

tistical returns before the meeting, showing the resources of that part of the American Continent, and its progress in commerce, arts, and agriculture. He also exhibited specimens of flax grown there, which he confidently asserted would not be excelled by that of Russia, which Canada looked forward to compete with as a flax-growing country."

We doubt not Mr. Kirkwood is producing in the United Kingdom a favorable impression of Canada, and his mission should be regarded as one of the first fruits of a Government Department of Agriculture.

THE LATE EARL OF DUCIE.

We promised in our last, in noticing the decease of this lamented nobleman, to give some slight account of him as an agriculturist.

The Earl of Ducie descended from an ancient family, connected by marriage with the Mortons, a family of long standing in Staffordshire. In tracing the line of his ancestry, we come to find that, independently of his individual taste and determination, there was every promise of his taking high rank as an agriculturist. "Somewhere," observes a writer in a late number of the *Farmers' Magazine*, "about the commencement of the seventeenth century the then head of the Ducie family had entered so fully into the business of the farm, and advanced so far before the spirit of the times, as to employ the celebrated Jethro Tull as his steward, and to support him in all the experiments and improvements which have made the latter's name so famous. This, however, is so well introduced, and the '*Perseverando*,' motto of the Ducie's—past and present—so well exemplified in a paper read by Mr. Hyett, of Painswick, to the Gloucester Farmers' Club, in 1842, on the benefits which agriculture has derived from Science;" after speaking of Tull's drilling and horse-hoeing husbandry, which gradually produced such salutary and important changes in the agriculture of England, the writer refers to the following quaint passage in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1764:—"Mr. Tull employed himself assiduously in training servants, and in accommodating the instruments proper for his new husbandry to their limited capacities: and this work he found much harder to accomplish than he at first

expected; it was less easy to drive the ploughman out of his way, than to teach the beasts of the field to perform the work. The late Lord Ducie Morton, who followed Mr. Tull, or rather accompanied him in this laborious and vexatious business, had frequently, to correct the awkwardness of his ploughmen, or overcome their obstinacy,—stript himself of his dignity, and put his hand to the plough himself; and yet with all this condescension in his Lordship, and with all the vigilance, activity, and ingenuity of Mr. Tull, who was a most excellent mechanic, they were both forced at last, after a world of money expended to very little effect, to relinquish the project, and to content themselves with farming their lands in the ordinary way, except some small portions of it, which they reserved for further experiments." The example of a nobleman lending a hand in so characteristic a way to encourage in his difficulties one of the most persevering and scientific farmers that England ever knew, was happily not lost upon his descendants.

The late Lord Ducie did not rest satisfied with making himself practically acquainted with the best systems of agriculture and stock raising, but exerted himself in carrying into practice on an extended scale the most correct principles of husbandry for the benefit of others. The district in which his Lordship resided (Gloucestershire) was more than commonly backward in agricultural improvement, and it occurred to his sagacious mind that a farm conducted on the best modern principles of good husbandry would be the most efficient means of diffusing a knowledge of, and exerting a desire for, an improved system of agriculture. Hence he commenced a number of years since the celebrated Example Farm at Whitfield, and placed it under the management of Mr. Morton, the well-known author of the best treatise in any language, on the Composition and Distribution of Soils. The main object which his Lordship had in view in undertaking the Whitfield farm was to show to visitors, and more particularly to farmers living in the immediate district, how land in a very low state of cultivation and productiveness might be profitably converted into one of very opposite character. Here was teaching by a method which the most stubborn could not well resist,—namely, that of