

At the last great annual meeting of the Royal English Agricultural Society, held at Newcastle in July last, Professor Johnston delivered a lecture on manure, and Mr. Parkes on draining, which we shall endeavour to copy in future numbers. The meeting was well attended; and at the great dinner several noblemen and gentlemen and gentlemen delivered interesting speeches on the subject of agricultural improvement, and the best means to promote the prosperity of the country generally.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR AUGUST.

The month of August has been as favorable for harvesting, as farmers could desire, there being scarcely any rain throughout the month, and the temperature very high. The latter circumstance was the only disagreeable feature, as it made it difficult for the men to work in such great heat. It was fortunate for farmers that the weather was dry, or much of the crops would have been injured and lost, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring men to save them. As it is, there,—has been hay wasted and injured in colour from too long exposure to heavy dews, and hot sun, and much of the meadows not well raked. There has been a considerable quantity of early sown wheat cut and secured, and the late sown is also coming fast to maturity, and much already cut. The late sown appears very good, generally not injured by fly or rust. The early sown has suffered from the fly, but to what extent we cannot exactly state. We hope, however, should the season continue fine for two or three weeks, that the wheat will all be secured, and most of it turn out an abundant crop. We have some complaints that the excessive warm weather has ripened the grain prematurely, and that the sample will not be so good in consequence. We fear that this is the case, but we hope not to any great extent of injury. Oats we have no doubt will suffer greatly from this cause, as it requires more moisture than wheat or barley. It is also a remarkable circumstance that late sown oats is almost totally destroyed by rust, particularly where the crop was luxuriant. In the latter end of July, there was considerable rain, and the oat crop came rapidly forward in rich land. The great heat of August succeeding, we believe produced the rust. There is not any crop of grain that will succeed better by early sowing than oats, and we would recommend that it should always be sown when

the land is fit to harrow in spring. It is remarkable that the weather in England this year partakes very much of the character of the season, in this country, and that the same difficulty is experienced with regard to labourers for the harvest. The public works in this neighbourhood commencing at the moment the harvest began, accounts for the scarcity of labourers, near Montreal. The Montreal Agricultural Society have imported two Reaping Machines from the United States, that are reported to succeed well, when the crop is all standing, and the management of the machine properly conducted. It will not of course be any use when the crops are lodged, and not standing fairly upright, which is difficult to find this year on rich lands, as they were considerably beaten down, and twisted about by the rain, in the latter end of July. A labour-saving machine, if not perfect in construction, simple, and easy to manage, so as to execute its work well, and without waste, will be found a money-losing machine by the farmer, and we confess, from the general imperfection of these kind of implements, we have seldom seen one that did not waste more than was saved in labour by its use. We do not, however, pretend to say that the Reaping Machine cannot be used to advantage, in standing grain, where the land is level, and the management understood, but without the latter being carefully attended to it must waste the grain. Improvement and use may greatly lessen the defects, and make it a more valuable implement to the farmer. The potatoes in many places have the vines or stalks decayed, and there is no doubt that the disease has already destroyed some of the fibres. Whether it will go on increasing as it did last year is impossible to say, but we fear it will, as the symptoms of disease have appeared much sooner this year than last. The quantity of potatoes planted is much less this year than usual. Some persons have removed the stalks already, in the hope of checking the progress of the disease. The great difficulty in finding a remedy for such a disease, is that we do not understand the cause which has produced it, or why it should effect the crop now, any more than at any former period. The only way we can pretend to account for it is, that we have changed the nature of the potato by our cultivation of it, and rendered it more soft and liable to disease, by overstimulating it with manure. The disease is coming on for the last twelve or fifteen years, first attacking the seed, and then the crop.