the increase of their debts. Nothing will more certainly ruin a farmer than the accumulation of interest.

By improving the quality and increasing the quantity of our products ; and varying them as the demands of the market require.

And by fostering and cherishing home manufactures, both in our factories and in our domicils severally, to an extent at least equal to our consumption.

Agriculture, for the last fifty years, has received much attention in Europe.

England, France, Switzerland, Wirtemberg, and some parts of Austria and of Spain, have experienced the incalculable benefits to be derived from improvements in this science.

In Germany, Denmark, and Sweden, it is publicly taught in their Universities. But in the rest of the civilized world universities and professorships are established to teach the dead languages, the art of turning a period, the fine sentences of Greek and Roman oratory, the mode of calculating an eclipse ; and the right of destroying each other according to the laws of nations, as established by the strongest. While those sciences and arts on which depend the comforts and even the existence of society, are wholly neglected, as unworthy the attention of the wise and the learned.

There is nothing taught in our higher schools which directly contributes to give sustenance to our people, except chemistry, which in a few instances has been lately introduced.

It is time to render what is most necessary, at least equally honorable ; and to blend in our institutions the knowledge beneficial to all, with that which improves, refines and polishes the few.

It is a truth, however derogatory to the character of man, for wisdom and virtue, that the arts of destroying life, and inflicting servitude and misery, have ever approached nearer towards perfection, than the arts which sustain and render comfortable the human family : although the neglect of the latter, was the cause of those awful famines, which, at various times heretofore, have desolated whole nations.

Yet, in all ages recorded in history, the cultivation of the earth has more or less engaged the attention of men : and nations have generally been powerful, respected and happy, in proportion to the thriving or decaying state of their agriculture.

The banks of the Nile and the delta of Egypt, in the days of her glory, were styled the garden of the world. Agriculture was neglected, and the mother of science and literature sunk into ignorance, poverty and barbarism.

Heretofore Spain, in consequence of the excellence of her culture, was styled "the land of golden fruits." When her agriculture languished, she decayed.

Good farming consists : In adapting our culture and crops to the nature of the soil : in varying them from year to year, so as not to exhaust, but on the contrary to improve it, being careful that the earth is kept as much as may be, sheltered from the summer sun by clover and other grasses, and free from the vexations of the plough, at least two in each five years.

In a finished preparation for the crops, by causing the earth to be thoroughly stirred and completely pulverized.



In a judicious selection of seeds, which should be taken from the best kind of the most thrifty plants, and be perfectly free from shrinkage, smut, or the seeds of any other plant; and in depositing them in the earth at suitable times, and covering them from birds and animals.

The earlier in the fall the winter crop is sown the better, and the summer crops should be committed to the earth as early in the spring as the frosts and rains will allow.

In gathering the crops when ripe, or rather just before they have reached that state, by the hand or sickle, and not by the cradle, which experience has shown occasions a loss of from 8 to 10 per cent.

In duly securing, threshing and cleaning them, and preserving them from waste till a market offers.

It only remains to advert to their security while growing.

However careless and negligent many of our people may be on this subject, there is no one but knows, that without good fences the husbandman has no reason to expect a reward for his labour.

In some parts of the country the land is naturally what is termed poor, and productive only to a very limited extent; and instances occur where a soil naturally productive, is rendered nearly steril, by improper tillage.

As man requires rest, so does the earth; but if treated kindly, nature furnishes her sufficient in the winter.

Nor is this all: As man requires nourishment, so does the earth.

It is therefore important to ascertain how lands naturally steril, can be rendered productive. How lands exhausted can be restored. And how those highly productive can be preserved.

*First*—How can lands naturally steril be rendered productive?

Exclusive of minerals, the surface, or cultivatable

portion of the globe, is composed of four different kinds of earthy substance :

1. *Clay.*
2. *Lime.*
3. *Sand.*
4. *Magnesia.*

Each of these, when unmixed with portions of the other, is absolutely steril : And the same is the character of the substance Gypsum, by us improperly called Plaster of Paris.

