

We lately asked: *Where are the Schools for Farmers' Sons?* Now, even though we overlook the Professorship in the Edinburgh University, and the many agricultural schools in Ireland, yet this question shall not be altogether without a satisfactory answer; and for this we have to thank the *Fairford and Cirencester Farmers' Club*, or, rather, Mr. Brown, the member of that society, by whom they were urged and led in the course which they adopted.

On the 14th of November, 1842, Mr R. J. Brown, of Cirencester, in Gloucestershire, read before that society an address on the advantages of a specific education for agricultural pursuits, in which, after pointing out the importance of the subject, and the consequently *shameful* fact that this country is distinguished among all others by her neglect of it, he urged the propriety of establishing a public institution in their own neighborhood where agriculture might be taught, and he concluded thus:—"It has been suggested that such an institution should originate with the Agricultural Society, or with Government. We shall find that the practical way is to do our own business ourselves. We shall thus have an institution adapted to our wants. No one situation will do for all England. We hope of every district—the vales, the chalk, the red sand, &c.—that each will have its college. If one large establishment was reared, we may fear that it would be a failure; anything rather than the substantial practical institution that will turn out—not the finical gentleman, afraid of soiling his hands—but intelligent, active, hardy young men—who will maintain the substantial honest character of the English yeomen, combined with all that modern science and advancement, and careful training and moral and religious culture can do, to elevate them to the station in the country that they ought to fill. We are each of us the centre of some little circle. Let us advance the cause by advocating it amongst those we know; and, with God's Blessing, we may hope that, ere long, the cry for the efficient practical education of the rising generation of farmers will be so loud and general, that all difficulties will disappear, and we shall have the happiness of seeing an agricultural college on the Cotswold Hills—a model, we trust, for many others in the land." A committee of the Club was formed for the purpose of inquiring further into the feasibility of Mr. Brown's proposal; it met on the 19th of December, and drew up an address on the subject to the

landowners and tenants of the neighbourhood. This address was circulated in the beginning of 1843; by April of that year the movement had experienced such an accession of strength that a provisional committee, comprising many of the leading men of the district, was appointed, and a prospectus was proposed; in May the draft of it was agreed to—it was entitled "The Prospectus of an Agricultural College, or an Example Farm, in the Olite District, including the country commonly called the Cotswold hills, extending from Bath to Chipping Camden, also including a great part of Oxfordshire and North Wiltshire, part of Berkshire, &c." A capital of £12,000 was proposed to be raised by proprietary shares of £30 each, the control and government of the whole scheme was to rest in the shareholders, whose rights and responsibilities should be defined by a deed of settlement, in the same month, however, it was reported, by a committee appointed to consider the subject of responsibility, that it could only be provided against by charter or act of Parliament. At this time a committee was appointed to wait on the noblemen and gentlemen of the district and solicit support, and to attend and address the agricultural meetings of that year at Stow, Lechlade, Farringdon, Devizes, Chuppensham, Wotton Bassett, Teisbury, Gloucester, Malmesbury, Bath, &c., the country was also divided into districts, and one or more members appointed to canvass each. In January, 1844, it was decided to hold a public meeting on this subject, and it was held at Cirencester on the 22d of April; the report of the Cirencester Farmers' Club was there read, and resolutions founded upon it were moved by Earl Ducie and others: that the proposed institution was expedient, and that a committee of gentlemen be appointed to determine on the best plan of it, and on the best method of carrying the design into effect. It was at this stage in the proceedings, therefore, that the Farmers' Club dropped their direction, and handed the scheme over (as was most proper, considering the general interest it had now excited) to a body more fairly representing the district whose aid was required. It was now determined to apply for a charter through Earl Bathurst; and also to look out for a site, which was done by public advertisement.

In June the committee received the offer of a farm on a 48-years' lease from Earl Bathurst, and of £2000 towards the buildings, interest on which at 3½ per cent was to be added to the rent.—