

the National Board, at Glasnevin, under the superintendence of two members of our Society, Dr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Donaghy, will be made a most useful institution; but at the present time, these establishments do not, I conceive, answer the purposes which must be kept in view, in the existing condition of Irish agriculture, and especially by a Society associated for the purpose of advancing our knowledge of those principles upon which the profitable cultivation of the soil must be based. It was hoped, that in connexion with the new Provincial Colleges, experimental farms would be established. This, however, is not to be the case; and it therefore becomes necessary that this Society should no longer delay. The efforts of this Society, in awakening the attention of the farmers of this province to the importance of a higher knowledge than that which was formerly regarded as sufficient, have been most successful. An establishment of the kind proposed will enable the Society to unite practice with theory, and give the pupil educated in the laboratory, or instructed in the lecture room, an opportunity of testing the correctness of the various theories which at present agitate the minds both of scientific agriculturists and practical farmers. It will enable the Society to institute such experiments as the farmers of this country cannot be expected to undertake. It will give us an opportunity, not merely of investigating the advantage of the various modes of practice, but also of contributing towards the attainment of facts, which may serve to advance the science of agriculture. Thus, it will afford a means of carefully studying the operations of the various kinds of manure, respecting which such a diversity of opinion prevails, and lead to the establishment of truths, which may serve to guide the practical man in his operations. Under the direction of the many excellent farmers who interest themselves in the working of the Society, there is every reason to expect that the farm will be conducted so as to be made, what every institution of the kind should be—a pattern farm. Such an institution, to obtain the confidence of the public—to be really useful—should above all things, in every department, be conducted so as to afford an example of the economical value of the various plans pursued. The cost of every turnip and head of wheat produced, should be accurately calculated and published to the kingdom. The chemical constitution of the soil, and of every specimen of manure applied, should be carefully examined, and the produce should be tested, not merely by its quantity, but by its composition, as determined by analysis. At the present time, strange to say, there is not a single model farm in Ireland the soils of which have been chemically examined. We may also hope, that the liberality of the many wealthy proprietors in connexion with the society, will afford the council

the means of undertaking such experiments, with regard to the relative value of the different breeds of cattle, plans of feeding, &c., as may afford useful information to the country, and that he will be supplied with agricultural implements of the most approved construction. In other countries, governments conceive that it is their interest to do for agriculture what your Society now proposes to accomplish. Even in Russia, a country which we are accustomed to regard as so much inferior to our own in civilization, the Emperor is a munificent encourager of agricultural knowledge, justly believing it to be the surest foundation of the wealth and happiness of states. Norway also, though a poor country, supports her schools of agriculture; and almost every petty state in Germany possesses its experimental farm and well-managed agricultural college. I find, by a number of the *Albany Journal*, which I lately received from Mr. B. P. Johnston, the indefatigable secretary of the noble New York State Agricultural Society, that on the 4th of January, the governor of the state addressed a message to the society, urging upon them the establishment of an agricultural school and model farm. That our farmers are alive to the importance of agricultural knowledge, the rapid progress of this Society, from very small beginnings, and the increased taste for agricultural literature affords, I conceive, very strong evidence. The establishment of schools of agriculture in the new colleges, which, it will be recollected, was recommended by this Society, in an address to the present Lord Lieutenant, who, in the best sense of the words, has shown himself "the farmer's friend," leads us to hope that our rulers are beginning to perceive that the interests of this country may be materially promoted by such means as will more completely qualify the cultivators of our soil—the producers of our food—for the successful prosecution of their most important avocation. It may be a considerable time before the Society can accomplish all that I have proposed; but we can make a beginning; and, at all events, whether upon five or thirty acres, we must labour that our work be capable of affording useful lessons to the country.—*Northern Whig*.

MONSTER FIG.—Mr. Joseph Smith, the landlord of the Odd Fellows' Hall, Brautford, has in his possession a sow, which for size and exact symmetry of shape, we understand, has not an equal in England. Its length, from the root of the tail to the end of the snout, is 10 feet 3 inches, its height is 3 feet 7 inches, its girth over the shoulders is 7 feet 6 inches, and its weight is 70 stone. The animal is only two years old, and lives upon the coarsest of food. It is supposed that when fed it will weigh upwards of 100 stones, 14 lbs. to the stone.