

CHULMLEIGH AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

Mr. TURNER, after some complimentary remarks, said it was impossible for him to remain silent, when the toast of "Prosperity to the Royal Agricultural Society" had been so cordially drunk. The more they knew the merits of that Society, the more would they wish to give it their favourable consideration. He was happy to tell them that there was some chance of the Society visiting this part of the country in the year 1850; the call for subscriptions to guarantee the expense had been freely responded to, and money was flowing in from all parts of the country. For proof of the good which had emanated from that Society he referred them to what had taken place during the last ten years since its formation. He referred to it with the more satisfaction, because he was one of the first hundred who had joined it. If they contrasted the state of agriculture throughout England ten years ago, with its position at the present moment, they would find that greater improvement had taken place since the formation of the Royal Agricultural Society, than in any previous twenty years. It had associated men together, when every other consideration had failed to do so, and he (Mr. Turner) had the pleasure of seeing at its meetings men of every grade—Whigs, Tories, Conservatives, and Radicals—assembled for one great object—to provide more food, more raiment, more happiness, and more comfort, for the great mass of mankind (cheers). He trusted they would, in a short period, be able to judge for themselves, when they would see congregated in the Society's yard, the finest specimens of cattle of all descriptions, and of every breed, and all kinds of implements, new and rare, brought together for the good of the country in which the exhibition takes place. If they could not find some mechanical heads to take advantage of such a collection of implements for the purpose of amending what was defective among them now, he should have but a poor opinion of the mechanical skill of the country. The Chairman had alluded to his (Mr. Turner's) practical agriculture; he acknowledged that he ought to be a practical agriculturist, brought up as he had been in his lap, and the first lesson he had learnt being, that he must depend for support on the culture of the soil. He should have been an inapt scholar if he had failed to carry out the intentions of the bright example it had pleased Providence to place before him. As he had been complimented on his success, he would tell them what had contributed to it, not that he would be thought to teach the farmers around him, he came there to be instructed by their experience; but he might tell the young farmers, that when he first commenced farming, he had heard that there was no limit to the productiveness of the soil, and he knew full well that great improvements could take place, and that the land was not made the best of. He began to

think that if his predecessor grew 18 bushels of wheat per acre, there was no reason why he should not produce 25; and if he kept 200 sheep on the estate, he had the vanity to think that he (the speaker) could keep 300.

Then came the question, what class of sheep should they keep? He (Mr. Turner) would not recommend a great long mis-shapen shamming animal, for every mis-shapen animal must be an unprofitable one, as a certain quantity of food must go to feed the mis-shape. Unless they had a compact well-formed animal, they could not ensure a good constitution, and it would not be profitable; the sheep should have a good neck, full, expanded ribs, good loins, and good legs of mutton, and then it would be likely to stand the wind-blast of winter and the heats of summer. They must know full well what belonged to animals. He would appeal to their excellent Chairman whether a mis-shapen one was as valuable as one clean and well shapen? whether he did not eat more and do less work? and what held good with one description of animals held good with others. It was the same with cattle. He would not advise them to keep bigger cattle than were good, nor keep them too small to be breed; but to get middle-sized animals, which would answer their purpose.

He had never a secret in farming in his life, and never would. His farm was open to any man who might wish to see it; and the knowledge he had acquired he was ready to communicate. He always had done so; he had found it to answer; and he should continue to do so to the end of the chapter. He trusted that prosperity would attend this Society and every other. He subscribed to about ten of them, because their prosperity was of the greatest consequence, and they had almost been the salvation of the country. He had a numerous and a growing family, but he did not believe they would have occasion hereafter to look back and curse their father for the £10 or £15 per year which he subscribed towards these meetings. He would again impress on them the necessity of a liberal outlay, not to mind a guinea or two in stock or manures, and he was sure hereafter they would say George Turner had told them right.

EXCELLENCIES OF KNOWLEDGE.—There are in knowledge these two excellencies—first, that it offers to every man, the most selfish and the most exalted, his peculiar inducement to good. It says to the former, 'Serve mankind, and you serve yourself'; to the latter, 'in choosing the best means to secure your own happiness, you will have the sublime inducement of promoting the happiness of mankind.' The second excellence of knowledge is, that even the selfish man, when he has once begun to love virtue from little motives, loses the motive as he increases the love, and at last worships the deity, where before he only counted gold upon its altar.—*Bulwer.*