

class of men, be they whom they may, are of theirs. The whole heart, soul, and being of the farmer are in his profession. The members of other professions and trades, however full they may be of their concerns, have their mouths tied up by the etiquette of society. A man is not allowed to talk of his trade concerns except at the risk of being laughed at, and being set down as an egotistic ignoramus. But who shall laugh at or scout the farmer for talking of his concerns? Of nothing else does he, in nine cases out of ten, think, talk, or care. And though he may be called a bore by all other classes, what concerns it him? for other classes are just as great bores to him, and he seeks not their company. The farmers are a large class, and they associate and converse principally with each other. 'Their talk is of bullocks, it is true, but to them it is the most interesting talk of all. What is so delightful to them as to meet at each other's houses, and with bright glasses of nectarous ale or more potent spirit sparkling before them, and pipe in mouth, to talk of markets, rents, tithes, new improvements, and the promise of crops? To walk over their lands of a Sunday afternoon together, and pronounce on the condition of growing corn, turnips, and grass; on this drainage, or that neighbor's odd management; on the appearance of sheep, cattle, and horses. And this is to be excused, and in a great degree to be admired. For those are no artificial objects on which they expend their lives and souls; they are the delightful things of nature on which they operate; and nature operates with them in all their labors, and sweetens them to their spirits. This is the grand secret of their everlasting attachment to, and enjoyment of agricultural life. They work with nature, and only modulate and benefit by her functions, as she takes up, quickens, and completes the work of their hands. There is a living principle in all their labors which distinguishes them from most other trades. The earth gives its strength to the seed they throw into it—to the cattle that walk upon it. The winds blow for them, the waters run for them; the very frosts and snows of winter give salutary checks to the rankness of vegetation, and lighten the soil, and destroy what is noxious for them; and every principle of animal and vegetable existence and organization co-operates to support and enrich them. There is a charm in this which must last while the spirit of man feels the stirrings of the spirit and power of God around him. It may be said that rude farmers do not reason on these things in this manner. No, in many, too many, instances I grant it; but they feel. There is scarcely any bosom so cloddish but feels more or less of this, and by no other cause can any explanation be given of the enthusiasm of farmers for their profession. It is not because they can sooner enrich themselves by it—

that they are more independent in it—that they have greater social advantages in it. In all these particulars the balance is in favor of the active and enterprising tradesman; but it is this charm which has infused its sweetness into the bosoms of all rural people in all ages of the world. From the days of the patriarchs to the present, what expressions of delight the greatest minds have uttered on behalf of such a life. Think of Homer, Theocritus, Virgil, and Horace; of Cicero, whom I have elsewhere quoted; and of the many great men of this country, some of whom, too, I have noticed, who have devoted themselves with such eagerness to it."—*Howitt*.

HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND.

THIS valuable association, one of the oldest of our agricultural societies, closed its meetings for the season, on the 16th April, when Dr. Anderson, the chemical officer of the Society, delivered a most interesting address, in which he reviewed, at considerable length, the various discussions which had been held during the session. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Low, Professor of Agriculture in the University of Edinburgh, who bore testimony to the ability and zeal with which Dr. Anderson had conducted the business of the Society. We can at present give merely a portion of Dr. Anderson's excellent remarks. The following observations will be found instructive, as bearing upon some of the subjects which have been discussed at the meetings of our own Society, in connexion with the experiments in Ayrshire, which have occupied so much attention:—

"The third discussion on the best methods of preparing and applying the different manures, brought out a large amount of precise and valuable information, and may be looked upon as a very valuable illustration of the care and attention now devoted by our best farmers to such matters. Mr. Finnie, who opened the discussion, entered at great length into the best arrangement of a farm-yard, the manure heap, and liquid manure tank, best adapted for the collection and preservation of the shed and liquid manures. His principles, without entering details, may be described as endeavoring, as far as possible, to collect the liquid separate from the solid excreta. The latter he would inter-stratify with peat, where it can be had, or failing that, with soil or clay. Over the heap he laddles the liquid manure, so as to allow as much as possible to be absorbed, and collects in the liquid manure tank only that which cannot be contained. Mr. Finnie, with full knowledge of the beneficial results obtained by the application of liquid manure, is of the opinion, in which I fully agreed with him at the meeting, that