

opinion, (sometimes a matter of some difficulty,) their di-solution would be inevitable.

Why the wisdom of the Legislature should have foreseen this state of things, and provided against it in constitutions awarded to almost every other corporation, and neglected and overlooked it in that of the Agricultural Societies, would not now be, in this place, a proper subject for enquiry. But the mischief is evident, and unavoidable by the managers, at least as the law now stands—for any unpopular measure, however well considered and ultimately beneficial, would turn them all out, and perhaps cause another batch to be elected pledged to subvert the measures adopted by their predecessors. But if, on the contrary, the precaution had been taken, as in most other cases, of displacing only one-third or one-fourth of the members every year or every two years, the incoming new Committee-men would have had time to consider and perfectly understand the views and the grounds on which the proceedings were founded before they could entirely subvert them, and destroy in one day the growing fruits of several years. Again, Sir, I may say that the members themselves, in some instances, do not feel the required permanency to induce them to adopt measures that can only be matured by a length of time, when at one swoop they may be all dissolved and “leave not a wreck behind.”

Your too well founded complaints of the very reprehensible silence persisted in by most practical farmers, in relation to the results procured from their several experiments, might be in some measure obviated by obtaining that all the County Agricultural Societies should forward to you a copy of the report of their several visiting judges of growing crops. These gentlemen generally travel, in order to perform the duties they so kindly and generously undertake, through the greater part of the counties for which they act; they are unquestionably the most experienced and intelligent practical farmers; indeed none other will undertake the task, so that from their collective reports and opinions derived from what they have seen as well as actually inspected, a general statement might be made out and published in your valuable Journal, carrying with it great weight and authority highly interesting to every agriculturist, bearing a sort of responsible official character which would present a *point*

*d'appui* for the calculations of the merchant as well as for the practice of the farmer.

But, Sir, this even should it be successfully carried out, is but one short step in advance, and while I am supposing a *point d'appui* for the others, I feel that the interests of agriculture want one for themselves; they want a union, a centrality, from which might emanate the results arrived at by the labours and experience of all the County Societies, and of every individual connected with them, and be disseminated throughout the whole district. If, therefore, the County Societies would agree to such union, and communicate their views to each other, and if, after such communication and mutual *exposé*, they would come to some preliminary understanding, and call a general central meeting of delegates from each—there can be no doubt but that such measures might be might be adopted as would (at no distant date) not leave us very far behind our neighbours in agricultural improvement; the absence hitherto of some such combination of the energies and talent of our country must have been a weight in the balance against us.

I am aware that it may be objected against me that, although I profess myself to be a practical farmer, I have left untouched all the results of my own experience, at the same time that I find fault with others for doing likewise; but I am so well persuaded that organization and combination are, for the present, such indispensable objects to attain, that I have devoted all the indulgence I can hope for exclusively to those subjects; nevertheless, hereafter, I propose to acquit myself of the objection, and enter on that field likewise; and as an earnest of my qualifications for the task, I beg leave to state that I have for many years cultivated a real model farm in this district, on what may be called the prevailing or negative system, and that, therefore, I am, from my experience, competent to point out with the nicest discrimination, all the distinct and various causes of the failure of almost every crop usually cultivated in this country; but as I am determined, this year, to alter entirely my system, with the aid of your valuable Journal, so that when the time shall come I shall be able to discuss, with equal advantages, both sides of the question, that is, the prevailing or negative system, as well as that which I hope soon to see followed up with energy and success by every farmer in the District.