

The friends of peace and good order, of a due observance and execution of the laws, should be prompted, by a sense of duty, more forcibly than by these cursory hints, to unite their influence, and put down this vulgar custom, the relic of a barbarous age, and the opprobrium of these more enlightened times.

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**T**HE Agricultural Society of the Midland District, was, in its origin, cotemporaneous, and supposed to be connected, with some other projects, which, though well intended, were found not to coincide with the present views of the inhabitants in general. From that association of ideas, probably, and a misunderstanding of its nature and intent, it did not, at first, receive the support to which it was well entitled. As its object becomes better understood, it is more generally approved. Like other human institutions, it undoubtedly has imperfections; but its general tendency is to the public good.

It is true, as an objector lately remarked, it may, in its operation, create a degree of strife and envy. Actions good in themselves may be performed from bad motives. In the days of St. Paul, some "preached Christ, of envy and strife;" but the great Apostle of the Gentiles esteemed the preaching of the Gospel so necessary and important, that he rejoiced in it, even under those disagreeable circumstances. Envy, indeed, is an unworthy passion; but emulation, if not essentially virtuous, is auxiliary to virtue. It is the great spring of human exertion, through every successive stage of life, from the cradle to the grave. Moralists agree in justifying it, as the motive, by which children, in families, schools and seminaries, are stimulated to diligence, enterprize, and good behavior; and, under different forms, it continues to influence us in maturer years. "Men are but children of a larger growth." Competition animates their endeavours, extends their progress, and increases the effect of the whole mass of labor. This principle of action may justifiably be applied to the improvements in agriculture. To excite, aid and direct it,