

THE GREAT PLOUGHING MATCH.

This celebrated trial of skill, in one of the most ancient and valuable departments of human industry, took place on Friday, May 3rd, on Mr. John Walsh's farm, near the pleasant and flourishing village of Thornhill. The weather was, fortunately, most propitious; and it was evident, early in the morning, from all parts of the surrounding country, that a great turn-out was about to take place. The contest was between twenty ploughmen of each of the townships of Scarborough and Vaughan, for a purse of £100. Our readers will remember that a similar match took place last spring, between Whitby and Scarborough, for the same amount, the latter coming off victorious. The first getting-up of the thing originated, we believe, in Whitby, with Peter Perry, Esq., M.P.P., who cannot fail to derive much satisfaction from the conviction of having given rise to a popular impulse, which cannot, in its results, be otherwise than highly beneficial to the country. From the above sum, £50 were to be set apart by the winner, for the purpose of accepting a challenge that any other township might offer. Vaughan took up the gauntlet. Hence originated the sharp and honorable contest which we are about briefly to describe.

When we arrived on the ground, about eleven o'clock, the work had commenced, and there could not have been less than three thousand persons present, and the number kept gradually increasing.

The names of the ploughmen from each township are as follows:—

SCARBORO.

J. Patton,
John Cash,
John Patterson,
Thomas Crone,
James McCowan,
Joshua Sisley,
Robert Gilchrist,
William Weir,
William Wakefield,
John Crone,
P. Flemming,
G. Burke,
Walter Hood,
William Hood,
James Weir,
John Crawford,
George Evans,
A. Thompson,
John Wakefield,
John Weir.

VAUGHAN.

John Torrance,
Duncan McLean,
Samuel Musselman,
Archibald Campbell,
John Campbell,
David Jeffery,
James Somerville,
Duncan Campbell,
Joseph Frank,
James McNair,
William McNair,
Robert Thompson,
Allan McLean,
Peter Frank,
Henry White,
David Smellie,
Walter Dalziel,
John Lawrie,
George Charlton,
John Crompton,

JUDGES.

For Scarborough.—J. Gibson, Robert Ral, John Weir.
For Vaughan.—George Harrison, Robert Blair, Robert Beath.

UJPIKES.

Archibald Cameron, Toronto; Benjamin Jennings, George Anderson, Whitby.

The field selected might, upon the whole, be considered well suited to the purpose. The surface was

pretty level, the soil a heavy loam, tolerably uniform and free from either stumps or stones. The principal drawback consisted in the thinness and weakness of the sod; the field, we understood, having been down in timothy and clover only one year, and in many places the surface was almost bare. The competitors were distributed alternately, in groups of three each, belonging to the same township; so that the effects of any supposed or real differences, of a mere local character in the field, would be balanced equally. The field was in lands, or ridges, of the ordinary width, and nearly flat. About half an acre was allotted to each ploughman. The whole forty ploughs were of iron, on the principle of the *Scotch swing*: several of them were imported from Gray's celebrated manufactory in Scotland, and the rest were made in the Province. As to the high value and great capability of this variety of plough, when directed by competent hands, there can be no difference of opinion among persons qualified to judge. The work made upon this occasion fully attested the efficiency of the implement, as well as the skillfulness of the operator. Believing, as we do, that the principle upon which the Scotch swing plough is constructed, is that which at present approaches, in practice, the nearest to abstract perfection; yet we are aware, what every practical farmer must be fully conscious of, that to suit the varying soils, seasons, and other changing circumstances of operative husbandry, the plough, in its construction, must receive modifications adapted thereto; and that, after all, *experience* must decide which variety is best suited to any special case.

Our limits forbid minute criticisms on the work performed. It was soon obvious that the Vaughan ploughmen had acquired that peculiarity of style—if we may so speak—which so distinguished the Scarborough ploughing in the competition with Whitby last year, and which gives to the work, as a whole, a character of graceful uniformity. A straight furrow, with strict observance of the true proportion between depth and width—a matter which most of the ploughmen, in the present instance, evidently understood—gives to the work that precise uniformity of inclination and appearance which renders exact ploughing so captivating to the eye. In this important respect, the late match was a decided improvement upon its predecessor. If we were disposed to find fault, it would be, that the ploughing was scarcely deep enough; since it is now generally acknowledged that, upon stale soils at least, deep cultivation is one essential condition of increased crops. We should think that the average of this ploughing would not exceed six inches. The judges, of course, in forming their decisions, would have respect to depth. Long before the completion of the work, it was evident the competition would be a keen one, and this feeling