

H63

By Sam Marsden

SECOND  
 ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS  
 (BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT);  
 OF THE  
 AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
 OF  
 NEW SOUTH WALES,  
 INSTITUTED  
 ON THE 5TH OF JULY, 1822.



*"Nihil est agriculturá melius, nihil uberius, nihil dulcius,  
 nihil homine, nihil libero dignius."* CICERO.



**SYDNEY:**

PRINTED BY ROBERT HOWE, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

MDCCCXXIV.

630.203  
 AGR



## Vice-President's Address.



*GENTLEMEN,*

AT our last Anniversary Meeting, we received an able Address from our late active and zealous President, the Honorable Mr. Justice FIELD, under whose direction our Society made rapid advances towards the accomplishment of our immediate objects of pursuit. Had he remained amongst us, we might this day have received a still more interesting Report. The loss of such an able Leader (to whom, as yet, no Successor has been appointed), has been most sensibly felt by your more active Members and Officers, and will, we trust, be received as an excuse for the delays which have arisen out of the difficulties thus unfortunately encountered in the infancy of our Establishment. We may still, however, congratulate ourselves on the accession of Members to our Association; so that, whilst we wait the appointment of a new Director, we are acquiring

that strength and stability which must ensure our prosperity as a public Body. We hope, by the nomination of a President, to see the Society placed again in active operation for the completion of all its plans, by the introduction of every thing that can be conducive to our interest as Agriculturists, and by a steady perseverance in maintaining the Rules laid down for our governance on the first formation of our Society. We may be assured the social and amicable intercourse, thus provided for the respectable Agriculturists, must alone embrace so many benefits to the community, as to insure the continued Patronage of His Excellency our GOVERNOR.

It is with much pleasure we communicate to you, that the most satisfactory letters have been received from our Parliamentary Patron and Mercantile Agent. They warmly express the interest they take in our exertions, and take charge of our commissions in the most flattering manner.

Unforeseen difficulties have occurred in the attempt of our Stock Fund Proprietors to introduce improved breeds. These are

attributable to the unexpected dissolution of the Board of Agriculture in London, and delicacy on the part of Mr. Buxton, which prevented his acting alone without further and more explicit instructions. These obstacles are now removed, by the transmission in triplicate of ample instructions; and we shall, no doubt, be soon gratified by the arrival of both cattle and sheep.

Messrs. Paxton, Cockervill, and Trail, have favoured us with a valuable report upon the specimens of tobacco taken home by Captain King, of H. M. S. Bathurst; also, with a favourable report of our timber. Captain King has sent a few of the books required by the Society, and the remainder, as well as the seeds, he engaged to purchase, may be daily expected.

The season of the year, when Dr. Anderson was in England, was unfavorable to the purchase of the seeds required by the Horticultural Branch. He, therefore, handed over the money to Mr. Barnard, Official Agent for this Colony, who has engaged to send out what we require. This affair could not have been left in better hands; as, added to the known ta-

lents of that Gentleman, he is a Member of the Linnæan and Horticultural Societies of London.

A letter has been received from Mr. Telfair, of the Isle of France, in which, he expresses the gratification it has afforded him, to have opened a correspondence with our Society. At the same time, he sent down a collection of valuable plants, and a packet of seeds of thorny shrubs (fit for hedges), under the care of Mr. Savage. The plants unfortunately perished at sea, with the exception of some pine apples, which, together with the seeds, have been put into the hands of Mr. Fraser, the Colonial Botanist, that they may be preserved in the Government Garden, until that of the Society's is prepared.

It has been already stated, that a very favorable report has been received of the quality of our Colonial tobacco. Since that time its culture has been gradually extending; the management and care of it will become familiar; and we may soon see it added to our list of reports.

The vine, a more elegant article than the last, will soon be found of importance to the Colony.

Last year the Society awarded their premiums of pieces of plate, for the best fine woolled sheep, of different classes, to Messrs. H. M'Arthur, Oxley, and William Howe; and for the best Colonial bred stallions, to Mr. S. Terry and Captain Piper. They also expended the sum of seventy-two dollars in rewards to servants, and nearly two hundred dollars were paid for the destruction of native dogs; the good effects of which, can hardly fail to be felt throughout the Colony.

