

Genesee  
Ontario

AT ITS FIRST ANNUAL

OCTOBER 13, 1819,

BY THE

Hon. JOHN NICHOLAS,

PRESIDENT OF SAID SOCIETY.

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PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOCIETY.

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CANANDAIGUA :

PRINTED BY J. D. BEMIS & CO.

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LOCAL  
IMPRINT



## ADDRESS.

### GENTLEMEN OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—

THE ill health I have had ever since the Society was formed, would perhaps have been a sufficient excuse for my not undertaking the task upon which I now enter : and, as it respects myself, would have been more prudently considered as a total exemption from it than as a claim upon your indulgence for what I shall say. But the times are so big with instruction and so incontrovertibly declare what must be our future commercial relations with the rest of the world, that I think it my duty to contribute, as far as I am able, to direct the industry of the country to those channels in which most comfort is to be found, and where the least disappointment is to be apprehended.

It is natural, after such an unvarying tide of success as has been experienced by the people of the United States for the last thirty years, that they should look to the sources of prosperity which have so long served them, and place their hopes for the future on their return ; but the mischief will be in proportion to the strength of this dependence. The causes which operated then, are never to return, if, as I believe may be easily proved, our present state of poverty is a natural one in the course of business in which we are now engaged. If so, it is of the utmost importance that it should be fully and perfectly understood, that a change may be attempted before all our resources are exhausted.

It is the dictate of universal experience that every country which depends upon another for a supply of ne-

cessaries is invariably poor, let the richness of its productions be what it may, and it would not be extravagant to assert that the poverty of each would be in proportion to the richness of those productions.

Look at the world at the present time—you will find the state of each country corresponding with such a supposition. Spain and Portugal, though long possessed of the richest mines of the precious metals, have been proverbially poor. The West India colonies of the European nations, although yielding the richest productions of the earth, have generally been found to disappoint the expectations of their cultivators, who have labored continually under the pressure of enormous incumbrances on their estates. The effect of the golden æra, through which we have just passed, has been found to be the same, and in the same ratio. The states, whose productions have sold for most, are most heavily oppressed with debt; and, I doubt not, the seal of past prosperity might be formed from the present comparative independence of the people of the United States by stating them inversely. Nor need we be at a loss in assigning sufficient reasons for this state of things.

A state of dependence on a foreign country for the necessaries of life, must infallibly be productive of a system of credit. Our wants are invariable, except as they increase, which they do very fast under the flattering expectations we form of our gains. Every body knows how fluctuating the productions of the soil are; at one time filling our laps with plenty, and at others, barely yielding what is necessary for our own consumption. In the greatest depression, our long established wants must be supplied, and in time of success, our list of indulgencies is enlarged. There is no means of supplying our necessities and desires but by the anticipation of our future crops, and in counting them we give way to the most sanguine expectations.

The merchant well knows how to indemnify himself for the delay and risque attending credit, and the price

of every thing is greatly enhanced to the consumer. This habit of anticipation would naturally enlarge in a long course of success, and extend to the most extravagant speculation, and accordingly we have seen the largest concerns have been engaged in, and the heaviest purchases made by great numbers of our people, without any other reliance than the talents of the purchaser, and the produce and growing value of the property. Such a state of things might possibly have progressed with continued prosperity, but a day of reckoning must have come, and it is perhaps not to be regretted that it has come so soon.

To the consequences of extravagance, which are produced by our being obliged to resort to a system of credit, and our abandoning the only safe limit of our expences, our actual income, are to be added the losses arising from the want of proper employment for the infirm part of our male population, and our women and children. Another, and more important item in the account, situated as are the United States, arises from the want of a market, for articles of produce of our farms and our forests, which can never be expected to find their way to foreign countries.

