

number of spectators. Nevertheless, I was highly delighted with the general appearance of the Stock,—the high-breeding and great fattening aptitude of which appeared to me—witnessing such scenes for the first time—most extraordinary. I have seen some well fattened cattle at exhibitions in Canada, and the annual display of meat at Christmas by the Toronto butchers, I have often looked upon with admiration.—But here the fat cattle, sheep and pigs defy description, although it is stated that animals generally at this exhibition, have not been fed to such an extreme degree as on previous occasions. . . . This Show may be said to have been generally successful, both as regards the amount and quality of the stock, and the number of visitors; the latter have been computed at upwards of one hundred thousand! But unfortunately there have been many mishaps to the stock on exhibition, and these misfortunes are thought to have exceeded any previous year. The Heifer which obtained the first prize and the Gold and Silver Medals, as the best specimen in any of the classes, had to be removed from the yard as she had got the distemper, and several others were affected in the same way. This epidemic among cattle is of a very serious character, widely spread in this and other European countries, and not unfrequently proving fatal. The handsomest pig of the gold medal pen, unfortunately expired, as did also several others of its fraternity. Extreme fatness, heat and disquietude, were, most probably, the chief causes of these disasters. His Royal Highness the Prince Consort, was an exhibitor in several of the classes, and carried off two first prizes for his Devon Steers, which were indeed handsome, and evenly fattened animals; one of which I learnt was sold to a butcher for £50. In the Hereford class the Prince was defeated, and had to content himself with only a "commendation;" although his ox was really an ornament to the Show, and fetched £45, which was the sum obtained for Mr. Heath's celebrated first prize steer of this excellent breed. Steers above three years old obtained from £45 to £53 each, while one belonging to the Prince was disposed of for £60. The Shorthorns mustered in their usually large number, and for capacity and early maturity, combined with symmetry of form, stood unrivalled. Mr. Stratton's splendid steer, under three years, won the first prize and gold medal, and was sold for £70; and a second prize Heifer of this breed fetched £50. The Stock seemed to have been sent from all parts of the Kingdom; the West and North Highland breeds, although rough and hardy in appearance, were very fine animals, well fattened, and yielding the finest of meat. These Scotch polled breeds obtained very high prices; Mr. Heath's ox, (the same, I think, about which there has recently been so much controversy as to the purity of its breeding) sold for £60, and the second prize went to an animal from Aberdeen, which obtained £47. The Duke of Richmond's Southdown Sheep, from Sussex, particularly took my attention; they obtained the first prize and gold and silver medals; such animals I never before saw; and I might say the same of other breeds of sheep, and the whole of the swinish multitude. . . .

The Royal Dublin Society occupied a prominent stand, and exhibited a very fine collection of roots and vegetables, which, notwithstanding several other collections belonging to the most eminent Scotch and English Seedsmen was unsurpassed. Some of the mangel wurtzel weighed from 34 lbs. to 40 lbs. each; white Belgium carrots, and hollow crowned Jersey parsnips, upwards of 5 lbs. each; and Drumhead cabbages from 56 to 60 lbs each. Skirving's purple top, and Con's Imperial Swede turnips, pure and most symmetrically grown, would average over 8 lbs. each, although they had been nearly a month out of the ground. The soil and climate of Ireland must be highly congenial to these crops, which form the farmer's sheet-anchor; and they evince no ordinary skill and perseverance in the art of culture.

The influential department of this great metropolitan exhibition was well worthy the most studied investigation, and comprised a vast amount of every species of tools and machinery, pertaining to the most advanced systems of modern agriculture, from the most celebrated makers in all parts of the United Kingdom. There were excellent models of such bulky machines as for want of room could not be shown themselves, particularly steam apparatus for farm purposes, such as ploughs, diggers, &c. Some American machines improved and modified to meet the peculiar wants of the British farmer, attracted considerable attention. Steam as a motive power, adapted to agricultural implements, is rapidly progressing, and may be said to be the leading idea of the present age. . . . I regret that I could not see the implements and machinery to advantage, as for want of space they were closely packed together in galleries,