

crowds of people give them a curious appearance, which suggests to one's mind the comparison to hardly anything so much as that of a busy swarm of bees.

We (the jurors) have, we hope, got nearly to the end of our labours. For six weeks we have been nearly the whole time engaged in the examination of the products of the various countries of the earth from which articles of human food come; and there are few in which the Almighty has not made ample provision for his creatures. We find that the advantages of any one country over another are not so great as people are apt to imagine.

But of all the countries that have made an exhibition of their products none equal the glory of Victoria. Her wheat, her wool, and her gold proclaim her to be the richest country in the world, and the people have been active in their exertions to make a good appearance at the great exhibition. They have been late in getting all their things in their places, but they have eventually succeeded in making a very creditable display, both of the useful and ornamental. The samples of wheat, barley, and oats prove that the country is foremost of all in the growth of the cereals, while their paintings and photographs show that the fine arts are not neglected.

Samples of wheat weighing 66, 67, and one of 84 lbs. per bushel are shown, and these of the most beautiful white varieties I have ever seen. Our grains are much admired, but I am compelled to admit that we are beaten by Victoria in the exhibition. We shall get a fair share of medals. There is no competitive examination, but the products of each separate country are compared with one another by themselves, and circumstances of climate and soil taken into consideration.

June 19th.

I had hoped by this time to have been able to give you some detailed account of the many interesting articles in the Exhibition; but the business of the jury has kept me so constantly engaged that I have been only able to take an occasional stroll from one court to another. We are now, however, almost at the close of our labours, and hope to finish to-day. It has been a much more tedious business than I at first expected, but I find that here as well as elsewhere the few that will work must expect to have the most to do. The numerous articles to be examined weary the examiner, and often exhaust his patience. The importance of our class makes it necessary to be particular. I think I have stated there is but one class of medals. Our awards, therefore, expressive of the different degrees of merit, are either "Medal," "Highly Commended," or simply "Commended."

I shall not now have much time to devote

to a critical examination of the other departments of the Exhibition, as to-morrow I hope to do what I have been for some time desirous of doing, viz., go with my friend Mr. Prout to his farm, about thirty miles distant, to see his steam plough at work. He has an engine that works his ploughs and scarifiers, and he seems to be well satisfied with the results. This is his first year of putting the steam machinery into operation. He is carrying on farming on a large scale, at least we in Canada would think it so. He has forty acres in Swede turnips and mangel wurzel.

The month of June has so far been exceedingly wet. It has rained less or more every day, several days all day, and frequently heavily. We Canadians find it cold and uncomfortable, still the fruits of the earth are coming to maturity; strawberries are abundant; peas and young potatoes also are in the market in plenty. It is amusing to see the immense loads of rhubarb, asparagus, early cabbage, lettuce, and spinach, piled on the great heavy wagons, like loads of hay, and drawn by generally three and sometimes four heavy horses. I see them in the evenings, or early in the mornings, wending their way to the principal markets, where they are soon disposed of to the crowds of customers who have to be supplied.

Next week the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society takes place. One of our jurors, Lord Portman, is the President, and has succeeded in having all the Jurors made honorary members of the society, so we shall have all the advantages of that position. The meeting is looked forward to with a great deal of interest. It takes place in Battersea Park, between where I am living and the Exhibition. I shall give it all the attention I can. The trial of implements, which will be very numerous, takes place some twenty miles off, and will be a very interesting part of the exhibition. I will endeavour to give the whole affair as much attention as I can, and communicate what I think will interest my Canadian friends. It is to be hoped the weather will be fine, but this morning is still lowering and threatening rain, but it will surely be fair soon. This continued rain surprises me the more because when I was here in 1851 the weather during the month of June was very fine indeed, very like Canadian weather.

I learn that much of the grass that has been cut is seriously injured, and will only be fit for litter.

June, 26th.

Since my last date I have been down in Hereford at Mr. Prout's farm, and seen his plough at work. His farm, of upwards of 400 acres, is admirably adapted for its operation, and it was doing the work in the most effective manner. The farm is a stiff clay,