

as they please about applying more capital to the land and farming better; if there be a something which takes away the capital and the means of doing so, what rubbish it is to suppose that we can continue to carry on these operations! (cheers). We are now in such a position that the agriculturists are bound by every means in their power, and quickly too, to exert themselves and see if there are any means by which to keep the ship afloat (loud cheers). I want Mr. Mèchi speedily to give in the balance-sheet of his; to give it to us before the year passes, that we may know what is the result of his operations (Hear). If he can show us that he is a great gainer, I for one will adopt his system: but until I see this important document, I cannot, from the circumstances of my own position—and I believe that they constitute the general position of the farmer—venture to undertake a thing of the result of which I am so doubtful (cheers). Everybody must be aware that by the outlay of money produce can be grown up to a certain quantity, and so corn will stand on end up to a certain weight; but beyond that weight it will not, for the straw would break, and the first rains destroy the crop. Now, though by a great outlay of capital on the land you might be able to produce such a crop that you would be obliged to train it as you do the vine for the purpose of supporting its head, the question comes, whether, after incurring that trouble and expense upon reaping and selling it the balance would not be against you (Hear)? The whole operation rests upon the results—the balance-sheet at the end of the year. It is altogether in vain to present us with notions of practical agriculture, unless you show us at every step the cost you incur, and the results in the markets of England (cheers). I agree that there is much to be done which is not of this merely experimental character, and that there is much which may be done with great advantage both by tenant and landlord; but as to telling me that the landlord of himself is to do it all, that is quite out of the question. It is morally impossible that the landlord of a great estate can carry on its operations, after having paid the charges upon the estate, and maintain the buildings and appurtenances to boot. I tell you it is a great stewardship. I know the tenantry of England take the right view of this point. What is the landlord to do, then? There is a variety of things admissible and permissible that are in constant operation every day. I have travelled from north to south within the last few weeks. I have visited many gentlemen and noblemen upon their estates. Now no one single house did I enter, and not a gentleman did I wait upon, but the first and main topic of interest was the state of the agricultural population. He shows me what he is doing. He says, "Here are farms thrown up, but I have

taken them in hand, and am draining them. Here is a tenant in want, and I am supplying him with tiles; and I have grubbed up the hedges and cut down the timber" (Hear). Throughout the country is that feeling predominant amongst the landlords—(Hear, hear)—and I believe that a greater degree of exertion is made at this moment upon the land, by the joint powers of the landlord and the tenant united, than there has ever been at any period of our history (loud cheers). You will join with me in the prayer that those exertions may, in themselves, be full of that great and important result which I do trust in God, for the security of this country and its people, may be certain and effective (cheers). I trust that the agriculture of England may be sustained; for I do look with alarm, incalculable alarm, upon such a condition of the country as that wherein the fortunes and the wealth of the country are thrown upon the manufacturing interest alone. A more formidable, dangerous, and perilous position for a nation to be placed in, you cannot for a moment possibly conceive. Your exertions at this time are most important; for if by any accident, or the operation of any machinery, this great fabric is cut down, the trading and manufacturing population will not be able to support the interest and the honour of the nation against any foreign exigency (loud and protracted cheering). I hope I have not said a word that has trench upon the society's rules. I have not touched upon any political topic. I have adverted solely to the cultivation of the land, and the happiness and prosperity of that numerous population which lives upon it, which is a fixed population and cannot be got rid of, for there it is (Hear, hear). I am sure you will agree with me in maintaining that agriculture is the first and great object of all who love the true interests of the empire. (The noble Earl resumed his seat amidst general and protracted cheering.)

At the dinner of the London Farmers' Club, Mr. Pusey, M. P., late President of the Royal English Agricultural Society, and at present Chairman of the Journal Committee, and we believe principal Editor of the Journal of the Society, made a speech that must have produced considerable surprise in other quarters, if not at the dinner. He stated, that having heard so much of the superiority of Scotch farming to English farming, he wished to bring it to a test, and, therefore, he begged the Committee of that Club to offer, on his part, a bet of £150, to back three farms in the Eastern Counties of England, against