These substances, with a small mixture of the metals and other minerals, aided by light, heat, water and air, give life to, nourish and bring to maturity, all plants.

In all, the three first are found, and the whole five in most.

They are all the food of plants, as much as bread, meat and vegetables are the food of the human race.

It follows that what we call a fertile soil, is composed in suitable proportions of these substances.

Hence nature herself points to the measures necessary to ensure productiveness.

Is your land too sandy, cover it with clay and lime, and aid them with gypsum, &c. ; and so vary your process according to the dominant characteristic of the ground.

Our farmers can never adopt the niceties of the chemist in his laboratory ; and it is not desirable that the experiments contemplated, should be of such extent as seriously to interfere with the due cultivation of the productive parts of the farm.

But surely every farmer in the course of a year, without any injury, can make a limited experiment, and from the appearance of the soil and the productiveness induced, in a little time practically ascertain what may yet be wanted.

All other substances known by the name of manure, will also aid in producing fertility.

*Second*—How can exhausted lands be restored ?

By the use of manures ; by a mixture of earths, and a free use of the plough and harrow, and of clover or buckwheat, aided by a reasonable and moderate use of gypsum.

The animal and vegetable kingdoms, alternately feed on each other.

Plants in general support animal life, and all animals in a state of decomposition constitute the richest manure.

But our stables and barn yards furnish what is our principal reliance.

Manures should be kept free from the influence of the sun and rain, and from any great fermentation.—When applied to the land, they should be placed at a moderate distance under the surface.

Lime is a very valuable manure on cold wet land, and may there be liberally used.—It is also of considerable use on uplands—there it must be applied with moderation.

But for agricultural purposes it is most valuable when mixed with other manures, and with turf and loam, and the decomposition of vegetable matter.—If used too freely it will fire the land.

The same remarks apply to ashes, though from my observations they must be used more sparingly.

A large quantity of unleached ashes will destroy vegetation. They are likewise valuable in small quantities on a warm loamy soil.

Marle, which is easily known by its readiness to effervesce in any strong acid, vinegar, &c. may be used with liberality, to great advantage.—It abounds in the country, and is nothing more than clay united with lime in a state of decomposition.

All these manures are applied to the greatest advantage in the fall.—Clover, buckwheat, corn and turnips, sown at their proper seasons, and ploughed in, greatly fertilize the earth.

*Third*—How can lands highly productive, be preserved in that state?



Principally by a rotation of crops.—The farmer, who, confident of the strength of his soil, pushes his land with the incessant use of the plough, and exposes it in mid-summer to the intense rays of the sun, will find, in a little time, that he has lost more in the diminished value of his freehold, than he has gained by the increased quantity of his bread stuffs.

Different plants require different kinds of food, in a great measure.

They are composed of very different proportions of the above mentioned earthy substances.

Hence the soil may be nearly exhausted of the food for wheat, corn and oats, and yet abound with the proper nourishment for roots, clover or the other grasses.

Maryland and Virginia, on the sea coast, pay no attention to grasses, and, exclusive of the rich bottom lands near the streams, their average crops of wheat or corn are not more than seven bushels to the acre.

For the enriching of land, buckwheat ploughed in, is most valuable. For covering the earth from the rays of intense heat, and ameliorating the land, while it yields an abundance of food for all domestic animals, clover has the preference. But the seed is expensive; though in my opinion the extraordinary operation of gypsum upon this plant, more than counterbalances the extra expense of the seed.

All the root crops are also valuable for this purpose: and the object will be completed by applying to the earth, every other year, five pecks of gypsum per acre, and annually expending the manure which a prudent farmer will save from the crops produced.

The value of our domestic animals, is fully acknowledged at this time, and every inducement exists to improve their breeds and increase their numbers.