It has been a never failing subject of controversy, whether the people of the United States could engage in a system of manufactures, without paying more for what would be produced, than their cost in foreign markets. A celebrated writer, Adam Smith, has been relied upon to discourage the attempt. It is long since I read this author, and therefore, will not pretend to controvert as his opinions, what seems to have made so deep an impression in the United States, under the sanction of his name; but I will venture to say, that an opinion against the undertaking, founded merely on the price of the article, must be wholly erroneous. The importance of finding an easy and convenient mode of payment, is sufficiently understood in common concerns, and every body would know the difference at once be-

tween engaging to pay some article of our produce, and money, which scarcely any body can command. It is the same in our foreign commerce, and we have present experience, how much better it would be to apply almost any part of our labor and of our productions to the making what we have been accustomed to buy from foreign countries, than to depend on selling and paying in money. After a most successful year's labor, and with our granaries full, we are able to pay nothing. The two years preceding this give us the same lesson. The portion of labor and productions which are spent on manufactures, would certainly give a return, and would be subject to little fluctuation in its amount; but almost the whole of our labor and the expences of our agriculture, which were intended to provide for the purchase of cheap foreign goods, have been lost to us from the unfavorableness of the seasons.

Such rules must also operate universally before they can be safely practised on by any one nation, otherwise your ability to sell cannot be commensurate with your necessity for buying; but there is perhaps no nation in Europe where you would find an unrestrained liberty of selling. In Great-Britain we know that we cannot sell our bread stuffs until her own exceed certain prices, and it is in behalf of a commerce with this very country that we are urged to pursue our present course, although her regulations are in a considerable measure the cause that we are unable to pay for what we buy of her. The practice of the whole world is certainly entitled to more respect than the theory of the wisest individuals.— There is no nation that does not foster the industry of its people by restraints on importation; and Gt. Britain is perhaps more remarkable than any other, for she at first built an immense manufacturing interest on prohibitions and protecting duties, and is now bolstering up her agricultural interests by prohibitions on the importation of foreign bread-stuffs. By both operations she has enhanced the price of the respective articles on her peo-

ple, but it has never been doubted by her that the labours of all were to be so protected as to furnish a support to all.

It would be difficult to shew sufficient motives for union here, if any other principle was to be permanently established. Suppose for instance, that a want of all demand for productions of the eastern and middle states should be permanent, and their skill and industry should not be sufficient to force their manufactures into use among their southern brethren; what must be the consequence, if government will not afford a protection to their labors, which will make the products saleable throughout the United States? What would be the advantages of union to us? We may be called upon to give protection, but we shall stand in need of none ourselves. The comforts of the living we should enjoy, would be too small to make us anxious about the form of government under which we lived, and perhaps if we did not move en masse to the lands of our more fortunate neighbors, we should be disposed to reject all the restraints of government, that we might more easily practice the only business that would be left us, that of free-booters.

It is highly important that we should be able to scan our future prospects, that we may enter on a course of business, if a change must be made, which will not disappoint us. To this end, it is necessary to retrace a portion of our history, from which I think it will be pretty evident that we are living still under our colonial dependence on Great-Britain, which uncommon circumstances have kept alive to the present day.

The companies which formed our settlements made the necessary manufactured articles a part of their supply, until the growth of settlements offered inducements to independent traders to settle in them. In all this time no rise of a manufacturing interest could be looked for, as the persons on whom their present supply depended would countenance only the labour employed

on the soil or directed to the chase. It would have been next to impossible, to have obtained in their settlements materials and artists necessary for the erection of spinning wheels and looms. In this state of absolute dependence our ancestors must have continued, until the failure of game and the tide of emigration, had reduced their resources below their absolute wants. Then some rude fabrics of wool and flax were probably resorted to. The rice, indigo and tobacco, of the southern states, afforded them a precarious living, and our connection with the British West-Indies, as sister colonies, enabled the middle and eastern states, under all the restrictions of the mother country, to obtain a support. Thus things were situated, when the war of independence cut off all supplies from foreign countries, and threw us upon our native resources. At the end of that war, the people of the United States were probably in as much comfort, as respects their principal wants, as they have ever been since. But commerce put on a more than usually inviting aspect, and the arts which they had learned during the war, were discarded for the novelties of trade.

