

all that belongs to them, we, with natural advantages quite equal to theirs, with institutions such as we are pleased to make them, and which are inferior to theirs only through our own lethargy and stupidity, are contented to grovel on year after year, in servile submission to those evils which are the effects of our own spiritless and short-sighted selfishness, without the power to make that vigorous and united effort which alone is required to place us in a position quite equal to theirs, in the meantime, grumbling at and disparaging a country, a climate, and a soil, which are but too good for such thankless ingrates.

THE ENGLISH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

From the reports we have seen of the autumnal meetings of these societies, the complaints of the depressed condition of the agricultural interest, arising from the extreme low prices caused by excessive foreign importations, appear to have been both loud and general. The same is true of Scotland. As to Ireland, the depreciation in the value of produce, combined, no doubt, with other causes, has already diminished the circulating medium of the whole kingdom more than one-third; which circumstance is alone sufficient to account for much of the distress and misery of that unhappy land. As it might naturally be expected, the depressed condition of agriculture was mainly ascribed by the generality of the speakers at these meetings, to the effects of the free-trade policy. Here and there a solitary voice was to be heard expressing a hope "that better times are coming," and that British industry, capital and skill must ultimately triumph over all difficulties. This may be so, but how many thousands will be ruined in the meanwhile! One thing is certain, that the repeal of the corn-laws has raised the value of money just in proportion to the depreciation of all kinds of farming produce—that is to say, from twenty-five to thirty per cent. The British farmer must now raise 130 bushels of grain, to meet a given money amount of rent, taxes, and interest on borrowed capital, which, two years ago, when most or all of these imposts had been contracted, would have been met by one hundred bushels. The same remark holds good with all kinds of live stock, and tenants' property in general. Free trade, if persisted in, must produce eventually great fiscal changes in the mother country, and will put to the severest test the connection of many of her colonies. This great, and, as it has appeared to many, hazardous experiment, is now very far from being completed. Canada is now placed in a most anomalous and disadvantageous position, as an integrant portion of the British empire; and if we should not succeed in our attempts for reciprocity with the United States, we shall have most clearly an indisputable right to protection in the home market. We have only to use our best exertions, and wait patiently, though it be most anxiously, the result.

Next we should be accused of taking a one-sided view of this great question, we here insert some observations of Mr. Brown, one of the members

for South Lancashire, at a recent meeting of the Liverpool and Manchester Agricultural Society. Mr. Brown is a zealous and consistent free-trader, but we cannot vouch for the perfect accuracy of all his data. The reader must think and judge for himself:—

Mr. Brown, M.P., in responding to the toast of the county members, said he was not a practical farmer, and therefore it would be bad taste in him to endeavour to enlighten them on farming subjects; but as he had been met with enquiries from both landlords and tenants as to the effect which free trade might have upon rents, perhaps it would be well if he quoted some statistics to show as far as possible the competition which might be expected from abroad. Austria, which was a corn-growing country, produced 13 bushels to the acre, France 14 bushels, America 18 bushels, Poland 20 bushels (but that had to go to Dantzic for shipment), and England was estimated to produce from 28 to 30 bushels to the acre; so that it would be seen we were a match for any of them on that ground. Then as to the prices at which these countries could afford to supply our market. He had brought with him a memorandum, which showed the average of wheat in the United States since 1785. The averages were those of ten years, and the prices those of the Philadelphia markets.

From 1785 to 1794.....	£1	17	0	per qr.
" 1795 to 1804.....	3	2	0	"
" 1805 to 1814.....	2	15	6	"
" 1815 to 1824.....	2	10	4	"
" 1825 to 1834.....	1	15	4	"
" 1835 to 1844.....	1	19	8	"

That gave an average of 49s. 8d. a quarter for the lowest period, and to this must be added 8s. to 10s. for freight, charged to profits. Now he thought they could meet that. But whatever might be said in regard to grain, foreigners certainly could not compete with us in the green crops. As to the quantity of live stock which they could send, it was hardly worth naming. Kane, in his "Industrial Resources of Ireland," had shown the vast extent of our home supply. Now, with respect to Russia, fears had been expressed that we would get large supplies of wheat from Odessa. With respect to that, we had nothing to fear; her agriculture was on the lowest scale of all, and very little wheat found its way through the Straits of Gibraltar, unless the prices were remunerative here. The poor Russian boor brought his corn to market on a miserable cart, drawn by oxen: if he could get a pittance to pay his rent, it was all he wanted. There was no capital there applied to agriculture. Under all these circumstances, he thought, with our good roads—with the immense capital which we could apply to the cultivation of the soil—with the Saxon energy which we possessed—with the intelligence that he saw in that room (for he had just been telling the president that he saw a great many intellectual faces around him), with our knowledge of chemistry, and with the various other advantages that we had, he should not be surprised to see us, instead of being an importing country, if we put our shoulders to the wheel, become once more an exporting country.

At a meeting of the Saffron Walden Society, in Essex, Lord Braybrooke in the chair, the Rev. Dr. Buckland, the eminent geologist, spoke as follows:—

In the Midland districts of England, where the spirit of improvement had travelled to the banks of the Trent, in that fine manly country where God and nature had done so much, there man had done the least. Let them look to the country between Birmingham and Derby, and see the state of the fields; to the Vale of Taunton Dean, where he saw lands that would produce forty-six