To effect the latter, an increased culture of clover is necessary; which, on a calculation of years, will also increase the amount of your bread stuffs.

I cannot refrain from expressing my belief, that no

part of this nation, north of the Susquehannah, is as negligent in relation to this plant as the yeomanry of this County ; and that when we sow, we do not bestow one half of the necessary quantity of seed.

Clover seed is raised, either by sowing the crop on the richest of land and taking off an early cutting of hay, just before the plant blossoms, or by feeding the ground early, by animals which do not bite close, four or five weeks ; or by sowing light, poor land, and neither mowing or pasturing. In the latter case, a much less quantity of seed is necessary, as the plant will have the whole season to spread and mature itself.

The most careful preservation of our timber and wood lands, is essential to the value of our farms, and the comfort of ourselves and posterity.

Every thing in nature is liable to destruction. Tempests and fires may materially injure our forests ; disease may get among them.

Many of our trees are of very slow growth, and some of them rarely, if ever, produce a second crop.

If our buildings are destroyed, industry, aided by benevolence, in a little time repairs the loss.—If our forests are destroyed, the country must become desolate and our estates ruined.

Nothing is so painful to a man of experience and reflection, as to see a young farmer, when he commences an improvement, fall foul of his best timber and destroy it in the onset. A little judgment would teach him that if he would clean his other lands and preserve his timber, one acre of that, in a few years, would be worth two of his best orcharding.

We have no stone for fences or other improvements, except such as may be dug from the bowels of the earth.

We have already a want of timber, and if our woods are not carefully preserved and even improved, our property will necessarily sustain a material injury.

Old as France is, exclusive of her wastes and her marshes, she preserves twenty-three acres of wood to

ninety-three of cleared land.—This is equal to 5700 acres on each six miles square, which it is believed will exceed the proportion of wood belonging to the 250,000 acres of the best land around this place.—Yet from her forests she cannot fence her lands, and most of her crops are without enclosures.

The perfection of society is manifested, by giving just and equal aid to all classes of people, according to their wants : by strengthening and sustaining the labourer, and all others in humble or moderate circumstances, without oppressing the more fortunate : by cherishing and sustaining in her own bosom, all the occupations essential to the general or individual happiness : by furnishing those aids which instruct mankind, and those which lessen their labor, facilitate their operations, ensure a reward for their services, and advance their conditions : and by a steady and impartial administration of justice by tribunals deciding between individuals, or between government and an individual, and by government herself, between the different sections and leading interests of the nation.

It is essential to a nation to maintain the three great interests of Agriculture, Manufactures, and Commerce. Without the last, the two first cannot profitably exist ; nor can commerce, in time of general peace, sustain herself without them.

The nation who buys more than she sells, is on the high road to ruin : and the government which allows either of those interests to languish, has but a limited claim on our confidence.

A nation is independent and safe, in proportion as she balances within herself, all her own concerns.

To sell largely and buy sparingly, is the way to acquire wealth : but wealth itself is of secondary consideration.

To merchants generally, it is of little moment, whether they deal in articles of their own, or of a foreign country.—But as internal traffic increases, freight, ex-



cept coasting, lessens : and as our manufactures improve, and people become wise, the use of India silks and muslins will dwindle.

Therefore the ship holders and India merchants, and all dependent upon them, have a clear interest in the present state of things, which has closed the doors of our factories ;—While every other class in the nation have, whether they feel it or not, a vital interest in the restoration and advancement of manufactures.

No great and powerful nation, in modern days, ever has existed, or can exist, without sustaining and fostering manufactures, as well as agriculture.

The reasons which influenced the mind, at the close of the revolution, when we were a handful of people, without concert or capital, scattered over a large country, cannot now operate.

The practice of all enlightened nations proves the necessity of manufactures.

Russia fosters hers, by a total exclusion of more than one hundred and seventy different kinds, by high duties on articles admitted, and by premiums direct and indirect.

A similar policy is established, with variations, adapted to the state of each nation, by France, Germany and Prussia.

