

might receive a practical exemplification in the field or the garden. And here I may observe that agriculture, or the other industrial arts, cannot be thoroughly learnt in colleges or schools, however well adapted they may be for teaching their scientific principles; the farm and the workshop are the only places where a practical knowledge, constituting an accomplished workman, can be obtained. It is most desirable that youths, intended for agriculture as a pursuit, should be regularly trained to farm labor, and in all young countries especially, such a condition is a necessity. Work, both of the head and hands, constitutes the basis of every sound system of agricultural education. And after all, perhaps, to make a thorough and accomplished agriculturist, one whose acquirements will enable him to extend the bounds of knowledge, and enable him to adapt himself to the varying circumstances and conditions of practical life, he must study in more than one school, and become familiar with more than one system of instruction. The facts and laws of science he can learn in the college, and observe their application to practice on the experimental grounds; but he will further require a wider circle of observation only to be acquired by travel, and thus make himself personally acquainted with the different systems of management pursued by distinguished cultivators and breeders in various localities or countries.

Among the most efficient means of advancing the agricultural and cognate arts, I feel no hesitation in placing Societies, such as the one whose annual exhibition many thousands will have witnessed on these grounds during the present week. Happily, Societies of this nature have been formed in most civilized countries, and their success, upon the whole, must be considered decidedly encouraging. Numbers, no doubt, attend on these occasions for mere holiday pleasure, and probably carry away but little information that will benefit either themselves or others. It is to be regretted that the great essential objects and functions of these shows are not more clearly and generally understood, and their teaching-power more deeply and widely felt. To see and to observe are too frequently very different things. It is the facilities given to observation, comparing one thing with another, and the drawing of sound practical conclusions from a sufficient number of well-observed facts, that give to occasions like this their principal means of usefulness. The management of these shows, as they increase in size and complexity, requires continued modification, and is yet susceptible in all instances of improvement. I observe that you have adopted the plan of entering articles some weeks previous to the holding of the show, a practice which we in Canada (Ontario) have pursued with much satisfac-

tion for several years. Now, we have only to take a step or two further; so to limit the period for taking entries, and make it *absolute*, that sufficient time may be afforded for compiling a complete classified catalogue or catalogues, and providing in the show-yard and its buildings "a place for every thing, and have everything in its place." To this state of advancement most of the great National Societies of Europe have already brought their exhibitions, and we on this side of the Atlantic would greatly consult the convenience and information of visitors, and materially enhance the interest and increase the usefulness of our exhibitions, by following, as close and rapidly as circumstances admit, so good an example. The management of the Royal English Society's show last year, at Leicester—the ease and harmony of its working—was to me a marvellous phenomenon. The grand secret of all this consists simply in the final closing of all entries in proper time to allow of the necessary arrangements for the placing of the articles in an orderly and systematic manner. Further: It has appeared to me that a longer time than is ordinarily given is required to bring fully out the teaching-power of our exhibitions. Live stock, probably, could not be kept longer than it usually is, without incurring an amount of inconvenience, risk, and expense, that might discourage exhibitors. But as regards mechanical, manufacturing, and fine arts productions, and those of the farm and garden, that is, with the exception only of live animals, the same reasons do not apply, or, at least, only in a very inferior degree, while the addition of only one or two days to the very contracted time usually allotted the public to observe these departments, would be both welcome and advantageous to all visitors. I have often thought that we go to enormous trouble and expense to get great crowds together for a day or two, in which it is always difficult, and sometimes impossible, for individuals desirous of obtaining information, to inspect the articles with any degree of care or comfort. The suggestion which I have ventured to make would, to a considerable extent, at least, rectify this serious defect.

It has often occurred to me that there is a latent power of good in local agricultural societies that would be of great public benefit, if it were properly developed. I refer to the advantages that would follow the more frequent meeting of their members, for the consideration and discussion of subjects of a practical or scientific character. Members of the majority of township societies are commonly satisfied, I believe, with an annual fair, and meeting for the yearly transaction of business and election of officers. Exhibitions are very useful and excellent things, but they are not everything. An agricultural society should be, in the strict sense of the