

ments have been tried and succeeded; and the important discoveries in chemistry and mechanical inventions of a most useful order, have eminently contributed to expedite its progress. Of this improvement we have abundant proof; the face of green fields; the broad expanse of pasture and arable which stretch far and wide and form so many fair landscapes around us—the cattle, more perfect than those which occupy the canvass of Claude—the implements of rural industry—the labours of the husbandman, all testify to the modern triumphs of agricultural science, and the great benefits which such societies have wrought here and elsewhere for the country.—The advantages, the absolute necessity in fact, of these improvements and discoveries, are obvious to all: as population progresses and the area of the country becomes more and more occupied, to keep pace with and provide for the growing consumption of this increase, it is necessary to employ all the means that science and experience place within our range, to render the soil more productive.

The progress of the society was well described by Mr. Handley the President, who at the meeting, observed:—"I rejoice, however, to tell you that the society, for whose success I certainly took a very deep interest at the period of its foundation, now numbers among its members no fewer than 6,000 of the yeomanry of England, every one of whom necessarily feels an interest in the great object that we have in view, namely, to augment the means of human subsistence. If our society has done nothing more than this, it has at least made agriculture fashionable. We have in every quarter of the United Kingdom, gentlemen who are anxiously looking out, to test any experiment that we may recommend, or that has been deemed worthy of our consideration. We have in every part of England, gentlemen who are earnestly testing the quality of the soil, making the best rotation of crops, determining the best description of seed-wheat for different soils; in short, applying themselves to a careful consideration of all those operations of agriculture, which practical men know to be so essential to success. But it is not in practice alone that we are reaping a benefit; we hoped to bring science to bear upon the practical agriculture of the country, and in that we have been eminently successful."

Although its establishment was suggested by the kindred in situation in Scotland—the Highland Society—and it may indeed, be said to be the offspring of that society, it has far eclipsed its parent in the splendor of its meetings, the numbers of its patrons and its members, and the interest it excites, not only in its annual assemblages, but in the quieter course of its useful avocations. It is not fortunately, on the mere magnitude and splendor of its meetings, that the Royal Agricultural Society rests its claim for the support of the agriculturists of Great Britain. Its claims for patronage rest upon the interest, zeal, and energy which the exhibitions excite amongst the agriculturists, and which work with such a salutary effect in promoting the march of improvement in every part of the country where the meetings are held, or whence the farmers attend them; and upon the judicious system of holding weekly meetings of the Council in London, to receive reports and papers upon every point of agricultural knowledge, to stimulate its members both to communicate their own experience and to send that of others through the medium of the Society's Quarterly Journal, and thus to set the whole agricultural body both thinking upon and

working in the great employment of providing the food of the country, with redoubled activity and emulative zeal. But a truce to digression—I have already occupied too much of your valuable space with my prosaic observations, and must now proceed to detail in brief the actual business of this meeting. The arrangements of the society were dictated throughout with much liberality and judgment. Ample and extensive notice was given many months previous, of the regulations, the premiums, &c., for the exhibition of stock and implements, and other objects of competition. The result of the labours of the General and Local Committees gave much satisfaction.

The meeting commenced on the 13th of July—on which day a *rechezeite* and elegant banquet was given to the Council by the Mayor and Corporation of Bristol, at the Merchants' Hall. At an early period of the week the guests began to throng into the city, and accommodation could scarcely be found for the immense numbers arriving from all parts of the kingdom. The Duke of Cambridge was among the visitors; and their number included most of the leading agriculturists titled and untitled.

On Wednesday the Council dined together at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, a fine new building, the use of which was specially granted to them by the proprietors. In the course of the day, a ploughing match took place, for which forty ploughs were entered, and a trial of newly-invented machines and agricultural implements was held; there was also a very fine cattle show.

Mr. Smith of Deanston, the inventor of the Subsoil Plough, delivered a lecture on Drainage, which you will find reported in *The Mark Lane Express* of the 18th ult., which, I may remark by the way, contains a full and complete account of all the proceedings.

