

the members necessary to form that Board, after the election of the officers, who are to be selected to manage the business of the Society for the ensuing year.

I have also to congratulate the Society and country upon the probability of a Professor of Agriculture being appointed in the University, and the establishment of an experimental farm in conjunction therewith. All these being within the limits of our Society will afford to us increased facilities for advancement, which it will not be creditable to us to neglect. While these institutions are intended to be, and no doubt will be, highly beneficial to the country at large, our local position gives superior facilities for improving them to an extent not possessed by others; and it therefore becomes us to be energetic in endeavouring to extend our influence, and the best mode of doing this is by inducing a greater number of practical men to join our Society.

At our Spring Fair in May last, there were 156 entries made, and premiums awarded, amounting to £95 10s. The show of horses, I believe, was very generally admitted to be the best ever had. The improvement made in this important department of breeding is highly creditable, and cannot fail to prove remunerative to the judicious breeder. We owe much to those spirited individuals who have imported valuable stallions, and it might be well to take into consideration the propriety of improving the opportunity which the coming season will offer, of importing from England some valuable animals. At our October Fair, the show of sheep and swine was as usual good, and the display of carcasses in the market abundantly proves that there is no falling off in that department. We have a few fine horned cattle throughout our county, but that there is a scarcity of the improved breeds must be admitted. Still I think they exist to a sufficient extent to warrant a more distinct classification at our shows than we have hitherto had. The whole number of entries in October was 269, and the amount of prizes awarded was £101 5s. The Treasurer's account will show the state of our funds, and I trust the balance will be largely increased by the addition of members before our next May Fair, in order that this may be the case, each member should exert himself to induce others to join. It is no small matter of surprise that it should be necessary to make an effort to induce any farmer, or any one who duly appreciates the advantages that result from efforts, to contribute the trifling sum of five shillings, to entitle him to all the advantages of membership: but such is the fact. I would therefore recommend that we commence this year's operations by taking a certain number of copies of the *Agriculturist*, and giving one at a reduced price to each member, with the double view of upholding that journal, and increasing our subscription list. No better proof can, in my opinion, be given of increased attention on the part of the farmer to his best interests, than a desire to obtain a knowledge of everything appertaining to his calling; and this

he certainly can obtain by reading the *Agriculturist* and similar publications. It should be borne in mind that liberal support is necessary to enable the publisher of any journal to do justice to it; and we might avail ourselves to a greater extent than we do, of the opportunity afforded by the publication of such a journal, of conveying useful information to each other, though living remote from one another.

Having made these few remarks, I will conclude with the expression of a hope that while our own best exertions are put forth in our calling we shall look for a blessing upon those exertions to that power who causes the sun to shine, the rain to fall, and the earth to bring forth its fruits, and without whose blessing we labour in vain.

The above is respectfully submitted.

E. W. THOMSON,
Retiring President.

Feb. 12, 1851.

SUMMER FALLOWING.

To the Editor of the Agriculturist.

DUMFRIES, 18th Feb., 1851.

SIR,—

In your number for January, in remarking upon a communication from Waterloo, in which reference was made to a system of cultivation spoken of as prevalent in Dumfries, viz., that of ploughing land intended for summer fallow and then working it with the cultivator and harrow until ready for seed;—you ask me farmer in Dumfries to furnish you “with particulars and authoritative results.” I had hoped to see in your February number a reply from some party, who had made a more thorough trial of the system to which your correspondent alludes, and one in more exact accordance with it than the experiment which I am about to detail to you. I had heard of parties having worked their fallows somewhat in the manner your correspondent details, and two years ago, resolved to give it at least a partial trial on a field of thirty-two acres.

The previous cultivation of the field had been irregular, and various in different portions of it. Twelve acres had been several times in grass and repeatedly manured. Twenty acres were hilly and broken, had been only once in grass, and a portion had got very foul in consequence of having been broken up and from accidental circumstances obliged to be left. The year preceeding the fallow, the state of the field was as follows. That portion of it to which I have last referred, (about 10 acres) was sown with peas, but the return was a very poor one, and the land was left more foul than before. About 6 acres were in oats after grass,—4 acres, principally a steep side hill, were in grass,—4 acres in wheat after fallow, and 6 acres in barley, after Indian corn. In the fall of 1848, the whole field, with the exception of about 2 acres, which the frost interrupted me from completing was ploughed with the Scotch plough to the depth of from 6 to 7 inches,