It was soon discovered after the peace, that trade would be limited to the articles of our produce of the first importance, and that all the little traffic which we had carried on as colonists, must be given up. We were fast growing poorer and poorer and the only difference between our situation then and now, consisted in our having moderate wants, and comparatively few debts to pay. Then as well as now, we were invited by stores of European goods, and taught to consider it as better to go on laboring for the means of paying for them, than to go into an expensive preparation for manufactures of our own, which would cost more, and be of inferior value when done. With governments incompetent to any regulations of trade, it was unnecessary to inquire, what regulations were made proper by the new state of things on which we had entered; and

helpless, and almost undone, we were going down hill as fast as possible, when the new constitution arrested us in our course. It did but little, however, in changing the course of industry; some few manufactures were created by its system of duties on foreign articles, but it had too difficult a task in raising the necessary revenue, which was to be derived wholly from commerce, to venture on much alteration in it.

The funding the public debt, however, created an active capital, which opened new employments for the people. Internal improvements became the fashion of the day, and gave a spring to our industry, which lasted nearly to the commencement of the French revolution, which deranged the commerce of the whole world, and made us its agents. That, and its consequences, have brought us down to the present time, and thrown us into entire dependence on our own means, and we ought to feel as strongly as possible the necessity for exerting them.

It becomes then a question of very serious importance, what is to be done to remedy the evils of our situation.

It is evident that we trade beyond our resources, that we make too great a demand on the produce of our soil for the payment of our expences. The enquiry is, how the latter are to be brought down so as to be within the amount of the former. When it is considered, that very important branches of our commerce were undertaken in consequence of our colonial connection with Great Britain and her colonies, and that others were brought to their present height, if not created, by the state of war, in which almost the whole civilized world has been lately engaged, it would seem that individual retrenchment will hardly be sufficient to correct the evils of our situation. Among the former class of articles is that of rum, which was brought into the extensive use which has been long made of it, by the necessities of commerce while we were colonies, and its being the only



article for which exchanges could be made of a very considerable portion of our produce. It furnishes a remarkable instance, how our indulgencies will adhere to us after the pretence for them ceases, and how necessary it is that there should be some watchful superintendence over our commercial concerns to prevent what commenced beneficially, from becoming highly burthensome. The East India and China trade had barely commenced before the breaking out of the European war; then they were swelled to an enormous magnitude, to supply the wants of the rest of the world, and they remain little less after we have become almost the only consumers of the articles they furnish. The effect of the trade in rum is, to depress our agriculture, which would furnish materials for a more wholesome, and equally desirable species of spirit; and the effect of the East India and China trade has been to draw off the specie of the country—cripple our banks—put a sudden stop to credit, and leave the most prudent among us to the danger of being ruined, by the commonest transactions of business. For such a state of things, individual exertion, although it may do much, seems to be inadequate to the remedy. Every body, when left to themselves, will pursue that portion of business which will afford profit, and indulge in the consumption of those articles which are most agreeable to them—the consequence would be that every species of trade and every private indulgence now known would remain in existence; and we should be liable to have them extended by every little swell in the tide of our affairs, and the community impoverished by them, by every no less certain ebb. But rum we do not want; it lessens the value of our agricultural products to the whole amount of its cost, and the loss is particularly felt by the frontier parts of the United States, whose coarse grains can find a market only in the form of spirit. East India cottons we are as little in want of, every part of our country being capable of furnishing

substitutes of greater value. The teas we get from China, if not wholly unnecessary, are infinitely of too great an amount, and yet it could not be said, that the effect of individual retrenchment, would bear heaviest on these unnecessary and ruinous indulgencies.

It may be asked, what difficulty there has been in making legislative reforms in cases which seem so evidently to call for them. Many answers may be given to this enquiry. Your whole executive government and the treasury department, which exercises a generally beneficial superintendence over the finances of the country, would be startled at so great an encroachment on its settled revenues, and the necessity of finding substitutes for them. Your commercial affairs not only feel greatly this influence, but are immediately regulated by the representatives of the great commercial cities, who are very likely to be personally, or by their connections, interested in the very branches of trade which are most injurious. To these may be added other influences, which have, heretofore, operated very powerfully, but which, it is to be hoped, will give way before the general distress, which has taken the rounds of the whole community. What I allude to, was the perfect contentment which the raisers of tobacco, cotton, and other southern products, had in their situation, and their great unwillingness to bring any hazard upon their gains by making the slightest change in our commercial relations; but the times are so much changed that we may expect to see the great cotton planter become sensible of his real dependence on his fellow citizens, and humbly suing for a monopoly of the consumption of what has constituted his pride. Another source of opposition has been found in the ancient jealousy entertained by farmers for manufactures; but this is fast retiring before the light of experience, which is every day convincing the people that they will find manufacturing establishments contribute more to the prosperity of agriculture, than even commerce itself.