Thursday the 14th of July, was the grand day—when the attendance of members and visitors was most numerous. The first business of the day was the great show of stock and implements. A lecture was then delivered at the Bristol Institution, on "the morbid anatomy of Domestic Animals." The grand meeting of the members of the society took place at 4 o'clock, in a pavilion erected for the occasion; between 2 and 3,000 guests sat down to table. On Friday the 15th, the sale of stock in the show-yard commenced, and a general meeting of the members and Council, for business purposes, closed the proceedings.

In connection with this meeting I would especially call your attention to the excellent observations which fell from the American Minister, the Hon. Mr. Everett.

England has always had the character of being an exceedingly proud nation—but I think she may well be proud of her successful efforts in promoting the interests of agriculture,—efforts which have commanded for her the admiration of other countries—many of whom are now nobly emulating her zeal, and enterprize, her energy, industry, skill, and perseverance. Other countries may be blessed with more bountiful soils, more genial climates, and more luxuriant vegetation, but the British farmer has battled with all the adverse circumstances with which he is surrounded, and the fruits of his labour are evident in the garden husbandry of our land—in the rich crops and abundant harvests which he reaps.—England may well then be proud of all she is, and has been and will be. She is proud of her wealthy farmers and yeomanry, of her cottage homes, of her honest peasantry. She is proud of her fine stock, of her unrivalled breeds of cattle, of her improved implements of husbandry, of

her success in introducing new fertilizers to recruit the soil exhausted by over cropping. And she may challenge the world to compete with her in any one department of agriculture—be it in the rearing and breeding of stock, the tillage of the soil, the successful growth and culture of crops, the occupations of rural life, or the application of skill and science to the various agricultural implements. Far be it from me to boast vainly gloriously of these acquirements and this success. Other nations are equally capable of successfully carrying out the various branches of husbandry and rural economy; and glad shall I be to see them more zealous and indefatigable in the promotion of agricultural improvement, and competing successfully with Great Britain, following step by step in the race, and they may perhaps hot duststep her at the goal.

Several important meetings have followed that of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

The Irish Agricultural Improvement Society held its first annual meeting and show of stock at Cork on the 20th of July. The meeting was one of the most important that had ever taken place in Ireland, as many of the leading nobility, gentry, and agriculturists from England and Scotland were in attendance. Deputations from the Royal English Agricultural Society and from the Highland Society of Scotland, headed by the Marquis of Downshire and the Marquis of Abercorn were in attendance. The Council dinner was held in the Clarence Rooms of the Imperial Hotel, Lord Viscount Bernard, M. P., took the chair, in the absence of the Duke of Leinster, the President. Lord Viscount Doneraile filled the Vice Chair. Some excellent speeches were made on the occasion.

On Thursday the 21st, the members and visitors, about 1,000 in number, dined together in the Corn Exchange. The Marquis of Downshire in the Chair. Nearly £900. was awarded, in premiums for the introduction of new and improved breeds of cattle, agricultural implements, &c. About £700. was also applied towards premiums for the Local Societies. These prizes were confined exclusively to small farmers holding only 25 acres of land, and medals were given to the large proprietors. This society has at present an annual revenue of about £2,000., besides a large sum vested in the funds. The Duchess of Leinster gave a grand assembly which closed the proceedings.

There was a very interesting meeting of the Northumberland Agricultural Society on the 28th at Belford.

The Highland Society of Scotland held its meeting on Monday the 1st Instant, when there was a dinner of the Committee at the Waterloo Rooms, Edinburgh. The great cattle show and dinner were to take place yesterday. His Grace the Duke of Richmond, President of the Society in the chair, His Grace the Duke of Roxburgh, Vice President of the Society, Croupier. The proceedings of the meeting and the result of the show have not yet reached.

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society, a very large and important one is also now holding. I have extended this letter to so great a length, that I must hasten to a conclusion, and my remarks upon the crops, &c., must necessarily be very brief.

The harvest is getting in, in many parts of the country, and will soon become very general.—On the whole the weather has been fine. On the 27th, the country was visited with a tremendous thunder storm accompanied by a heavy and