Spain formerly had the greatest manufacturing towns in Europe.

Their decay, as well as that of her agriculture, in most provinces, preceded her falling to a fourth rate power.

Portugal, under a wise administration, established manufactures, and excluded the cloths of other countries.—In a few years she found her money remain at home, and her strength and wealth greatly increased : England decoyed her into a treaty which admitted British manufactures into her territory—her money vanished, her wealth and energy took wings and were gone—she became and ever since has remained little more than a British colony.

England, in early times, struggled near half a century to establish her woollen factories and enable them to sustain themselves against the cloths of Flanders. She has, for more than three centuries, by every art and means in her power, supported every kind of manufactures.

With a corresponding policy, she has, for a century and an half, sustained her foreign commerce, and of late years her agriculture.

The consequences have been, that from being a minor power, four times subdued by foreign fleets and armies, she has been able to conquer Scotland and Ireland, and like Rome, incorporate them into the nation. She has been able to maintain her standing as one of the first nations on earth : to bid defiance to Europe and hold at bay her confederated nations : and indirectly to levy contributions on most of the civilized world.

Her jealousy of the increasing manufactures of all other countries, as well as her efforts to destroy them, are well known. One of her statesmen in parliament lately avowed, " that it was well worth while to incur " a loss on exportations to the United States, to stifle " in the cradle their rising manufactures."

The internal commerce of all nations, is infinitely more important than their external commerce.

There is an incessant exchange, purchase and sale of commodities, which in a state of civilization, is of vital consequence : An unceasing commerce between individuals of the same country, which does not engage the contemplation of a common observer, and yet constitutes the life and safety of society. It is this commerce which we must in a peculiar manner cherish.

This can only be done by nourishing and sustaining manufactures amongst us, together with all the arts which furnish the necessities, the comforts, and even the elegancies of life.

For I hold it an undeniable truth, that if there be a people who, practising industry, economy, prudence and

virtue, have the fairest claim to, and prospect of, the highest enjoyments in life, they must be those who are free, who have the benefits of their own labor, and sit under their own vines and fig trees in safety.

England has an internal trade twelve times as great as her external commerce. The foreign dealings of France never equalled the eighteenth part of her home sales and exchanges; and if wisdom abides in this nation, our internal negotiations will be quintupled.

The experience of ages and of nations, furnishes lessons of wisdom to statesmen and to people.

No nation ever enjoyed greater advantages to foster and sustain an extensive manufacturing interest, than these United States.

We abound, as a nation, in capital; in all the materials necessary to create and maintain these establishments; wool, cotton, flax, hemp, iron, copper, food and fuel: in dye stuffs, we furnish our proportion compared with others.

We have mechanics and artists in plenty.—The country is stored with labor-saving machines: and should a deficiency arise, there is no want of mechanics and artists ready to furnish them on reasonable terms.

We have labor sufficient to supply our factories, of a character not adapted to working in the field; and the nation has acquired that mass of population, which requires a full and perfect distribution of labor.

Our numbers equal those of England or Spain.

How strong the former: and how weak the latter!

Our population exceeds that of the kingdoms of Prussia, Holland and the Netherlands: yet while a portion of our people are supine on this subject, what mighty efforts have been made by the Flemings for centuries, and by the Prussians since the commencement of the reign of the great Frederick!!

We have allowed our manufacturers to be ruined by thousands, while our provisions are on hand for want



of a market : our clothes are worn out and we remain indebted for them, without the prospect of paying for more.

All this is done, because the second great interest of the commonwealth is not deemed worthy of being preserved.

Our manufactures, if restored, cannot ripen at once into perfection. This must necessarily require a series of years ; and, as a wise people, we ought to consider, not only what is our present condition, but what will be the condition of our children at no distant period ; and to provide in season for their comfort and happiness.

Our present population is from 9,800,000 to 10,000,000.

