

know not to what extent you take it; but I do not believe it to be an article that is exactly food or raiment [Hear, and laughter]. Again, whenever a wet season or an unpropitious moment of any kind renders it desirable that you should call upon us for our edibles, we will promise to cultivate them to any extent that you may desire [cheers]. Rice, which is an article of food to one-third of the whole human family, is produced amongst us to the extent of 200,000,000 lbs. annually. Wheat we produce to the extent of 100,000,000 bushels. And, above all, there is an edible which has not been much introduced among you here, but which your sister kingdom of Ireland, during the famine of 1848, received largely from us—I mean maize, or Indian corn, which is produced among us to the extent of 600,000,000 bushels annually [cheers]. Do not suppose that I indulge in vain boasting when thus talking of the hundreds and thousands of millions of bushels and pounds which we produce of these articles. With the vast extent of territory, and the variety of soil and climate which we possess where everything convenient for the use of man is found in one place if not in another, Nature would cry "shame" upon her sons if we did not produce largely [cheers]. It has been computed, I believe, that there are about 46,000,000 acres of land in England and Wales; but there are in the United States, of public lands which belong to the government, ready for sale and appropriation at the smallest possible price to individuals who may be willing to take them, not less than 1,370,000,000 of acres. And I would say to this great company, that if it should at any time happen that your crops are not abundant, or that the prediction of a distinguished political philosopher 150 years ago, Joshua Gee, should in any respect be verified, that England could not contain ten millions of inhabitants—she having now long since doubled that amount—if, I say, you should ever find your population pressing upon the soil, then in great humility of spirit, but with the most hospitable feeling, I invite you to come over to us, and to stay with us as long as you please: you shall be received with a hearty welcome [loud cheers and laughter]. Observe, this is a move which has already, in some degree, been looked upon with a favourable eye. I believe it is estimated that there are now on the soil of the United States upwards of a million of friends from Ireland, and a quarter of a million of friends from England, settled and resident there. And recollect that our constitution and laws are such—I throw it out for the information of those who are not aware of the fact—that every individual who chooses to come amongst us, whose conduct and whose character are untainted, may attain nearly every political distinction, and certainly attain every social right [cheers]. But it is not alone on account of its direct effects that I have thus briefly called your attention to the importance of agriculture; it is also the great source of the extensive shipping that carries on the commerce of the world. These immense store-houses which float over the ocean in all its parts are either the produce of our primeval forests, or the results of those forests when cultivated by the science of agriculture. And now that we see

them bridging the ocean, as it were, between your country and ours, rendering the voyage so short that no one thinks it worth while to hesitate in the performance of it, and so agreeable that everybody must enjoy it, we should not forget that for all this we are originally indebted to agriculture (cheers). One word more as to my country. There, where such an abundance of soil is to be found, science has also in a degree been introduced into agriculture, and, though not to the extent it prevails among you, yet with us too the pursuit of it amounts to a passion, and by far the largest part of our population are engaged in it. In that country, and with that population, we shall be delighted at all times, as heretofore, to emulate the science and the art of the country by whose citizens I am at this moment surrounded—a country which stands at the head of the agriculture of the world (cheers). I beg to give you as a toast "The Royal Agricultural Society of England" (protracted cheering, followed by three times three).

SIR ROBERT MURCHISON, the eminent Geologist, said that a toast had been entrusted to him, to propose which required the powers of an Atlas to do justice to it. It was "The Agricultural Societies throughout the World" (cheers and laughter). And he saw by the list of toasts that he was honoured with a title which he did not know he possessed before. He was described there as K. S. A., which he presumed must mean Knight of the Society of Agriculture (laughter)—and that, therefore, upon this most remarkable occasion, he was to stand forward and be their knight-errant (renewed laughter and cheers). The task was doubtless a very onerous one for a plain man of science like himself to perform. But for a long period of his life he had had the satisfaction of being connected with many societies which had for their object the diffusion of science, and among others he had taken an active part in the British Association for the Advancement of Science, out of which this glorious Agricultural Association had taken its origin. On the foundation of that society this was established, and the principles which that Association could only carry out on a comparatively limited scale, amongst a few men of science this had carried out amongst thousands of men, and diffused its beneficent influence over the world. The day was far gone by when it was necessary for any Dominic Sampson of geology, or any itinerant geologist, to go about informing the agriculturists of England of the intimate connection which existed between the soil which they cultivated, and the sub-soil or rocks with which he (Sir R. Murchison) dealt. They had in their body men quite capable of showing them the foundation upon which the whole thing stood; and here he must beg the noble President to observe that he had omitted the foundation on which all agriculture rested, the rocks, the geology of their science. He was delighted to see, however, that in the volumes which were published by the society, the first article of their creed in every article was the geological structure of the country, and next followed the agricultural division, and everything of course which rested upon their rocks (hear, hear). The spread of agricultural societies founded upon the principles of their own had gone on, on the other side of the Atlantic, as they had heard from the Minister of the United States, and not only in that vast country, but in other portions of the American continent which had representatives sitting close to him. He had upon his right hand the Vice-