

competition of foreign agricultural productions raised under a different system and climate, would offer the Canadian farmer no encouragement to produce for exportation, and they will be forced to encourage a home market and adopt a system of barter. We see no alternative but to advocate free-trade in all things, bought sold, or hired, or in none.

PROFESSOR JOHNSTON'S LECTURE.

On Tuesday evening, a meeting of members of the Society and their friends, was held in the Nelson street lecture room, to hear a lecture from Professor Johnston on the chemical principles involved in the preparation of manures, and their action upon crops. The attendance was pretty numerous.

The noble CHAIRMAN said—It is my duty to introduce to your notice Professor Johnston, whose object tonight is to lead you—not to lecture—but to lead you to this discussion, and thus to state to you those observations and facts which he is so well enabled to bring before us, for the purpose of inducing each and all of you, to take part in the discussion. The subject, then, is not a lecture, but a discussion (applause). Now, gentlemen, the way in which I propose that the discussion shall be carried on, is this; as soon as Professor Johnston has made the statement which he has to lay before us, I propose to ask any gentleman to address such observations as he may think applicable with respect to whatever may have arisen (applause). I shall hold in my hand a paper containing the various points to which I should wish to call your attention, the object being to obtain all the information we can from those residing in this locality, and at the same time give in return all the information possessed upon the subject by those who came from the south of England. (applause.)

Professor JOHNSTON upon presenting himself, was loudly cheered. He said—My Lord and gentlemen, the subject which has been selected by your council for the purpose of being made the subject of discussion this evening, is one of so very important and mighty a nature that I could not hope to explain to you the principles which it depends in a single hour which is the very utmost time that I suppose ought to be placed at my disposal. But besides, gentlemen, the observations that I am about to offer you are intended to lead to an after discussion, and therefore, inasmuch as the essential principles do not perhaps, well admit of discussion, in a meeting like, the present, I shall select such points to bring before your notice, as are of a practical nature—points which I hope will suggest to your mind topics upon which I hope you will be able to lay before the meeting observations far more valuable than I can offer you (applause). Gentlemen, the relation of British agriculture to the present condition of this country, involves too great points. In the first place, the production of a larger amount of corn, for the purpose of rendering us independent of foreign supplies, so as to enable us to meet the wants of our large and increasing population; and in the next place, it demands the production of this increase at a cheaper rate; so as to enable us better to contend with foreign competition (applause). The first of these ends—the production of a greater amount of corn—may be obtained in one of two ways—either by bringing more arable land into cultivation, or else by causing the land which is now under culture to produce a greater amount of corn, (applause). In

regard to the first of these means there are, as you are doubtlessly aware, great difficulties in our way which 20 or 30 years ago, did not exist. As you know, there was a large quantity of land, twenty or thirty years ago, which lay waste, but which has since been brought into cultivation, and consequently it cannot be expected that an equal amount of land can be reclaimed during an equal number of years to (applause). On the other hand the present amount of corn may be increased by rendering the land more productive, that is, by causing land which now only yield four quarters an acre, to produce five (applause). Again corn may be rendered cheaper, in two ways. It may be done by lowering rents, or reducing the rate of the agricultural wages; or, secondly by increasing the produce of your land without increasing the expense of production, by causing lands which yield four quarters per acre, to produce five without any increase of expense (applause). Now an interesting question arises in the outset, which I am sure you will like to have your attention directed to. If by making the land more productive we are to raise more corn at a cheaper rate, how much of the land of the kingdom is capable of being so rendered more productive? If you were to ask my own individual opinion upon this point, I should at once state it as being my belief, that nearly nine-tenths of the lands under cultivation in Britain, might be made to produce more corn than at present by the application of improved treatment, (applause). I speak this, gentlemen, as my own individual opinion; but as this is a point of great importance, I have merely thrown out this opinion for your consideration, and I trust that it will call up some gentleman who is better acquainted with the productive qualities of the land in the kingdom than I am, (applause). But suppose, gentlemen, the land is capable of being rendered more productive, you will ask to what extent? Now in regard to this question, I believe it is impossible to give a very decided or absolute answer. But I can examine the land in one part of the kingdom, and ascertain how much corn it is capable of producing; I can examine the nature of that soil, and ascertain its formation. Unfortunately I have not a map with me, as I supposed I had. We will, however, suppose that there is a soil of a different formation and a given geological quality at this end of the room, and that at the other end of the room there is a land of a similar quality; if, then I find the land I have pointed to in the first instance will grow thirty or forty bushels an acre, then I say I am justified in inferring that the other land having a similar or equal soil, will produce an equal quantity (applause). And if I see some land of equal geological quality as the first-named land, then I am entitled to say, that it only requires the exercise of proper skill to bring it within an equal state of productiveness (applause). A short time ago I happened to visit the estate of an old friend of mine, Mr. Achaieson, of Dromore, whom some of you doubtlessly know, and after walking over his farm, he showed me his books, in which he had kept an account of the extent of his land, the produce, and what he sold it for, from the commencement of the present century. In 1820, I found that the produce of 100 acres of that land averaged 50 bushels of oats per acre. In 1832, I found that 120 acres of land sown with wheat produced 40 bushels per acre, whereas this 120 acres afterwards, the season being better for oats, produced 80 bushels of oats. Now, when I came to examine the nature of the soil, I found that this difference was caused by the application of an improved system of management and a proper system of manuring (applause). This soil, was not of a good quality being upon a coal-sub-soil, and