In twenty years it will out number the British Empire, exclusive of her dependencies : in thirty-two years the French : in thirty-seven the German Empires ; and in fifty years, the all-powerful regions of Russia.

Whoever heard of such a people relying on far distant countries for their clothing and comforts ? If the world cannot purchase what we now have to vend, is there reason to hope that at either of these after periods, we or our posterity will be able to find a reasonable market ?

No one in the exercise of his right mind will hazard the suggestion.

Independent of these general considerations, there are others which apply themselves with great force to the mind.

1st. The manufacturers have a just claim for assistance. Their interests are too fully interwoven with those of the nation or of the states to which they belong ; their expectations of support from government too just and great, and their sufferings too overwhelming, to allow of a neglect of their interests.

2d. The state of the nation, at least of the farming part of it, in the northern and north-western sections, is such, that either manufactures must be resuscitated or the people suffer.

Though it may be thought otherwise by enlightened citizens of the south, I believe this remark will hold true as to *their* population generally, and in particular as to the growers of cotton.

In the year 1810, the cotton of our growths, sold in Great Britain, equalled 69-100ths of all purchased in that realm : in 1815, our sales fell to 48-100ths, and in 1818, to 31-100ths, of their purchases.

In eight years our proportion of sales fell 72 per cent. The proportion of Brazil rose 119, and of the East Indies, 168 per cent.

Brazil cotton is 25 per cent. better than ours, and India cotton 40 worse.

The prime cost of cotton in this nation is nine, and in India not four, cents per pound.

In connection with these facts, our southern brethren will recollect, that in 1815 we consumed of their cotton, 27,000,000 pounds—while the eight empires and kingdoms of Russia, Austria or Germany, France, Holland, Spain, Sweden, Portugal and Denmark, purchased only 27,249,176 pounds.

So that the custom of our factories in that year was, into 50,000 dollars, as valuable as that of all these countries which comprise a population of 107,000,000.

Our consumption exceeded 34 per cent. of the whole exportation of cotton.

Can our southern brethren forget the strength and success of these competitions? Do they not perceive the power behind the curtains that moves the puppets? Can they forget that India has long furnished the finest and choicest of goods?

That this new incitement to her industry, aided by the necessary alterations of the spinning jenny, and the policy of Great Britain, may, and probably will, in a short time drive their cotton out of the market? Or can they be willing to lose us as customers?

Yet there are strong reasons to fear that from the national government, our manufacturers cannot obtain the necessary relief.

1st. Because of an unavoidable difference of opinion amongst their friends as to the proper measures.

2d. Because they will be opposed by the whole strength of the navigating and India trade.

3d. Because the planters of the south and south-west are not favorable to the necessary system.

I have already assigned reasons for the opposition of the India merchants and ship owners ; and after stating that all these interests and the planting interest of the south, have the same right to guard their concerns as we have ours, nothing remains but to assign those reasons, which, in my opinion, will continue to induce the representatives of the non-labouring freemen to give their veto to the desired measures.

The evil, or extra expense is certain—the benefit contingent, and if realized, one in which they cannot directly participate :

In as much as they are without money capital.

In as much as their number of people, in the character of labourers, will not admit of a dense population of freemen: consequently their markets never can be sufficiently cheap.

In as much as their labourers generally, are sunk in ignorance and receive no direct reward for their services : and it would be next to impossible to render them useful.

In as much as it is against the policy of those countries to encourage villages, which are necessary to factories, since they might become the receptacles of their disorderly labourers, vitiate their morals, inspire them with ideas hazardous to the public peace, and increase generally the difficulties under which our brethren labour.

Are we then to sit down in despair ?

By no means. Our best and last hopes, rest on blending manufactures with our agriculture and commerce.

They are necessary at this moment, to give life to our agriculture, and at no distant period will aid our commerce.



