

opportunities for this purpose, taken in conjunction with the circulating visits of the agricultural societies through the various counties of the land. seems to me—and I wish we could have had their testimony from those who could speak with authority on the subject—that the very highest excellence marked the exhibition to-day throughout its various departments, from the ruddy bull down to the less grand but far more voracious poultry (laughter and applause). It is obvious that the increase of skill and the application of science to agriculture must tend to make us more and more independent of nature. The increase of agricultural machinery both enables us to save many crops, which otherwise accidents of a precarious climate would otherwise only damage and destroy, and it further enables us to improve our labourers in methods which call forth thought and development. And there is no one circumstance connected with the whole subject more important and more gratifying than the certainty that the introduction of machinery, so far from injuring the labouring classes, advances them in the scale of society (hear, hear). To appeal to the most obvious test, the rate of their wages throughout this country already exhibits a very considerable increase. All the departments of agriculture, you may depend upon it, hang together, and in improving the whole we improve every part of it, and also the condition of those who contribute to its respective branches. I alluded, gentlemen, to the return of agricultural statistics, the possession of which places our country in a much more advantageous position, so far as that is concerned, than the sister countries (and for them we are mainly indebted to the wise foresight of my distinguished predecessor, the Earl of Clarendon). But over and over the numbering of our oxen, our sheep, our pigs, and our swine, we are all about to undergo the process of being numbered—(a laugh) and diapason ended full in man.” I believe agricultural returns contain particulars of the respective ages of our yearlings and our two-holds: I understand that a scrupulous degree of accuracy will be directed to ascertaining the ages of our ladies (a laugh). However, gentlemen, the census, when completed, will tell us the exact number of our population is, and also will enable us to infer with tolerable accuracy the extent of the emigration going on against us. Now, I am not one of those who consider with any uneasiness the general results of emigration. Of course, when exile from one's country is occasioned by suffering and privation it is an object of regret to all well constituted minds; but considered in its broad results, I am sure that while emigration fulfils the destiny of our race, in peopling the whole world, it ordinarily will be found to improve the condition of those who go and of those who remain (hear, hear). It is possible that the approaching census to which I have referred may

exhibit some slight diminution of the population, but as the strength of an army does not depend so much on its mere numbers as on its discipline and its organization, so, depend on it, the good condition of a country results far less from its actual increase of numbers than from its command of the comforts of life, its industry, its intelligence, and its moral character. Well, gentlemen, I feel I am justified in heartily congratulating the friends and promoters of Irish agriculture generally, and the members of the Royal Dublin Society specially, upon the exhibition of this week. The members of this society bring together the principal results, the industry, and the art of this country into close and immediate proximity, thus symbolizing the real independence and connection which they have with each other (hear, hear). Already, as Mr. Foot has intimated to you, upon your ample lawn here, which has so long been devoted to agricultural displays, and where the live stock, the implements, and the husbandry of the country in all its branches have now met in friendly rivalry—already on one flank we see the fair length of the Museum of Natural History, and on the other flank there is approaching to its completion a corresponding building, destined to be a national gallery for painting and for sculpture. But I agree with Mr. Foot, that these last pursuits seem to require something placid and composed for their immediate framework. We have heard that there was a time when the flock strayed in the centre of the Roman forum, but that was before its pillared arcades became the centre of business and of worship. So I rejoice to know that it is sought to guard with additional sanctity the lawn of Leinster House, and there is a hope, to which I shall willingly give any efforts of my own to contribute—(loud cheers)—to provide a separate and still more convenient site for the general agricultural displays closely adjacent to the recently-constructed handsome covered hall (hear, hear). But whatever your own exertions, or whatever the help of the state may enable to be accomplished, you will still do well to remember that the real interests, and success, and glory of all such exhibitions consist in the intrinsic merits of what is exhibited; and I trust that all present on this occasion will often meet here to renew—I cannot venture to say to increase—the admiration which the exhibition of this week has now kindled (loud cheering).

Agriculture—Its Past, Present and Future.

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The Future of Agriculture—Steam.—It is impossible to overrate the enormous impetus given to every industrial, and, indeed, to every mental occupation, by the invention of steam power. Some of my views on this subject having been already laid before you in my paper