It is highly important that this subject should be taken up seriously by the Legislature, because an adequate supply of domestic manufactures cannot be expected from the exertions of individuals, and associations for producing them cannot be so soon expected after the total disappointment such companies have recently met with, unless the Legislature should give decided proofs of their receiving a steady and regular countenance in future. It is of great importance too, that our commercial concerns should take their final shape, because it is to be presumed, that much capital is employed in the branches of trade, which deserve the least countenance; that a great amount is kept locked up, with the expectation that the times which have passed, or something like them, will return upon us. These masses of property will, probably, contribute to some useful industry in the hands of their owners, or other persons, as soon as the hope of employing them in their accustomed channels is at an end; and it is highly probable that the amount of capital, which would then be applicable to the business of the country, will be amply sufficient for all its wants.

It must not be expected, however, that government should make a sacrifice of existing revenues, without means of supporting public credit from other quarters. None so proper, and indeed unexceptionable, can be found, as a revenue from domestic spirits would be in that case. The excises which have heretofore been laid, have had a very unfavorable effect on distillation, and of course on the agriculture of the districts of country where it was practised. By increasing the expenses without enlarging the market of the distiller, it necessarily reduced the price of grain: but the effect of the operation which I would now propose, will be to give to domestic spirits the entire market of the United States, and of course, to give new and greater encouragement to the raising the grains from which they are made, especially in the more remote parts of the coun-

try. To meet the prejudice which a proposal for excise would produce in all those parts of the country which have hitherto suffered by it, and to draw the attention of our fellow citizens, similarly situated with ourselves, to the crying demands of commerce; I should hope that any future board of officers which shall be constituted by the Society, will think it advisable to open a correspondence with all similar associations, which exist in the frontier parts of the United States, not for the purpose of dictating regulations, but for obtaining a due attention to the vital interests of the country, which are now, undoubtedly, at hazard.

It may be proper, when I am saying so much that will be considered as recommending a system of manufactures, that I should meet some popular and current objections which exist against the influence of such establishments upon the morals and intellects of the persons engaged in them. I am persuaded that they have their rise altogether from well grounded objections to similar establishments in older countries. The population of those countries is so great, that the employment of factories is the only one looked to by a great part of the people, the only alternative being the army, or navy, or public support as paupers. This takes away all uncertainty or difficulty in peopling the factories, and of course the interest employers have in the good opinion and confidence of parents and other friends. But far different is the situation of the masters of factories in this country, as is proved by their being obliged to give higher wages for factory, than other employments. They are obliged, also, to cultivate public confidence, by attending to the morals of their people, and repressing every tendency to vice. The ill effects on the intellects of persons brought up in factories, is also inferred from a hasty comparison, where they are upon so large a scale, as to make every part of a business into which it is divisible, a separate branch, and that alone is learned. Very different is

the situation of hands here, where as many parts of the business as can be, are put on one person, and from necessity, they are compelled, not only to do these various works, but also to repair the machinery they work with. So long as the United States will afford agricultural employment for all its people, and laborers in factories can exchange their employments for those of the field, we may be perfectly at rest on both these points, for agriculture will always have a preference, and of course the obtaining of factory hands will be more precarious and expensive.

While we look to government for many necessary and important aids, we are by no means exempt from strong obligations to personal exertion. It is incumbent upon us all to sever the cords, as far as possible, by which we have been bound in our commercial servitude. We must restrain our inclinations for many past indulgencies; we must substitute, wherever it is possible, articles of our own make, for those which we have hitherto drawn from other countries; and to make the supply of these domestic articles sufficient for the wants of society, we must be particularly careful always to have at command raw materials sufficient for our own consumption, and that of those who cannot raise them for themselves.

