

becoming a practical farmer. We hope our subscribers will pardon us for giving insertion to this speech, nearly entire:—

The Earl of HARDWICKE returned thanks. I am afraid, said the noble earl, that I am a better sailor than farmer; but at the same time I assure you that I take the deepest interest in everything connected with agriculture. Not only do I take an interest in it derived from the knowledge of the necessity of supporting it by every means in my power, and of sustaining it by example and exertion, for it is the base of the column on which rests the power of this country; but I feel and know that I should be wanting in my duty as a landed proprietor if I did not give some portion of my time towards studying and cultivating that important art, I suppose I must call it, now that we hear so much of the science necessary to carry on the operations of agriculture. (Hear.) I have been an exhibitor, and have had the good fortune to have a medal awarded to me. I thank the society for it, though I should have been better pleased had I received that medal more in conformity with my own views relative to the experimental fattening of cattle, than the system which is generally adopted in this country. The plan which I would adopt should be of a different character, though it is one more difficult, perhaps, to carry into operation. I consider that in bringing up animals to compete for a prize, the intention is to show that race and that breed which is the easiest to fatten; and that the present method does not show that at all. You do not know its positive quality nor its age for a certainty. If you are to run a race of this description, it is my opinion that the animals to be fatted for exhibition should be inspected in their lean state, that their condition and breed should be made known, and that the fattening process should begin from the same date, and the animals be shown at the same period of time. You would thus early discover which is the best blood. At present, manage it as well as you can, I deny that the result is satisfactory, or that the contest is just or perfect. I admit that there are great difficulties to contend with, and that even by the present mode you have improved the breed and description of animal best fitted for the butcher. But it is doubtful whether you have given him an animal which is fatted at the quickest and cheapest rate; that, I think, can only be ascertained in the manner I have suggested. I know it becomes our duty at the present day to exert ourselves to the utmost, in order to obtain all the knowledge we can; and I willingly offer the tribute of my gratitude to Mr. Mechi (as well as other gentlemen) for the great exertions he is making to show us, if he can, how to manage the largest possible amount of produce at the cheapest

possible rate (Hear, hear). But Mr. Mechi has not yet shown us his balance sheet (loud cries of "Hear"), and, until the time arrives that he does so, grateful as I am to him for his exertions, he has done nothing at all (cheers, and laughter). It may be perfectly true that he raises, as he says he does, 80 tons of mangel-wurtzel per acre (a laugh). It is monstrous to conceive the fact; but I have read that he has stated it. If I am wrong I shall be corrected. But it matters not if he had raised 90 tons an acre. I am certain it is practicable to do the thing. If he has done it, it can be done. But then it must be done at an enormous outlay of money; and not only of money, but of perseverance, anxiety, early watchfulness, and exertion (Hear, hear). The money is not laid out in the field alone, but upon the buildings and yards necessary to a system which is to carry to the land the finest manure that can be placed upon it. Then, after all this has been done—after he has expended his capital on the buildings, and laid out an enormous sum of money in labour, carting, and the other operations of agriculture—when he has sold his 80 tons of mangel, I want to see the balance-sheet (cheers and laughter). When we have ascertained the state of that, and when he has revealed to us, as I have no doubt he will, the mysteries of the great undertaking he is in process of performing, we shall be able to judge of the value of Mr. Mechi to the agricultural world (loud cheers and renewed laughter). If he has succeeded in it, and gives a large balance in favour of the farmer; if, whilst by his ingenuity and his trade in London he has improved the means of reaping the beards from the chins of the people, he has also succeeded in reaping an enormous quantity of grain, and can show us that he has done it with a profit, there is not a gold medal which will be large enough to reward him (cheers). But if, on the other hand, it turns out that farming has been a mere matter of amusement with him—an amusement in which he has sunk a large capital without realizing a profit—then we shall not award him a medal, though we will be grateful to him for having proved that most important point, the negative of the proposition (cheers). Gentlemen who carry on these operations are of the highest value to the country. Knowing as I do that the landowners and occupiers in carrying on their farming operations raise all their capital from the land itself, I would ask if anything should happen to break down the superstructure of the fabric, how would they be able to continue these operations in the way that Mr. Mechi has done? Drawing his capital altogether from other sources, he receives his capital with the one hand and bestows it with the other; but we at once receive and are obliged to bestow with the same hand (Hear, hear). I say, then, that they may talk to us as much