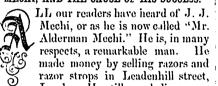
AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

DECEMBER.

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MECHI, AND THE CAUSE OF HIS SUCCESS.



London. He still, we believe, car ries on the business; but if this were all, he would have remained, like thousands of suc cessful merchants, unknown beyond the narrow circle of his commercial and social acquaintances. But he turned farmer, and soonfound himself famous. This did not annoy him-he rather courted notoriety. He endeavoured to show that farmers could makemore money if they would adopt a better system of agriculture. He contended that his farming was highly profitable. Now, it is easy to understand why farmers who live on rented land should not like to have it shown how they could make more money and pay higher rent. James Caird, a Scotch farmer, obtained celebrity in the same way. He wrote a pamphlet entitled, High Farminy an Antidote to Free Trade, and got soundly abused for his pains. The late Sir Robert Peel, who wished to repeal the duties on foreign grain, took him up. The London Times employed him to visit the different counties of England as "The Times Commissioner," and he wrote a series of letters to that paper—some of which were not flattering to the farmers. Some of them were very indignant. The Times defended its correspondent, and in the end he was elected to Parliament-and all owing to his taking up of an unpopular cause. So with Mechi. He boasted long and loud as his

profits as a farmer. Many of his statements were open to criticism, and he did not es-He soon became the butt of ridicule. Paper bullets flew around his head like hail. The agricultural press joined in the crusade against him. His ideas were ridiculous, his facts were considered doubtful, and his con-Still, Mechi clusions certainly erron ous. lived and thrived-nothing ruffled his tem-He invited his opponents and his friends alike to visit his farm and see for themselves what he was doing They came Some criticised, some praised; but all were His "Annual treated with courtesy. Gatherings" soon became what we should ca'l an "institution" Landlord and tenant, the practical farmer and the man of science, met at Tiptree once a year to examine, to discuss, and to criticise his operations.

The recent English papers are full of accounts of the last gathering at Tiptree. A correspondent of the Mark Lane Express, while still disposed to criticise, writes on the whole favourably, as follows:

"Any one was free to go where he liked to make his own observations, and draw his Here is the farm; here own conclusions. round about it is the heath, out of which it was snatched some 22 years since. One, at the present day, is growing furze, the other is growing immense crops of grass, clover. wheat, beans, oats, mangolds and turnips, and produces annually 200 pounds of meat The one by the investment of per acre. nothing is worth nothing: the other, owing to the judicious investment of a large capital, is commercially speaking worth 50s. an acre. There are certainly no cereal or root