It is extremely difficult, I know, for individuals to resort to retrenchment in their expenses in opposition to the practice and habits of their neighbors; and most difficult for those to whom the change is most necessary. The ill-grounded fear of losing the respect of those who can still afford the expense, and indeed of being expelled from their society, drags them along, even when they are convinced of the necessity of stopping. Here our association may be highly important, by contributing to make the reform general, and convincing those who are still able to bear the expense, that it will be their duty, and for their honor to set the example. It is necessary that the female part of society should be

enlisted on the side of reform, as the department of fashion will be so much trenched on ; but we can offer them distinctions of a nobler kind than fashion can afford ; and by embarking, all at once, in the same pursuits, can remove great part of the difficulties in their way. For my own part, I have no fears about their hearty co-operation. Almost entire strangers to the sordid passions, they have more room for the nobler ones ; and I have no doubt that patriotism would operate more powerfully in them than in their husbands. Their taste will make them appreciate better the difference between a good and bad economy, as it will discover itself in neat comfortable dwellings, well improved verdant farms, and fine handsome well fed flocks and herds, and the painful reverse with which we are threatened. But with those who are insensible to either of these motives, I rely with perfect confidence on their sense of religious duty. If their example will remove a difficulty in the way of others, with whom retrenchment is an unquestionable duty, it is, beyond doubt, a duty in them to set the example.

It is not easy to find immediate substitutes for the articles which we have hitherto made for market, or to find the means of complying with money engagements, which press so heavily upon all ranks of people ; but we may safely promise ourselves, that while we practice steady industry, according to the best of our judgments, with an humble dependence on the providence which has hitherto taken care of us, we shall not be left wholly destitute. The means which appear to me most likely, and in the shortest time, to encrease our money resources, are to enlarge our funds of wool and flax ; and by the female labor of our families, and of our neighbors, who can be paid in these articles, in cloth, or in provisions, put them in a state for market, and send them to those parts of the United States which can still command money. You may not receive for them quite as much as you think you are entitled to, but

I am persuaded they will do better than any thing else that your farms will produce, and that they will improve in their price as their durability is discovered, and the skill of the maker is increased. You should never cease, however, to demand of government a protection for your labors. It is your right, and must be conceded; and if an improper attention to temporary interests, either by government or individuals, should retard it, you may count on a majority of the U. States having similar interests to your own, and being ready to co-operate with you. While the female part of our population conduct this necessary and important work, let the males be steadily employed in keeping up and extending the improvements of their farms.

We know not what calls for their produce may arise in one season, and it will be in all respects better, that they should cherish the habits of active industry, than give way to desponding indolence. A comfortable appearance preserved in their houses and farms, will frequently attract unexpected purchasers to such as wish to sell.

As the demand of our produce is likely to be casual, I would recommend that the labors of the farm should embrace all the leading articles, that we may be ready to share in the money which may be offered for any.— The expences for labor ought to be confined to payment in the produce of the farm, and it is certainly unreasonable that laborers should expect to be better off than the owner of the soil. As far as this produce can be applied to the encouragement of promising attempts in manufacturing, it ought to be, for our final expectation of independence must be in the establishment of domestic markets for our produce, by the encouragement given to manufactures. We must not despise the day of small things: nor calculate how much less the articles would cost from long established workshops; but must remember how precarious the value of the articles in which we pay will continue, until we can establish this species of demand for them.

As to the increase and improvement of our agricultural productions, which would engage more particularly the attention of the society, I have too little practical knowledge to be authorised to give advice. I can tell of wants from my own experience, better than I can direct to the supply.

It is considered, by enlightened agriculturalists, as the most important enquiry in what course of crops the soil would be least exhausted, and in which every one will make the best preparation for its successor, and altogether, furnish such a fund for manure as will renew the land at the end of the course. This is not so indispensable an enquiry in this country, where such a proportion of the land must be employed in the rearing of stocks. I suppose if half the tillage land is always in pasture, there can be no doubt but that its strength will be preserved and even increased; but still, manure will be highly important, and it will greatly lessen the expense of the farm in ploughing, if a judicious course is adopted. For my own use, I have determined on the following:—To divide my plough-land into eight fields, plant one two years in succession in corn, after being ploughed in the fall, at the beginning of the course, except so much of it in the first year as shall be found advisable to crop with flax, potatoes, Swedish turnips, and other things, which require a fallow on a clean grass ley. The second crop of corn to be followed by other spring grain, barley, and spring rye, I have found to be most advantageous. They are better than winter grain, because they permit you to harrow in your clover seed upon fresh ploughed land, and thereby insure your having your land better stocked with this important grass. The clover may stand either one or two years after the grain comes off, before it is ploughed up for wheat; but I should prefer, according to the English practice, and that of some of the best improvers of land in the United States, to plough down as large a second growth as I could get in the first year, because



