

mal or production of any kind, instead of creating a true standard of taste in reference to that class of productions, he creates a false standard of taste, and induces men to compare their animals with the standard which, instead of giving them information, will positively do them injury (loud cheers).

Mr. WILLIAM TORR responded to the health of the Judges, and congratulated the assembly on the very splendid exhibition they had that day witnessed in the show-yard. He had visited many an exhibition in connection with their society, but he could with sincerity say this was by far, as a whole, the best he had ever witnessed; and most decidedly it was the best exhibition of sheep he had ever seen in Ireland (hear, hear). The show of implements at Armagh, however, did not come up to the show of animals in any way; and he thought it behoved the Royal Improvement Society to bestow some little portion of their funds towards effecting an improvement in this respect; for it was his opinion that, instead of giving medals and commendations for implements, a portion of their funds should be appropriated to giving prizes (cheers). It was very well for the extensive implement manufacturer, who could procure skill and labour in the market, to get a medal when money was not a matter of moment to him; but with the small manufacturers, a medal did not repay their labour, and a £10 note was more acceptable than any such token of superiority (loud applause).

The following facts relative to the celebrated Short-horn Cow, "*Butterfly*," owned by Charles Townley, Esq., of Burnley, Lancashire, will be interesting to our readers.—*The Irish Farmer's Gazette* gives a well executed wood-cut of this truly beautiful animal, and also of others that gave so high a character to the Armagh Show:—

"Charles Townley obtained the first prize, of fifteen sovs., with his far-famed cow, *Butterfly* also the Gold Medal, the Silver Medal, and Purcell Challenge Cup, which makes it the property of Mr. Townley. She is now five years old, and has, this year, with her two calves, won thirteen prizes in England and Ireland, and is again in calf. She has travelled upwards of 6,000 miles to the various shows, and won upwards of fifty prizes; she was, we believe, never beaten, and never looked better. Master *Butterfly*, her calf, took the first prize in his class at Lincoln."

THE SOUTHDOWN SHEEP SHOW AT BABRAHAM.

It has been well known for some time past that, for this season at any rate, Mr. Jonas Webb would not occupy his usual position as an exhibitor at the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society. Whatever reason may have led to such a determination, it could scarcely fail to give additional interest to his own gathering, held, as announced, on Thursday last. Beyond the fact that this was the only opportunity for inspecting he picked animals of his famous flock, the visitor had good grounds for assuming that the show might be even better than it yet has been. There could be no reserve for the Great National Ex-

hibition of the kingdom, and thus many rams might come into the letting at Babraham, which under former circumstances, it would not have been politic to put up. Any anticipations of this kind were amply realized. There were never, we believe, so many sheep entered at the Babraham show; and never did those hired average a better price. We have thus an ample guarantee as to the continued excellence of Mr. Webb's sort; and this authority was, perhaps, of a more satisfactory character than it invariably has been. Ranging in some cases to extraordinary biddings, there was still wanting that go-a-head decision to have certain lots on any terms, which made the meeting of last year so especially remarkable. It is true, amongst the company we met at Babraham, on Thursday, America and France had both their representatives; the latter in two gentlemen officially connected with the advancement of agriculture in that country. These, however, unlike some of their predecessors from "foreign parts," were content to take rams, to be had at comparatively moderate sums. It was the home breeder who on this occasion contributed chiefly to the business of the meeting—it was he who gave the long prices—it was such men as the Duke of Richmond, Mr. Lugar, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Rigden, Mr. Turner, and others, who, by their presence and support, afforded us some tangible proof as to the real merit of the Babraham flock.

Fashion, the ready servant of established success may always do much, as often enough stand answerable for more than can be really justified. This of itself, backed with a good word well applied, may tempt the untutored stranger to the highest flights; but this alone will never become authority. It is when we see "the Down men" returning here, again and again, for fresh blood, that we come to record the Babraham sheep as still the first of his breed—however altered or improved since his introduction to the flat lands of Cambridgeshire, one of the most renowned of the Sussex breeders readily admitted, that it was by the aid of Mr. Webb's breed he had only the other day been able to carry off all the prizes at a meeting in his own county.

The following statistics connected with the day letting may be not without their value for future reference:—

Let at the hammer, 75 sheep for 1,801 guineas, thus averaging about £25 4s. 3d. each; an improvement in every way upon former years, to be best gathered from the following table:—

	Number Let.	Average Price.
1851	62	£22 2 6
1852	69	23 3 1
1853	71	22 6 3
1854	72	25 4 3

The highest priced sheep was a yearling, one of the six picked of the whole flock. He was the second called in at the reserve price of 50 guineas, but knocked down to Mr. Lugar, of Hengrave, Bury St. Edmund's for 102 guineas. The highest price last year, and the highest price at which, we believe, a sheep was ever known to let, was 130 guineas, the buyer being an American.—*Abridged from the Mark Lane Express.*