

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES—ONE BENEFIT OF EXHIBITIONS.

A recent number of the *Albany Country Gentleman*, gives some extracts from the address delivered before an Agricultural Society, in which some of the advantages of these Institutions are mentioned; which, in our opinion, are worthy of repetition. Few, comparatively, of our farmers who refuse to subscribe *a dollar* a year, to support their Township or Country Society, stop to think how much benefit these Societies have already conferred upon them in the improved implements they have been the means of introducing. If they did, they would not allow these Societies to languish, as they often do, notwithstanding the public grant so liberally bestowed, for lack of popular support. Read the opinions of an intelligent American farmer, and think twice before you refuse your subscription this year.

In speaking of the want of interest among so many farmers in these organizations for the promotion of good husbandry and rural industry, and the benefits which flow from their exhibits. The gentleman referred to says:

"These fairs, besides furnishing many valuable hints in regard to field crops and cattle raising, afford to farmers an opportunity to examine, compare, and test the various improved implements of husbandry which the mechanical ingenuity of the day is supplying. It is to be expected that an age so fertile in inventions as the present, will be distinguished by some valuable discoveries in the application of machinery to the various arts of agriculture, and by the multiplication of implements which are *not worth* possessing. And the fact corresponds with the expectation. There are improvements, more or less valuable, in every customary implement of the farm—inventions such as the drill, the reaper, and the thresher, which lighten and facilitate the labors of the farmer; whilst there are, also, new implements and modifications of old ones that *promise fairly*, but fail in the performance—that excite hopes only to disappoint them."

Such worthless or imperfect implement must be peddled off among the less informed and less discriminating of the farming community. The same speaker observes:

"If a farmer shuts himself up in the solitude of his own home, (never attending exhibitions where implements are tried and tested,) the agent of the worthless machine is sure to find him out, and to impose on his ignorance. Then comes the vehement denunciation of the Yankee cheat, and the indignant rejection of all applied machinery. If that farmer had attended the last fair, and had observed the different patterns of instruments—witnessed and compared their practical operation, and heard from others the testimony of experience, he could not have been imposed upon, and would have been saved the fruitless waste of money and of wrath, and would have gone home, if not with an improved tool, with improved ideas no less valuable.

"The agricultural fair tries every man's work, of what sort it is; and enables the farmer to prove all things, and to hold fast that only which is good. It is the cure of empiricism and imposture."

This advantage of agricultural exhibitions is one of much value, as the wages of laborers are so high, and so likely to continue high, that the farmer must depend more and more on labor-saving machines.

This advancement of the laborer's wages we are not disposed to regard as an evil; or if an evil, one, at least, with several counter-balancing advantages. One of these is that high wages promote the independence of the laborer and the comfort of his family. Besides some incidental advantages of this kind, the direct effect of high wages on agriculture must be favorable in the end, inasmuch as they will compel the farmer to practice a more careful husbandry. When a farmer has to pay high wages