

which were densely crowded by anxious spectators, and in this respect reminding one even at this distance, of the Floral Hall of our Provincial Exhibition on the most crowded day.

G.W.B.

LORD NAPIER ON AGRICULTURE.

At the late meeting of the United States Agricultural Society at Richmond, the English Ambassador made a speech, from which we take the following:—

When I rise to address the great assembly which has remembered my sovereign and my country, and done me the honor of recognizing my presence at this festival, I reflect with satisfaction that however ignorant of the noble industry to which you are devoted, and however incapable of justly appreciating the efforts and services which you are rendering in its cause, I may still rank myself, though in a subordinate order, among the true sons and votaries of the soil. I remember with pleasure that my father was an unsuccessful farmer, though a successful writer on the art of farming. I belong to a class whose interests and affections are deeply rooted in the land—a class whose active age is much bestowed on the business of Parliament, or negotiation, or civil government, or the profession of arms, but whose thoughts in all the vicissitudes of life and strife, still repose upon fields and sports, and who ever dream of a late return to the hereditary home. Notwithstanding this foreign vagrancy and diplomatic desertion, I remain a member of the Highland Society of Scotland; and however incredible it may appear to you, I am President of the Pastoral Association of my native country for the improvement of the breed of sheep. With such instincts and associations you will believe that I do not feel altogether a stranger here, and that I am deeply gratified by the hearty welcome that I find from the brotherhood of agriculturists, in which I claim to be an affiliated, though at present an unfruitful member.

The husbandry of America presents in its vast extension and rapid progress a spectacle to which no Englishman can remain indifferent. History offers no example of this swift, resistless, unceasing encroachment of skilled labor over the vacant and fertile domain of the savage and the brute. It is the first triumph of man, equipped with all the accumulated powers of experience and invention, over nature in her largest limits and her most gracious and bountiful conditions. In the agriculture of the United States we see with exultation a beneficent and spontaneous procession of industry, of which the field is the American continent, and of which the implement is the Anglo-Saxon arm. Such a reflection might alone furnish to my country many motives of thankfulness and pride; but it is equally certain that the agriculture of America forms one of the principal foundations of the existing prosperity of Great Britain. In the three great staples of cotton, grain, and tobacco, imported from the United States, we recognize an indispensable material for our manufactures—a main element in the food of our people, and an important basis for the revenue of the State. While the agricultural products of the United States contribute in a high degree to the resources and power of our government, and to the welfare of the industrial community, the land and labor markets of America offer to our superabundant population an inestimable refuge in periods of distress. By this convenient issue the burthen of domestic taxation is lightened, our public peace is confirmed, and our political institutions are defended against those disturbances to which they might otherwise be exposed from the passions of men without the regular means of support, and without hope of prospective improvement.

In the remarks which follow, Lord Napier, in a very polite way, points out some of the defects of American farming. With strict candor, he admits, it will be seen, that American horses, except for heavy draft, are equal to those of England. This is unquestionably so, in reference to horses for *business* purposes, however it may be in reference to the mere racer:—

While recognizing all the importance of the land and the agriculture of the United States to the social welfare of the British empire, I cannot deny myself the pleasure of expressing to you the interest which, as a mere virtuoso in rural matters, I have taken