it will be then found to have done most in cleansing the land, and because by the fall of the second year other grasses will be found to have crept in. A great deal of the clover may be expected to survive the one ploughing on which the wheat will be sown, but it will not be safe to trust to this altogether, and the wheat should be sown in the spring with an additional quantity of clover and other grass seed. The year the wheat comes off will be the fifth in the course ; there will remain three years of pasturage, besides the year that the land was in clover, preceding the wheat. To the success of this husbandry, it is highly important that every farmer should save clover seed to the extent of his consumption—It will not only save a very heavy expense, but it will prevent his starving his land in this most important article, as is too commonly the case. Four pounds of seed are generally allowed, which is, undoubtedly, too little ; good farmers who raise their own seed, sowing in different parts of the United States, from ten to fourteen pounds to the acre.

I cannot forbear to press upon your notice, that important produce of our country, gypsum, or plaister of Paris. I have extended the use of it in the present season, to almost every part of my farm and in no instance without deriving very considerable benefit. I fed my meadows with sheep until the ninth of May, and then plaistered them, and mowed a better crop from them than my neighbors who neither fed nor plaistered. I sowed my barley and spring rye, and had very good crops from both, notwithstanding the continued drowth. I plaistered my seed corn, and sowed the field broad cast when the corn was a foot or little more in height, and have raised a crop which, considering its extent, has hardly been equalled in this country. The poorest part of it, considerably broken with wet places in which the corn failed, has been gathered, and yielded, at least forty bushels to the acre, and it is highly probable that one half of the whole field will yield fifty. None of the hands

concerned in raising this crop, or the neighbors who were best acquainted with it, have any doubt that it is in great measure to be ascribed to the plaister. My common pasture land was sown with great effect, and I have no doubt would have given me rich feed through the summer, if I had been careful to prevent the first luxuriant growth from going to seed.

I think it highly important that the attention of the Society should be turned to the different kinds of farming team in use among us, and that an accurate comparison should be made between oxen and horses. The former are fast getting out of use, which is not surprising, considering how much the latter gratify our pride and love of ease; but I am of opinion that in no respect are we departing from a just economy more than in this. The expenses incident to the use of horses in the final loss of the property, in their gear, and in the grain which they consume, are very important to small farmers, while it is in their power to have teams of oxen which shall do as much work by the day as their horses. I know it is said that oxen are not so serviceable now, as they were in former years, and that their usefulness is, in great measure, destroyed by heat. I have, perhaps, ploughed as much land in the last two years as any farmer in the county, and my principal dependence was on two yoke of cattle, which had been considered as spoiled in former years, and were in very low condition in the beginning of June, twelve months. About that time there came to me a man accustomed to the use of cattle, who insisted in the first place on their being shod. From that time to this he has worked them double and single, with as little intermission as any team in the county has known; they continually improved in flesh and strength, and now, after full work in this season, are in as good plight as could be wished, and are so improved in their speed as to plough as much in a day as any horses that have worked as constantly.

Before I shod my cattle in the summer time, they uni-

formly became so slow as not to pay for the labor of driving them, and I am inclined to believe that the change, which is remarked by the farmers, has been altogether owing to our fields being hardened by frequent ploughings, and our roads being ploughed and scraped so as to bring the gravel to the surface. Even with the expense of shoeing, the comparison is infinitely in favor of oxen. Their work is better done, their value is not lessened by use, their gear costs little or nothing, and they require a very small quantity of grain, even if they are constantly worked. But there is a use of them which I have frequently made, and my experience convinces me is the best that can be, which will free the farmer from the expence of shoeing, of grain feeding, and yet leave the cattle with their growth unchecked. It is to have a double team of cattle from three to five years old, and to shift them regularly in the middle of the day; besides being freed from every expence of working, if they are put off in the fall after they are five years old, their growth will pay for their keeping.

