

appetite of the guests is somewhat satisfied, and the bottle has begun to circulate—the president rises, and inaugurates a speech in praise of Old England in general, and of every Englishman in particular, commencing with the Queen, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and all the royal family: with an interminable series of toasts, in which extravagant compliments are lavishly bestowed. I have, however, always observed that the replies made by Jonas Webb, upon his health being drunk, are characterized by great modesty and good taste, that contrasts agreeably with the redundant and bombastic phrases of the president's speech.

The average prices of the lettings of Mr. Webb's rams during the thirty-two years is nearly £24 sterling each; but there were rams that have let for £180.

The weight of the fleeces of the Babraham flock averages 5½ lbs., and that of the rams 8½ lbs., after the sheep have been washed.

Besides the celebrity Mr. Webb has acquired by his rearing of Southdowns, his farming at Babraham is not less remarkable for the splendid herd of Durhams he has collected. It was in 1838 that he began to rear this invaluable bovine race. At that time he purchased two cows of Mr. Alison, of Bilby, in Nottingham; and a short time after he made the acquisition of the celebrated cow "Dodona," belonging to the Earl of Lord Spencer. It appears that this great breeder had despaired of making her reproduce; and it was on account of her supposed sterility that he parted with her in favour of Mr. Webb, who took her to Babraham, and, having probably subjected her to a more intelligent treatment, she produced successively four calves, and is formed one of the most valuable herds of the Babraham herd.

At the sale of Mr. Beauford, at Blitsoe, Bedfordshire, Mr. Webb purchased his celebrated cow "Celia," daughter of the famous bull "The Third Duke of Northumberland," bred by Bates. It was to this remarkable cow that a great number of the best of the Babraham herd owe their origin. A short time ago two of her grand-daughters were sold for £472 12s. 6d. sterling.

At the Wiseton sale, Mr. Webb purchased some other celebrated cows of the herd of Lord Spencer; and at that of Lord Fitzroy he bought "Boddice," daughter of "Gurur," and the bull "Cheltenham," son of the famous "Duke of Gloucester," from whence sprung the most estimable animals of the Babraham herd. The cow "Boddice" was in calf by the "Duke of Gloucester,"

when Mr. Webb purchased her at the sale at Tortworth; and she produced a heifer, which is now one of the finest cows in England. He has been offered £320 stg. for her, but he refused to sell her.—Amongst the other principal bulls employed by Mr. Webb, and whose blood prevails in his herd, we note "The Minstrel" (8687), son of "Battus" (7816), and the famous cow "Bessy," sister of the celebrated "Buttercup" of Mr. Towneley's herd.

At the Hendon sale, Mr. Webb obtained new elements of perfection from the herd of Mr. Tanqueray; and at the present time his breed of Durhams is certainly one of the most considerable in the whole world, and yields perhaps in beauty and perfection only to that of Mr. Richard Booth and that of Mr. Towneley. When Mr. Strafford, the editor of the English "Herd Book," decided to publish the last volume of that collection, Mr. Webb sent for insertion a list of sixty one cows with their products. He has always some twenty or thirty bulls in his stalls.

I shall say a few words on Mr. Webb's system of farming. His occupation is very large, something like 2,500 acres, and his crops are always splendid. He has assured me that his farming has always yielded him a profit. This assurance is the best proof of his skill in husbandry that can be given. I add, that he is a member of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and president of the Nitro-phosphate-of-lime Company, of which material he employs immense quantities in his cultivation, and attributes to it the best results. His name alone, allied with this manufacture, is sufficient to guarantee its respectability. In the last place, I think I may say that Jonas Webb has amassed a considerable fortune, which he owes entirely to his industry and skill. There exists no person who has gained the esteem and good will of his contemporaries in a higher degree than Mr. Webb. His probity, his scrupulous good faith, his generosity, and the affable equality of his character, have gained for him the respect and affection of every one. Since I have had the honour of knowing him, which is already many years, I have never known of his having a single enemy; and in my constant intercourse with the agricultural classes of England, I have never heard a single malevolent insinuation respecting him. When we consider how much those who raise themselves in the world above others are made the butt for the attacks of envy in proportion with their elevation, we may conclude that there are in the character of this wealthy man very solid virtues,