

chines of all descriptions scattered over some acres of ground, without an atom of covering either for the exhibitor or his wares, and a heavy storm coming on! Let the several entries of each section be placed side by side, if you please, for the inspection of the judges, but then allow the makers subsequently to collect them in their own stands. The present plan positively spoils trade, and, as we said last year, "it would be quite as much for the good of Scotland to buy as for England to sell." Many of the manufacturers would gladly pay for the accommodation, which it must be borne in mind the Highland Society now alone refuses them. The English firms, more especially, are gladly culminating in their expression of dissatisfaction on this point, and the Scotch farmers are at length beginning to thoroughly appreciate English machinery. Never previously was the admission so openly made, as never before, perhaps, was the superiority so thoroughly demonstrated. About the most striking example of this was the trials of the ploughs on the Tuesday, in the presence of such a crowd of landlords and tenants as one rarely or ever sees so early in the proceedings. There were a great number of pair-horse ploughs put to work, chiefly of course of the Scotch swing make, but fortunately with one or two of our wheel-ploughs by way of comparison. Better still, these went bodily into competition. The Messrs. Howard, of Bedford, who last year at Aberdeen held off so determinedly, now entered openly for the premium, and won it as fairly. The most clannish of Scotchmen confessed there was no work like it. The noble President of the Society was delighted, and local men hung round the performance to gather hints and wrinkles for their own advancement. Mr. Sellars was, to the credit of the country, a good second, and Page of Bedford, although we believe not mentioned by the judges, as honest a third. Still the interest centred on the other English plough, and the only complaint was that the Hornsbys, who were present, had not also gone to trial. I was clearly against them, in the estimation of the public, that they did not. But the non-prize system is susceptible of endless ramifications and interpretations, and in endeavoring to observe them only too religiously, the Grantham house placed itself in a somewhat false position. It is curious to see how they came to do so. There is, then, in London, an institution of the proceedings, of which, although little heard, yet that still exercises considerable influence in its way. It is, we think, termed the Society of Agricultural Engineers, having for one of its chief objects the abolition of the prize system. In the prosecution of such a laudable endeavour, when it was found a few months since that the Highland Society would not give way, but still continued to offer premiums for implements, a majority of the agricultural engineers came to this resolve—They would not exhibit at all at Edinburgh, and we are assured a paper to this effect was signed by Clayton and Shuttleworth, the Howards, the Garretts, the Ransomes, and others. The Hornsbys alone, however, would not promise thus much, and so the proposal fell in, and those who chose were at liberty to enter for the Scotch meeting. Clayton and Shuttleworth and the Hornsbys appear to have done so, under the idea that as at Aberdeen they were bound not to compete. Mr. Howard, on the other hand, sees the absurdity of attempting to persevere in so impractical a course, and so far as he is concerned the non-prize plan is at an end. But his opponent and fellow-engineers maintain that they have not been fairly dealt with, and that had they known he was going to compete they should have arranged to do so, too. As it was, the Hornsbys did put a plough to work early on Wednesday morning, for which they were severely reprimanded. But we scarcely see the force of this. Were not ploughs permitted to go to work at Aberdeen, "not for competition," but to show their character in comparison with the prize-takers? And the Hornsbys did no more. However, this dispute is a very suggestive one, and lays bare the secret and purpose of the whole agitation—when once you get to the top of the tree be content to stop there. People said Hornsby was afraid to endanger his Warwick triumph at Edinburgh. And others asked if Howard had been first in England whether he would have competed in Scotland? In speaking of this year's experiment of no prizes in Ireland, as tried the other day at Dundalk, *The Irish Farmer's Gazette* says, "The absence of trials or competition for prizes has in some degree lessened the interest taken in these shows, and will no doubt act injuriously on the funds of the Society, and, if we mistake not, also on the exhibitors." It certainly so acted at Edinburgh. Mr. Howard, who did compete, was in general favour; and Mr. Hornsby, who did not, in almost as much disgrace. The Society of Agricultural Engineers are singing terribly out of tune with each other; and we should really counsel them, as the parish-clerk did his choir under similar circumstances, to "*drap* it." We must be understood as by no means divulging any private or confidential intelligence. All we have recorded