

## ASSOCIATION IN BRITAIN FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

It may be interesting again to allude to the exertions that are now making in the British Isles to improve the condition of the agricultural interest. By a report of a meeting of the proprietors of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, held in May last, it appears that the affairs of the Bank are in a most prosperous state. That it has now 33 branch banks open in the principal towns in Ireland, besides which, the managers of the nearest branch banks visit several other towns and transact business on market days. The report goes on to state that the operations of the banks have had a very beneficial effect on the price of Irish produce and manufactures. That prior to 1825 the Bank of Ireland had no bank out of Dublin; that in Dublin there were only four private banks, and that there were no other banks in Ireland then, but in Cork, Belfast, Wexford, and Mallow; that from 1825 to 1834, the Provincial Bank, Bank of Ireland, the Northern and Belfast Banks, had gradually established in the chief cities about fifty banking offices; that within the last two years the number of branch banks, &c., has increased to upwards of 120, and appears to be daily augmenting in number; besides which, there are a great number of stations attended on market days by non-resident agents on behalf of one or other of these banks; and in addition to all these, several establishments on a large scale have been announced lately in Dublin, as in connection with some of the joint stock banks in the Provinces.

The nett profits of the Provincial Bank for the year ending 26th March, 1836, after deducting all expenses, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, was £61,791 sterling. The balance of profits on hand from the previous year was £102,500. The capital £500,000; £40,000 of this profit was added to the capital stock, and a dividend of 8 per cent is now made annually to the stock-holders.

There are other companies about to be established in England; one is the "British Agricultural Loan Company," capital £2,100,000 in 20,000 shares of £105 each. This company is instituted expressly for the relief of agriculture, and to place agriculturists on a footing with the trading community, to increase the currency and to relieve those with loans who have no access to banks in the ordinary way. This institution has not yet, I believe, gone into operation. Another company, is "The United Kingdom Beet-Root Sugar Association," capital £250,000 sterling. The object of this association is to manufacture sugar from beet-root, by a patented apparatus and process imported from France, where they have been in full and successful operation. It is said that the produce of a crop of beet-root will yield a much greater remuneration to the farmer than any other crop he can raise; and that the residue of the beet-root, after the saccharine matter has been extracted, affords to animals a most nutritious food. The company offer to contract for the produce of beet-root of many hundred acres of land. It is said to promise the most ample profits for the capital invested in this manufacture.

The measures adopted in other countries for the encouragement of agriculture, may be some guide to our proceedings to accomplish the same object, I cannot forego this opportunity of offering a few