

no more information than the cotemporary press. The Board cannot publish what it does not obtain, and what, if not obtained in the proper way and at the proper time is lost forever. Take as an example the \$100 prize for the best 25 bushels of wheat. This prize has been offered at every exhibition of the Association, except the first. It has been awarded several times in succession to one township—West Flamboro. Now, what fact in the cultivation of wheat has been ascertained and made known for the benefit of the public, through the competition excited by this prize? Is the soil of West Flamboro superior to that of other townships? If so, what are its constituents? Does sand, clay, or loam predominate? What is the subsoil? If there is nothing peculiar in the soil, what system of cultivation did the successful competitors adopt? What was the previous crop? What kind and quantity of manure, and how applied? What variety of wheat, when sown, and what quantity to the acre? These and a dozen other questions of interest to wheat-growers might be asked, but where will the answers be found? A note is appended this year, that competitors for the \$100 prize will be required to send in a written statement, embracing some of the above particulars, but it is not made a condition of the award, and will not probably be regarded as of any importance. Now, we contend that it is of the smallest possible consequence to the public whether Hobson or Dobson obtain a prize for growing the best wheat; that the agricultural interests of the country can derive no appreciable benefit from the decision; and that to record the fact, *without explanation*, or not to record it, would prove of equal utility. But explain *how* the best sample of wheat was produced, state the character of the soil, variety, quantity of seed, time of sowing, &c., &c., so that those who read may go and do likewise, and you tell us something worth recording: something to be published far and wide, and which, in a wheat-growing country like Canada, is cheaply obtained by a premium of \$100.

There are many other productions of the farm in regard to which the information that could easily be obtained through these annual exhibitions, would be eagerly sought for and highly valued by the public. But, except in the case mentioned, exhibitors are not requested, much less *required*, to explain a single fact of the *modus operandi*! Is not this like playing Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark? Or is it not rather like bidding your friends to a great feast, exciting their imaginations with a view of the smoking viands, but never allowing them to approach near enough to taste?

2. *There is no attempt to promote good farming as a whole.*—Prizes are given for the best bushel of Potatoes, and the best bushel of Turnips, but the farmer who grew them, and the farm on which they were grown, may both be pointed to as examples to be shunned. That must be a poor field of potatoes from which you cannot select a bushel fit for exhibition. Indeed, four-fifths of the prizes under the present system may be carried off by men whose farms and farm management would never induce the passer-by to suspect that they had received marks of distinction from the Provincial Association. The New York State Society c^{on}fers prizes for the best managed farms, and appoints a committee to inspect them. The reports oc-