Much information has also been gained this year relative to our resources in the interior. The discovery of the River Brisbane, by the Surveyor General, with its extensive banks of rich soil, opens a field for the culture of many of the most desirable tropical productions, and may eventually prove of the greatest advantage to the Agriculturist. Major Ovens, accompanied by Captain Curry, of the Royal Navy, has also made a journey to the Southward, and assures us of an extensive track of fine grazing land extending south towards Twofold Bay.

We may also notice here, that Allan Cunningham, Esq. His Majesty's Botanist,

in his scientific pursuits, has this year intersected a line of country between Bathurst and Liverpool Plains, to the extent of 100 miles directly north, which he completed by a circuitous rout of 500 miles, mostly through a fine grazing country. These discoveries, in addition to those most valuable ones formerly made by the unwearied perseverance of Messrs. Wentworth and Blaxland, and Lieutenant Lawson, to the Westward of the Blue Mountains, and those by Charles Throsby, Esq. to the Southward and Westward, afford unto the Agriculturist an unbounded extent of fine pasturage for his flock and herds.

With this certain and most gratifying prospect before us, may we not look forward with pleasing anticipation to the period when our increasing means, under the guidance of a fostering hand, will enable us to do something towards the relief of those burdens which have fallen so heavily upon our Mother Country, by maintaining her unfortunate exiles? It is a subject highly gratifying to the contemplative mind, to observe the extensive Asylums already afforded to Britains outcasts, for whom we are preparing a still

more extensive field of honest and beneficial employment, which brings them by a strict observance of moral duties, and the enjoyment of temporal comforts, to a due sense of their former folly and degradation; thus benefiting the community, and saving the individual from destruction.

The Agricultural Establishment, in which from 10 to 100 men are maintained and employed as shepherds, herdsmen, and farm labourers, may be regarded as comfortable asylums, where the guilty may forget their shame; and places of reform, where they are neither excited by temptation to commit crimes, nor driven to do so from necessity. But where, being trained by regular habits, they gradually become good and useful members of society.

Who can travel through the Colony, and view the extensive tracts of land cleared by the hired Government gangs, and not feel equally impressed with the permanent benefit derived by the proprietors, and the very great and substantial improvement in the general appearance of the country? We have only to see these gangs made the school of labour



for the newly arrived convicts, and the source from whence the best farm labourers may be drawn by the Settlers to hail it as the most liberal and beneficent system ever adopted by the Colonial Government. It would be quite superfluous to say any thing of the progress of our wool, to the improvement of which, it is well known, the chief energies of the Colony are directed; it not only increases in quantity every season, but by crossing with the Merino breed, has been brought in some instances to vie with the finest wool in Europe.

It must not be imagined that this sketch is intended to shew that the work is finished, or that we may now rest from our labours! Quite the contrary, it is intended to stimulate our exertions, and to cheer our toil which will eventually reap its own reward. Be not discouraged by the difficulties which yet await us; many, and indeed most of our great and ultimate objects remain to be accomplished, and many of them are not yet begun.

Our pursuits are of a much more difficult nature, than those followed by any similar Society in Europe, and can only

be accomplished by our united exertions. It becomes us to introduce new plants, adapted to soil and climate, and which may eventually produce valuable exports. The cultivation of many of these articles is but little known to Englishmen, and the proper management must be discovered by our own experience and observation. The very seeds of some of them have yet to be imported from foreign countries.

The vine and tobacco have already been adverted to; flax and hemp are equally worthy of our attention. The New Zealand flax has been strongly recommended, but the extreme slowness of its growth renders it less an object to the Agriculturist, than the common flax and hemp of England. Rhubarb and madder desire our best attention; the former of which, however, has only yet been introduced into the Colony. Commence the cultivation of these plants on the smallest scale; do so, by way of experiment, in your gardens. The result must be beneficial to the Public.

Before concluding, there still appears another subject worthy of your consideration. Every Member may be in posses-

sion of certain facts relative to Agriculture; breeding, and managing cattle, sheep, poultry, &c. &c. which are not generally known; but which, if known, could not fail to be useful. Let such be laid before the Society from time to time, though its possessor may consider it trivial, it will be neither less valued, nor less esteemed. In situations similar to our own, a single practical fact, confirmed by experience, is often of more value than a long systematical volume of theory.

SAMUEL MARSDEN,  
VICE PRESIDENT.

PARRAMATTA, }  
*July 15, 1824.* }