

dentist dropped a little of the magical fluid upon each; but, finding the number to be so immense, sprinkled the audience, and put the empty bottle in his pocket. This act of generosity had the desired effect. The woman's agony and the soldier's scream were forgotten; and whenever I passed the coach during the rest of the afternoon, the lucky dentist was torturing his fellow-creatures."

(Mrs. Grundy jumping up.)

Dear me! I smell the sausages burning—you must excuse me for a moment, gentlemen.

LAIRD.—(With a very lugubrious expression of countenance) quotes—I never loved a sausage fried, but it was either burnt or dried. Heigh ho! we poor mortals are born to disappointment. (Mrs. Grundy enters.) Weel, Mrs. Grundy, are they a' spoiled?

Mrs. GRUNDY.—By no means, only we must go to supper first and talk after—I have ordered it to be dished and by this time it is on the table.

[Exeunt.]

AFTER-SUPPER SEDERUNT.

MAJOR.—The rage of hunger and thirst having been now appeased, we will proceed to finish our sederunt. Come, Laird, facts are good things to begin with.

LAIRD.—Here are some remarks upon the way they should manage at Hamilton, and awa down at Montreal, at the exhibitions. By the by, do any o' ye ken anything about them?

DOCTOR.—I thought that it would be better not to attempt doing anything this month, as it would have made our issue a late one, besides these exhibitions are of no merely ephemeral importance, and the interest attaching to them will keep fresh for a month. What have you got Mrs. Grundy?

LAIRD.—What does the callant mean? Do ye think I am gaun to be fobbed off wi' my pouches fu' o' papers, a' o' importance, every ane, ha ha!

DOCTOR.—Needs must, Laird. I can give you two pages and a-half, and you have chosen to fill them, as it appears, with one homily. Come, Mrs. Grundy, I can only give you one page.

(The Laird, after much grumbling, begins to read his remarks on autumn exhibitions.)

THE AUTUMN EXHIBITIONS.

Autumn is again upon us, and with it the accustomed round of annual fetes of rural industry commences, at which the best products of the farm and garden are to be brought forward for comparison and competition. The amount of money and time spent in this country annually on these occasions is enormous; but so far it has been well spent, for they have awakened a spirit of improvement that has conferred vast benefits upon the industry and resources of the country. They are not mere holidays with us, devoted to frivolous

amusements, sight-seeing, and dissipation; people go to these exhibitions to learn, and they bring with them the products of their skill and industry to compare with that of their neighbors', for mutual instruction and encouragement. The mere love of novelty cannot induce so many thousands of intelligent people to leave their homes and business, and to incur all the toil and expense of attending these fairs. They have a higher purpose in view—they seek information; and in proportion as these shows afford facilities for obtaining this, will they become worthy of public patronage and support.

Hitherto the want of experience on the part of those who have been entrusted with the management of exhibitions has stood greatly in the way of their usefulness, and great dissatisfaction has arisen from people being unable to gain the information which they had just reason to expect. It is poor satisfaction for a man who has travelled hundreds of miles, and made great sacrifice of personal comfort, to be jostled about in a crowd, scorched with heat and choked with dust, on the show grounds, and yet not be permitted to see the objects exhibited in such a manner as enables him to understand their merits. No pains should be spared in arranging and classifying all objects, not only on the grounds and on the tables, but in printed catalogues, in such a way as to enable judges to discharge their duties easily and accurately, and spectators instantly to understand the position that each article occupies, and the degree of merit that has been awarded it.

We are glad to see that this matter is receiving attention, though it has not yet been carried out as far as necessary. We shall confine our remarks chiefly to the department of horticulture. Take for instance the department of apples. Now, suppose that a dozen individuals should compete for this premium; each one should be required to show just twenty varieties—neither more nor less—and the twelve collections should be placed side by side on the tables, so that not only the judges but the spectators might easily make their comparisons. Each one should be designated by a number only until the judges have made their awards, and then the names of the exhibitors can be displayed as well as the awards. We have served enough on committees to know that some such arrangement is absolutely necessary to ensure accurate decisions. Heretofore the general practice has been for every exhibitor to display his objects where he chose, and a dozen competitors for such a premium as we have quoted, would exhibit in a dozen different places, and have these twenty varieties of apples mixed up with twenty other varieties and a great collection of other fruits, leaving it for the committees to select varieties as they thought proper, and run about from one table to another to make their comparisons, thus losing their time and scarcely ever arriving at correct conclusions, because it was impossible to do so under the circumstances. So we would have it in regard to "the best ten varieties of table apples," "the best seedling apple," "the best twelve varieties of pears," and, in short, every special object, or class of objects, for which a prize is offered. Let them be placed together and each be conspicuously designated, so that judges and spectators may know at once what particular