ploughs, harrows, hoes, spades and shovels, are now made, in whole or in part, by steam power, and yet it would really seem that the application of this agency, which has revolutionized the world of commerce and manufactures, is but in its infancy in connection with agriculture. Many years after steam had been successfully used in the propulsion of vessels, men of science demonstrated plainly (at least to their own satisfaction) that the navigation of the Atlantic by steam power alone was impracticable. We have lived to see the triumph of steam in that direction, and in other ways as unlooked for, and it needs no other prophet to predict for it further triumphs in relation to agriculture.

The steam power employed in Great Britain in 1851 was estimated as equal to the united forces of six hundred millions of men. It is computed that 40,000 men are constantly employed in mining coal enough to move this vast aggregate of machinery. The population of Great Britain at that time was 21,000,000, each of whom, man, woman and child had thus thirty willing slaves to do their work.—"Slaves hat never tire, never fall sick, need no clothes, and eat only fire and water.

In the agricultural department of the Great Exhibtion recently held in London, unmistakable progress in the exhibition of implements and machines is the distinguishing characteristics, and the most remarkable feature there—the department of steam cultivating mechanism. A writer in the Highland Society's Journal, in treating of this department says:—"So rapidly has the power of steam been accepted as practically available in the field, that to a great extent, in some districts, is the occupation of the ploughboy gone. Literally the smoke of the many steam engines hangs in clouds over the green fields over which the steam plough is dragged with a power greater and more steady than a dozen horses. Already has the day-dream of our enthusiast in steam culture in part been realized; for 'o'er the lea' on which the 'plough man plods his weary way' is heard the scream of the steam whistle, and is seen the wave of the signal flag. A revolution in culture has been fairly and fully inaugurated. Anticipating future, from its past triumphs, we see, in imagination, the steam engine, pioneer of true progress, placing itself amid, and rapidly bringing tracts of our dreariest deserts into smiling fields."

Here then is a field on which we might enter and linger with interest and with profit for hours together. My time has only permitted me to mention it, and the mention of it suggests another agency, one in which we cannot fail at this moment to feel a deep interest. I promise you it is the last I shall mention. It is the benefit accruing to agriculture from EXHIBITIONS, great and small.

Much as Agricultural Societies may have done by awarding prizes for excellence in the varied departments of Agriculture, or for reports on the same, it does not admit of a doubt that periodical exhibitions of the products and manufactures of any country or district are by far the most convincing and reliable indication of the industry and success of its inhabitants, that can possibly be given. Practical farmers, as a class, have a decided antipathy to having "the wool pulled over their eyes" by those whose education may perchance be better than their own. With them, flowing reports and grand speeches are all very well, but "*seeing is believing.*" And while Agricultural Societies may, with all propriety, make use of reports and speeches as means of improvement, it is manifest that without an exhibition of what has been DONE, many would be disposed to question the correctness of conclusions drawn, and statements advanced, in reference to agricultural improvement.

We know that the Great Exhibition of 1851 originated in the mind of that good Prince whom we all lament to-day, and it is more than likely that it was suggested to his mind by the success attending the annual exhibitions of the Royal Agricultural Society, of which, as already said, he had long been a member. That this bold and novel experiment was eminently successful is demonstrated in a number of ways. The very building in which it was held was an exhibition of itself, such as the world never saw before—a fairy palace of glass and iron, covering an area of 21 acres of ground. The building in the centre of the British metropolis, was not designed to stand there as an exponent of British greatness, alone—not that Britain might stand out as laying claim to be the most enlightened nation of the age—but, that while shewing to other nations wherein she excelled, she might, in turn, learn from them to see her own deficiencies. To this the people of all nations were invited to bring samples of their products and manufactures. The proposal met with universal approval, and the result far more than realized the highest expectation formed of it. It may seem a small thing to say that it *paid* in a commercial sense, yet so unlooked for a result is worthy of record, that after all the expenses attending it were defrayed, there remained in the hands of the commissioners the sum of £170,000 sterling.

By this great exhibition an impetus was given to the arts and sciences, to manufactures, commerce and agriculture, such as had never been dreamed of. The productions of far distant lands, hitherto supposed to be peopled with semi-barbarous populations, and among them our own Canada, were here placed side by side with the old countries of Europe. The creditable display made by the British Colonies opened the eyes of British statesmen to their importance, and contributed in no small degree to introduce Canada to the notice of those who knew little or nothing of her before.

Perhaps the most noticeable feature in the agricultural exhibition of 1851 was the presence of two reaping machines from the United States.