

numbers were increased by 700. This society had, during thirteen years, done much more than either the Scotch or English society—that was to say, taking into account the amount of funds at their disposal. They brought over the best animals from the sister countries, and kept them here for breeding purposes for twelve months, and the result was, they were now able to compete successfully with English and Scotch agriculturists. They had also established branch societies, and had used their exertions to impart good, sound information to the farmers of this country. It had done much for the welfare of Ireland; and he trusted that the gentlemen of Ulster would give the old Ulster tug, which was, a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull together; and if they did, Ireland would soon be

Great glorious, and free,
First flower of the earth and first gem of the sea.

LORD CLANCARTY responded to the toast of the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland—Notwithstanding what the Lord Lieutenant had said about implements, he should say that there had been an exhibition in that department, sufficient to show that there was a growing appreciation of improved implements on the part of the Irish farmer. He thought, however, that there could still be further improvement, which, he trusted, he would yet see. He saw before him the representatives of every creed and party, with the representative of royalty to cheer them on in their work; and he trusted that it would have the effect of pushing them forward in their exertions on behalf of the society. It was a most striking fact that, in the midst of a terrible war, they could carry on these social meetings with such success (cheers). From the very grounds, perhaps, on which they then stood, had St. Patrick banished the terrible monsters which once infested this land—(hear, hear)—and he asked, had they not even now terrible monsters to banish from their farm-yards, replacing them by the noble animals they saw to-day—had they no thistles to banish, which could be replaced by the noble shamrock (cheers)? The record of what they would do in this respect would be seen on the face of the soil, and by the statistics of agricultural products; and he trusted they would not forget they had a duty to perform to themselves and to the soil of the country which had been placed at their disposal. He believed it was reserved for Armagh to restore its ancient name in literature. He had greatly admired its Observatory and Public Library, and he hoped that, when so much was done for knowledge, a great deal would be done for its promotion in respect to agricultural subjects (hear, hear).

LORD TALEOT DE MALAHIDE observed in reference to the national Agricultural Societies of Scotland and England, and the Royal Dublin Society:—He had not the honour of belonging to the Royal Agricultural Society of either Scotland or England, but he felt proud of his connection with the Royal Dublin Society. It was the first body that attempted in this country to combine theory with practice by introducing the practice of scientific agriculture. Having briefly, and in complimentary terms, alluded to the exertions of

the Royal Highland Societies of Scotland and England, his lordship went on to say that no person could question but the Agricultural Society of Ireland had done much in improving the country. With respect to the Royal Dublin Society, there never was a spark of rivalry existing between them (hear), and he trusted that for years they would continue to pursue their useful avocations. They were both exhibiting societies, and consequently had much in their power. In alluding to the Dublin Society, he felt bound to call the attention of agriculturists to the Agricultural Museum. It was an ample store-house of practical information, and no one could visit it without deriving benefit (hear, hear).

LORD NAAS, in proposing the Royal Flax Improvement Society of Ireland, observed:—It had for its object the improvement of the culture of a plant the most important known in domestic agriculture; it was the production of a plant which formed the raw material of their staple—he might say their only—manufacture. There was a time when the culture of this plant was of more paramount importance than at present, when they were engaged in war with a power and a country from whence they had been accustomed to draw a great portion of flax and flax-seed. It behoved the flax-farmer of the North, therefore, to put forth all his energies and endeavour to produce for the manufacturer as great a quantity as possible of the raw material. And it also behoved him to put in practice the new system of culture, by which means he could preserve the seed (hear, hear); for unless they could procure a greater proportion of seed at home, they might feel a difficulty in obtaining it from foreign countries. The association had already done good service in Ireland, and he hoped the day was not far distant when sufficient crops of flax would be raised to supply all the demands of the manufacturers (applause).

VISCOUNT MONCK made the following pertinent remarks, in reference to the duties, qualifications, and influence of Judges:—Gentlemen, our exhibitions are not held merely for the purpose of rewarding men who produce a good beast, or for bringing to the test those feelings of emulation which are certainly calculated to advance the cause of agriculture (hear, hear). I hold that the principle object of our meeting is to create a sound standard of taste with reference to agricultural subjects—to foster that taste when created—to give the farmer an opportunity, as has been already remarked by the former speaker (Mr. Kirk), of comparing their own things with the things produced by other agriculturists, and thereby enabling them more effectually to form their opinion on the abstract taste and merits of their own animals (loud cries of hear, hear). These being the objects of our show, you can easily perceive that if the judges appear, from want of ability—from want of impartiality, or from any other reason—to give an unsound decision with reference to subjects committed to their adjudication—our shows, instead of accomplishing the objects which we have in view in holding them, will positively do injury; because if a judge awards a medal to an imperfect ani-