

on light, porous, soils, it is the practice to press it in, a practice which is found of service to wheat, peas, beans, and almost all small seeds; but which would be of no avail without the previous disruption and aeration of the soil.

All these matters premised, it only remains to conclude with a general declaration that, in all our practices and means employed for the amelioration of the land, everything that can be added or taken away, every operation performed, and every implement used in the culture, should all have for their ultimate object, either directly or indirectly, the breaking up of the compact and impervious surface, so that copious and constant supplies of air may be freely admitted to the roots of plants.

MR. JONAS WEBB'S RAM LETTING.

The thirty-third annual letting of South Down Rams, from Mr. Webb's world renowned flock, in Cambridgeshire, England, took place on July 7th; a few particulars of which, gleaned from the very interesting and copious report in the *Mark Lane Express*, will not be unacceptable to our readers. The number of rams offered was 175, and the number actually let on the occasion 54; yielding a total receipt of £1,376 11s., or an average of £25 9s. 10d. per head; being £4 10s. over the average of last year. A four years old ram obtained the highest price—put up at 50 guineas, and let at 70 guineas to Mr. Rigden of Sussex, to which county several of the higher class animals went. It is curious that although this celebrated breed originated in this county, the flockmasters of Sussex find it beneficial to import more or less annually, from the flock of Mr. Webb in Cambridgeshire; affording striking evidence of that gentleman's skill, and the advantage of getting occasionally from a distance breeding animals, as well as seed grain. We observe that Mr. Webb's yearling rams yielded fleeces of wool, varying in weight between seven pounds and ten pounds eight ounces! Mr. Webb is in the habit of letting privately a large number of his rams, before and after the annual meeting. He said that he had just received an order to send a ram to the United States at 150 guineas.

The letting concluded, about 200 gentlemen sat down to an elegant dinner. Among the company we notice Mr. A. Dight, of New South Wales, who is about to take to that colony a number of Mr. Webb's short-horn cattle and Down rams. Mr. Luther H. Tucker, Jr., of the *Country Gentleman and Cultivator*, Albany, N. Y., was likewise present, whose reply to the toast, "The healths of our friends across the Atlantic," we deem worth subjoining:—

Mr. TUCKER said, in two respects Old England—for they were still fond of calling her Old England across the water—was so famous, viz., for her hospitality and for her agriculture; that while he was sure that neither could excel the other, he was equally sure that it would be difficult to find elsewhere an example of both similar to that which had been witnessed during the day. And when he saw so many gentlemen connected with the pursuit of agriculture, not as a recreation or as a means of spending money, but with something of that energy which had placed British commerce and British manufactures in their present proud pre-eminence, he could not but appreciate the solid basis on which English institutions stood, and the services which had been performed for agriculture by such gentlemen as Mr. Webb. American traders and merchants, when they wished to secure the best, had recourse to the achievements of British genius and the excellence of British products; and American farmers acted on the same principle. The prodigies which had been performed in the improvement of the sheep and swine, and the creation of such a breed as shorthorns in cattle, were no less triumphs of genius; and for whatever excellence Americans could boast in their show yards, for that kind of animals capable of producing the most beef, mutton, and