

to the task. We have not unfrequently seen those who occupied the place of the tyro last year, ascend the platform this year, and deal out instruction with a master's power and eloquence. Mechanics' Institutes are schools of a high order, so let them be fostered by all.

Botsford and Westmorland Agricultural Society.

This society, one of four in the County of Westmorland, has been in existence for upwards of ten years. When first instituted, and for several years after, premiums were awarded on cloth of various kinds, and on garden vegetables, turnips, butter, &c.

Experience soon taught the society, that awarding premiums for such objects did not advance the general interests of the community; which was confirmed by the results that flowed from a similar course being pursued in other Agricultural Societies. Feeding a few animals at the expense of the rest, does not improve the condition of the stock of the country. It was acting something like the principle, upon which the farmer's wife was said to act, who wanted to make all the butter she could, 'knocked the calves in the head with the churn dash.' It is no uncommon practice for some amateur farmers, to 'hunt the length and breadth of the land for the largest and most thrifty looking animals—feed them high,—take the highest premium on them this year, next year, and perhaps the third year; pick one bushel of wheat, berry by berry, take a premium for it, of say ten shillings—hand it to Dick who gets a premium for it next year, and then to Harry who gets a premium for it the third year, &c.

Believing that such a system of awarding premiums;—feeding extraordinary animals in an extraordinary manner, fails even to show the capabilities of the country, and effects but little in the general improvement of the stock; the Botsford and Westmorland Agricultural Society has for the last 4 or 5 years awarded premiums on the improvement of land, and in the making of compost manures.

At the annual meeting for 1860, held a few weeks ago, it was the unanimous opinion of a numerously attended meeting, that the best way of improving the country, was to award premiums for the improvement of land and the making of compost.

In proof of this resolution, it was shown that in a society composed of seventy members, not less than two hundred and fifty acres of land had been prepared during the Summer, for a crop in 1861; and that nearly one thousand loads, fifty feet each, of compost manures had also been prepared during the summer season, and made ready to be drawn upon the land in the autumn.

Thus, the wilderness is encroached upon, and made to yield to man's wants; and the swamps and other alluvial spots, are made to