In 1810, our manufactures of wool, cotton and silk, were, by official documents, estimated at forty-one million of dollars, which exceeded the whole agricultural exports of the nation, for the same time, more than 2,000,000—and by a careful and experienced statist, in the whole they amounted to 186,000,000 of dollars, which was more than four times the value of agricultural exports.

Such an interest may sleep :—it cannot perish.

Although there is a great want of money in the country, there is a proportionate surplus in our commercial towns.

On resuscitating our factories, this surplus would become active and useful.

We should have markets at home for almost every thing we have for sale, and many useless persons would become profitable.

The population of the country, which will certainly cherish manufactures, exceeds five millions ; and we have reason to hope for no inconsiderable aid from Maryland, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

A national system, at some future time, may therefore be expected.

Meanwhile—by the powers reserved in the constitution, to the states, individually, our legislatures possess ample means of restoring these establishments, aiding us, and advancing the interests of our people—without, in the least, infringing on the rights of the national government.

These states must assume this burthen, and save their people ; as in the case of our Canal.

Thus far I have treated only of giving life and vigor to our factories, which, however important, are not so essential to our existence, as our domestic manufactures.

Our females, instead of spending their leisure time in amusements, must employ it in fabricating clothing for themselves, their fathers, sons and brothers, and generally for family use.

In my opinion, if there be an occupation on earth, on which the Deity looks with peculiar complacency, it is that in which a mother devotes herself to provide what is necessary and comfortable for her offspring and family.

I cannot retire without expressing my wish for a continuance of the state's bounty to our Societies ; and my hope that at some future day the people of the Genesee may possess a standard farm, where our youth may be taught the theory and practice of agriculture.—Nor without strongly recommending statistical tables, the expense of which will be trifling, and their value incalculable.

I solicit you to appoint in my place, a citizen whose life has been devoted to agriculture.—At the same time, using on our part every reasonable effort, let us repose in entire confidence upon the justice, the kindness and the goodness of that Providence, which at all times has tenderly watched over, and preserved the happiness of this people.



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## OFFICERS

Of the Ontario Agricultural Society, appointed at the annual meeting of the Society, on the 3d of October, 1820.

GIDEON GRANGER, Esq. President ;

AMOS HALL, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president ;

DARIUS COMSTOCK, 2d do.

PHILETUS SWIFT, 3d do.

NATHANIEL ALLEN, 4th do.

MOSES ATWATER, 5th do.

JOHN GREIG, Secretary ;

THOMAS BEALS, Treasurer.

## TOWN MANAGERS.

Harvey Steele, *Canandaigua* ;

David McNeil, *Phelps* ;

Asahel Warner, *Lima* ;

Wm. H. Spencer, *Geneseo* ;

Henry Roff, *Italy* ;

Jonathan Smith, *Farmington* ;

Wm. McCartney, *Sparta* ;

Wm. Fitzhugh, *Grainland* ;

Oliver Culver, *Brighton* ;

Simeon Bristol, *Perinton* ;

Benjamin Miner, *Penfield* ;

Ezra Cole, *Benton* ;

Jacob Lobdel, *Victor* ;

Ezra Jewell, *Lyons* ;

Wm. T. Hosmer, *Avon* ;

Asa B. Smith, *Palmyra* ;

Wm. Markham, *Rush* ;

Davenport Alger, *Freeport* ;

Gideon Pitts, *Richmond* ;

Morris F. Shepard, *Milo* ;

Jacob Stevens, *Henrietta* ;

Robert Adams, *Livonia* ;

R. M. Williams, *Middlesex* ;

Byram Green, *Sodus* ;

James Birdsey, *Gorham* ;

George Coddington, *Bristol* ;

Joel Dorman, *Jerusalem* ;

Joab Gillet, *Springwater* ;

Joseph Clark, *Naples* ;

Jacob W. Hallet, *Williamson* ;

John Collins, *Seneca* ;

Daniel Rice, *Bloomfield* ;

Jonas Allen, *Mendon* ;

John Hartwell, *Pittsford* ;

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