From the reputation of the ruta бага, or Swedish turnip, I was induced to try about two acres of it. From not having begun in time, I was unable to put it on the kind of land which I understood was most proper for it, that is, clean grass land, ploughed the fall before; and had no choice but to sow it on land which had been recently cropped, was very foul with the seeds of fall weeds, and rank from the use of manure. After the best preparation I could give it, I sowed the seed in drills from two and a half to four feet distance, about the eighth of July; very few of the seed came up until after the rains set in on the fifteenth: in the mean time, weeds started and covered the ground, by the time the turnips came up and were large enough for cultivation, and it became necessary, before ploughing or hoeing, to pull up the weeds by hand along the drill, that the crop might be seen. In doing this, there was, prob-

ably, great destruction of the plants, for from this or some other cause, they stand much too thin in the rows. Except this work, the trouble of cultivation was much the same as that of corn, the crop having received two ploughings and two hoeings. Its present appearance is very beautiful, the leaves of the plants having met each other, even in the widest rows, and the roots having grown so as to promise a very considerable crop, many of them being at least six inches through. The tops of this plant promise a large supply of green food at a season when it is much wanted, and I think will be found very useful by proper mixtures with their hay, in carrying our stocks from grass feeding, to dry. When this crop shall be dug, I hope we shall find spots where it stands evenly enough to enable us to make an estimate of the produce to be expected from it. It is my intention to use the roots in such a way as to give most knowledge of their value; and I will not fail to communicate the results to the Society, as soon as they shall be known. I would recommend to all who would cultivate this plant, if it should be found to deserve it, to plough some proper piece of land before the winter sets in; their labor would not be lost if this plant should be found unworthy, as they will be making the best preparation possible for flax, potatoes, and other spring crops.

And now, gentlemen, I have only to ask pardon for engrossing so much of your time. I can assure you, what may probably be painful for you to hear, has been more so for me to write; but, perhaps I shall prevail most by assuring you that it is the last time that I can be troublesome to you. I have received many warnings that my stay here can be but short, and that I should lessen my connections with the world as fast as possible; and indeed, it is so evident that my usefulness is at an end, that it is unnecessary in me to request that I may be left out in the future distribution of the honors of the Society. While life remains, I shall wish to be

enrolled among its members, and to contribute to its funds, and if in any portion of it ease and comfort should be indulged to me, I shall spend it, in a great measure, in attention to my farm, and shall cheerfully contribute to the stock of public information by making a trial of any promising experiments in agriculture.

I hope, gentlemen, that you will select some man of leisure, and capacity for research, as your future president. Few can want in these times the necessary zeal, or be insensible of the obligation to exertion, created by his being placed at the head of an institution from which so much is expected.

# OFFICERS

Of the Ontario Agricultural Society, for  
the ensuing year, elected 13th October,  
1819.

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WILLIAM WADSWORTH, 1st vice-president ;  
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PHILETUS SWIFT, 3d do.  
NATHANIEL ALLEN, 4th do.  
MOSES ATWATER, 5th do.  
JOHN GREIG, Secretary ;  
THOMAS BEALS, Treasurer.

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Asahel Warner, <i>Lima</i> ;	James Sperry, <i>Henrietta</i> ;
William H. Spencer, <i>Geneseo</i> ;	Ruel Blake, <i>Livonia</i> ;
Henry Ruff, <i>Italy</i> ;	R. M. Williams, <i>Middlesex</i> ;
Jonathan Smith, <i>Farmington</i> ;	William N. Loomis, <i>Sodus</i> ;
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Oliver Culver, <i>Brighton</i> ;	Joel Dorman, <i>Jerusalem</i> ;
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Henry Fellows, <i>Penfield</i> ;	Joseph Clark, <i>Naples</i> ;
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Henry Hyde, <i>Lyons</i> ;	Amos Hall, <i>Bloomfield</i> ;
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Asa B. Smith, <i>Palmyra</i> ;	John Hartwell, <i>Pittsford</i> ;
Anthony Case, <i>Rush</i> ;	Elijah Baker, <i>Ontario</i> .



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OPTICIAN

Of the Ontario Agricultural Society, for  
the coming year, closed 13th October  
1910.

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