

proceedings; for, amongst the eloquent speakers at the society's council dinners and banquet, we find the names of Sir Robert Kane and of Professor Hedges, the latter as the representative of what was at that time only a promising "rearing"—the Chemical-Agricultural Society of Ulster; but which, thanks to the exertions and eminent scientific attainments of its representative, has long since reached an honoured and useful maturity.

But although space does not allow us to dilate on these and similar topics arising out of reminiscences of the former Limerick Royal Show, it may not be amiss to cast a hurried retrospective glance at some of the winning animals of that day, ere we pass on our description of those of the present time. For it was Mr. Mason Hopper's Belville—one of the best show bulls of that or any period—with his small and beautiful set-on head, his immensely broad back, his remarkably wide chest, and deep, very deep, ribbet, which carried off the Purcell Cup and bell, even as he carried off, in the same year, the prize at the Inverness meeting of the Highland and Agricultural Society, and at the Wakefield Show of the English Royal, crowning all Emphas, four years after, by winning, as the champion of any age, at the Glasgow show of the Scotch Society, a £70 sweepstake of silver, which was most appropriately ornamented with his own medal. The Beau of Killerby—also the property of the Hon. A. F. Nugent—was second to Belville in '46; the other winning bulls in the different sections being Mr. Duffin's Daylight, Mr. Christy's King, Mr. Nugent's Everglass—of the Bustle by Belle tribe—and Mr. M. Harford's Young Star. In the cow class Mr. Nugent was the winning winner with Elspeth, Modesty—the progeny of the late Charleville Gwynne tribe—of Funny Eye, having also his Bundle and her sister Bandbox commended. Rose de Meaux, the late Mr. St. George Gray took home a calf of a few days old from the Foxhall in his gig, gave him, amongst others, a visit by Sir John Sinclair, and that heifer, whose name has since become so familiar, took first prize for him in the yearling class, and Mr. Christy's very neat Vesper, as another specimen of the future success of the Fort Union short-horns, was commended by the judges of the day, Messrs. Torr, Dudgeon, and Bennett. Lord Riverston was there with his short-horns, whilst the Hon. Barry Yelton entered a walk over with his Herefords. Lord Pen's Geordie, and Mr. Andrew Templeton's Elizabeth, took the bull and cow prizes in the Ashbires to Ballyleidy, and Mr. Seymour, of his Keillor descended polled Angus cattle, led all in that class. The winning Blessing-Leicesters of modern show were not represented at Limerick in '46, because that well-known flock was not then in existence; but the flock on which that of Blessington was s on

afterwards founded—to wit, the flock belonging to the late Mr. George Moore, of Kilbride—won no less than three out of the four prizes awarded to Leicesters; and for the information of those who have been lately reading in the *Gazette* the accounts given by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Gray, of the "Border Leicesters," and the very practical remarks on the same subject which those accounts have elicited from Mr. Thomas Robertson and his friend, Mr. Jones, we may state that Kilbride sheep were essentially Border Leicesters, carefully selected, by John Murray, from some of the very best Tweedside flocks, and, as the show records of that period attest, the Kilbride sheep were always very fortunate winners.

But we now turn from reminiscences of the past—from things as they were in 1846, to things as they are in 1862. And, although we did not find some of the classes, on Wednesday morning, quite so well filled as we have seen them at former shows of our Royal Agricultural Society, we cannot allow it to be said that there was anything like a failure. Several of the short-horn sections, indeed, presented almost a regular catalogue of winners at former shows, and where this was not the case, the entries, for the most part, showed they had come of winning blood: Booth blood of the best sort—thanks to Messrs. Barnes, Chaloner, and Richardson, those steadfast adherents of Warlabey—being a predominant feature. Failure in numbers there might be, but if so, and although we had it all to ourselves—no short-horns having come direct from the other side—still it was more a failure of "weeds" than of quality. Soubadar, Lord John Russell, Sir Colin, Little Wonder, King of Hearts, Victor Emmanuel, Mickey Free, Queen of Beauty 2nd, Rhoda, Evening, Recherche, Lady of Avenel, Pride of Adare, British Queen, Queen of Beauty 3rd, &c., all winners at one time or other, formed in themselves a rare collection of good things, and aud much more than sufficient to give a high character to any show in the three kingdoms. We miss, indeed, the Ardfeil Abbey "cracks" of the Spring Show, Florentine and Bride of Lammernuir, neither of which were entered for Limerick; and our American Cousin, or speaking according to Coates, the Hero of Thorndale, though also on his own ground, was, in like manner, absent. Therefore, doubtless, good reasons for the non appearance or those deservedly high placed animals, but as we do not know what those reasons were we cannot tell our readers, and must rest content with regretting their absence on an occasion when there was such a creditable turn out of the best of the south and south-west.

The flooded fields which met the eye on every hand on the way down afford by no means consolatory prospects of comfort in the show-yards, and certain unpleasant recollections of the Crimean-like mud of Athlone and the incessant