to its surface unnecessarily difficult. Still one is pretty sure to find all the novelties in agricultural improvement prominently displayed at Tiptree, and, if the experience of succeeding years sometimes detracts from the value of these as gauged by their sanguine promoter, he at least keeps moving in the right direction. Everybody now acknowledges that, whatever be the state of his balance-sheet, he has done an immense deal of good. As far as the public are concerned that is the main point; for if a man's mistakes or pecuniary sacrifices benefit them they are only the more bound to feel obliged to him.

But, turning from these general considerations to the details of yesterday's visit, let us endeavour to sketch the proceedings and the results which they present. According to his usual plan on these occasions, Mr. Mechi took his guests, after a slight refection, into his fields, and here, passing rapidly from point to point, he explained with a volubility and happiness of illustration peculiar to him everything that possessed interest, or upon which information was desired. Now on the confines of his farm he complacently contrasted his neighbour's wheat with a piece of his own adjoining it, stating why the one was better than the other, and the probable value of the avantage gained. Next he was standing before a fine field of oats, dilating upon the importance of thin sowing, answering vivaciously a sustained fusillade of questions, and promising himself a return of from 11 to 13 quarters per acre upon the crop. Then came the liquid manure distributor, with its hose scattering around it showers of refreshing aliment for plants. In five minutes Mr. Mechi had told his visitors all about it—how quickly the fertilizing products of his feeding sheds were on the land—in what quantity he could apply them—how digestible and direct the form in which they were presented—how wonderful the results in vegetation which they yielded; the mechanical and chemical details of the process were dashed off in a few sentences, the folly of not utilizing town manure in the same manner inculcated, and immediately afterwards visitors and host were before one of Garrett's best portable thrashing machines, which the manufacturer proceeded to explain. Mr. Mechi had, some time ago, tested at Tiptree an American invention of this kind, and, nothing daunted by the present excellence of Garrett's described its superior merits in some respects, urging the implement-makers to get rid as much as possible of the reciprocating action in their machines, to produce them lighter and cheaper, to work out the problem of steam cultivation, and generally to go a-head. In this manner he took his guests from field to field, stopping at one point to show the spring running 40,000 gallons a-day, with which he liquifies his manure, at another to show his mode of folding and feeding sheep; again, he read a letter from Mr. Kennedy, the Scotch agriculturist, recording what a surprising increase of food for stock he had obtained by the use of liquid manure. His corn and mangold crops excited general admiration, and on no former occasion has he shown anything like them. The wheats especially are magnificent, up-standing, even in growth, large-eared, and so high that some adventurers who started to explore a field sown with "Payne's Defiance" were at once shut out of view by the waving and luxuriant mass of vegetation. In the management of his Italian rye grass Mr. Mechi's farming shows to the least advantage, but for this, as Mr. Caird very properly observed after dinner, the dry climate of the Eastern Counties is somewhat responsible. In making the round of his farm Mr. Mechi delivered a succession of short but very amusing and vigorous peripatetic lectures on almost every important point connected with agriculture. His visitors were delighted with the freshness, the good humour, the volubility, and, in the main, the soundness of these expositions. They certainly have a stamp about them which nobody but Mechi could give, and his field preachings on agriculture are alone worth travelling a long distance to listen to. There was not time left before dinner to examine the feeding sheds, the stock, and the general arrangements of the homestead, but enough had been seen to satisfy the keenest appetite for improved cultivation. Smart exercise in the fresh air had now brought a large proportion of the guests into a frame of body and mind thoroughly calculated to do justice to the ample provision which their host had prepared for them. In a spacious tent erected for that purpose, they sat down to the number of nearly 300, and there the evening was most agreeably terminated in that round of toast and speechmaking which seems an indispensable condition of festive meetings in the country.—*London Times.*

In consequence of the war with Russia, from which the principal portion of our supply of hemp and flax is drawn, the energetic people of the United States are turning their attention to the growth of hemp. That of flax, will, without doubt, be taken up with equal alacrity, both there and in British America.

With our usual deliberate and conservative mode of proceeding, and our veneration for things as they are, we shall probably follow, in this matter, the same course of action which has characterised the education question, the sanctuary question, and the agricultural application of the refuse of towns. We shall discuss it for the next twenty years, shall proclaim the attempt to be visionary, theoretical, hopeless; and shall only set ourselves at work in earnest to grow a larger breadth of flax by the time peace shall be proclaimed, and the Americans shall be in possession of the void which Russia has left in our market.

Even before the war commenced, there was a desire on the part both of the agricultural interest and those engaged in the linen manufacture, that the supply of home-grown flax should be increased, but there the matter has hitherto ended. In the meantime, our flax-spinning machines have continued, year by year, to devour more foreign fibre. Our importation of flax, for the ten years ending 1851, amounted to 70,000 tons annually. In the three years 1840, 1841, 1842, the average annual importation was 62,500 tons. For the three years 1848, 1849, 1850, it had increased to 83,800 tons. The difference may be considered equal to the produce of 84,000 acres. The number of spindles employed in the United Kingdom in spinning flax amounted, in 1851, to 1,068,000; of which Ireland had 500,000. Scotland 303,000, and England 265,000.

The greatest number of spindles out of Britain is in France, which has 350,000; but on the continent, in general a vast amount of flax continues to be spun by hand. Belgium has 100,000 spindles, Holland only 6,000, Russia 50,000, Austria 30,000, the States of the Zollverein 80,000. Switzerland 12,00, and the United States of America 15,000.

America is our best customer for linen. Thirty-nine millions of people in the States consume annually more than two yards each to the value of 1s. 3½d. sterling, Canada takes to the value of 1s. 6½d. per head; while Europe, with a population of 228 millions, takes only 1-38th of a yard each. The difference between the demand from the New World and the Old arises from two causes—the first is the pertinacity with which high duties on imported linen are maintained in most of the countries of Europe; the second is the preference for cotton garments which prevails in Asia and Africa.

Besides the extensive and continually increasing quantities of flax fibre which we receive from other countries, we import annually 650,000 quarters of linseed and 70,000 tons of oilcake. As one of the first commercial effects of the war, our flax mills are running short time for want of flax; and in addition to the loss which our farmers will sustain from a diminished supply and an increased price of guano, they will soon suffer from a deficiency of oilcake These difficulties must be overcome by an increased growth of flax, and the consumption by cattle on the land of the linseed grown upon it.

The flax culture, as practised before the revolution which spinning and machinery effected in the linen trade, was a domestic manufacture. The grower prepared the fibre for market. In many cases he spun it and wove it at home. In Ireland, the linen trade combined with other causes to produce that excessive subdivision of land which has been the bane of that country. The Irish farmer, in the most flourishing districts, was merely a weaver, holding land enough to raise his own food and raw mater-