

may be overlooked. Although the Palace is visited by such large numbers, it is said not to pay the stockholders. This is certainly a pity, for it is a most attractive place of resort, and it would be a great misfortune if it should be allowed to go down for want of funds. The expense of keeping it up, and making the improvements that are continually going on must be enormous.

But to return to the Exhibition—The jurors have been employed in the examination of the products of Austria and Hungary, where there is evidence to be seen of a convincing kind in proof of the productiveness of those countries. The wheats are many of them very fine, though as a whole, not equal to those from the Australian Colonies of Great Britain. The manufacture of flour is carried to the highest state of perfection. Indian corn, or maize, as it is called by the inhabitants, and in fact by every one here, is produced in great varieties, and of excellent quality. But the produce that seems to be the most abundant is beans, which are shown in endless varieties. What are called "chick beans" are a variety that, I am told, occupy as prominent a position in those countries, and are in as general use for human food, as oat-meal in Scotland. The manner in which the whole of the products are displayed is admirable, and reflects much credit on those who have had the control of them. No pains or expense seems to have been spared to make a neat and pleasing exhibition. Their wines are exhibited in great abundance and variety, and of vintages extending back for ninety years. I was yesterday invited to taste a wine 92 years old, and found it excellent. The wools of Austria and Hungary are of the very finest quality: and their manufactured woollen goods are, of course, of a corresponding description, and are exhibited in endless varieties and immense quantities, tens of thousands of pounds worth. The manufacturing processes of those countries are conducted with the greatest possible care and skill, and the products cannot be excelled. The prices marked on their goods, particularly the fine cloths, are such as I should think would tempt the merchants of many other countries, our own amongst the rest, to open a trade with them.

We are to-day to be employed in the examination of the products of Portugal. Their collection is very extensive.

I contemplate going to-morrow to the West of England Cattle Show. It is held at Wells, about 140 miles from here. From Wells I expect to go on to Exeter, about 80 miles further towards the Land's End. The Show at Wells is expected to be very good. It is said generally to come very near the Royal Agricultural Society's Shows in interest and extent. I shall be able to give you some account of it in my next, I hope.

Your's &c.,

E. W. THOMSON.

The West of England Agricultural Show —The International Exhibition.

LONDON, 4th June, 1862.

The weather, which has been during the most of May very wet, has set in with June very fine. Yesterday was delightful; and this morning is equally so. On Thursday, I went to Wells, a distance of some 120 miles, to see the West of England Cattle Show. The place is one of the most pleasant that could be selected. The grounds enclosed are on an inclined plane, sloping gently to the South, and from the highest part overlooking the finest panorama of scenery I ever saw. I went on Friday to Exeter, and returned thence to London.

On Thursday, while at the Show grounds, the day was very fine, but it came on to rain on that night, and Friday was a regular wet day, and must have produced the usual amount of discomfort at the Show. I was, however, on the cars, riding through an exceedingly interesting and beautiful part of England, as indeed is all the route from London to Exeter.

With the show, I was in some respects disappointed. The number of animals exhibited fell very far short of what I expected to see. There were a few very fine animals amongst the Shorthorns, Devons, and Herefords. Horses were very poorly represented. Some good colts and fillies of the heavy cart horse breed, one or two Suffolk Punches, but I looked in vain for a thorough bred, or even a Cleveland Bay; there were a few ponies. The sheep and swine were good, the improved Berkshires being the prevailing breed of the latter, and very large and fine. In sheep there were some of the most beautiful Leicesters I ever saw, and which quite convinced me that very few, if any, of the sheep exhibited at our shows in Canada as Leicesters are pure bred. The Southdowns were perfect pictures. The Cotswolds are large, but fall far short of the others in point of symmetry. There were a few of the horned breeds, which, with their immense horns, and well developed carcasses, were majestic looking fellows.

The show of poultry was good. A cock and two hens were generally shown together in a crop or pen. They were certainly very fine to look at, though I should doubt their being worth the prices at which they were marked for sale, ranging from five to one hundred guineas. They were, I am bound to say, the finest specimens of the various breeds I have ever beheld, but the prices seemed to me to be ridiculously out of proportion to the possible value of the article.

In the Implement Department, there was a good variety of all the labor-saving implements and machines, and all of the best material and workmanship. I counted 24 Steam Engines in operation, all of the portable kind, driving threshing machines, straw cutters, turnip cutters,