

of experience and of science will enable us to do this. But a knowledge of that experience and science must be acquired; and how can it be so well acquired as at an institution established for that purpose. \* \* \*

Sir, continued Mr. B., the farmers of New York are not only ready for, but they demand this measure—the ground is already prepared—the loaf is already leavened—for eighteen years at least has it been at work—and what are its fruits? Look, sir, to the general interest awakened on this subject—look to the immense gatherings at your annual fairs—look to the improved condition of stock and agricultural implements; and above all, sir, to the increased circulation of agricultural papers and books, and you will agree with me that the time has come; that the harvest is ripe, and the sickles are ready, and only wait the bidding of the law-making power to commence the work. Yes, sir, the time *has* come, when the farmers of New York, in view of the almost overwhelming competition from the west, are called upon to look at home—to protect their own interests. And how, sir, I repeat, is that interest to be protected except by the introduction into it of the lights of experience and of science? We have this evening been taught by the learned professor, how one acre can be multiplied into four acres; or in other words, how one acre can, by an improved system of agriculture, be made to yield as much as under our present system four produce.

Now, sir, suppose a proposition were to be submitted to this legislature, by which the agricultural wealth of the State, for an outlay of a few thousand dollars, could be doubled, does any doubt that such proposition would at once be seized upon and adopted by that honourable body? Surely not; and yet for a comparatively small outlay, by adopting the system proposed, that wealth may not only be doubled, but quadrupled. And will not the legislature adopt it; will they not give us an institution where the farmer-boy may be educated—where he may receive, in reference to his calling, such an education as all other classes in this community receive in reference to theirs? In a word, will it longer allow this numerous and highly respectable class of our fellow citizens to be neglected—will the legislature longer allow this great interest, which lies at the foundation of all others, to suffer for the want of that aid which it, and the united voice of an impartial constituency, so loudly and imperiously demand? I trust not, sir, I trust that the legislature will not only give us an agricultural college and experimental farm, but that it will endow it with such ample funds, as to place it upon a strong and permanent basis—a basis which shall alike perpetuate throughout all time to come, the wisdom of this legislature, and the liberality of the State.

#### FREE TRADE AND BRITISH AGRICULTURE.

We learn from the last arrivals, that the question of Free Trade—or rather the expediency of imposing import duties on foreign grain—was exciting general attention throughout the agricultural districts. Meetings were being held not only in the counties, but in most of the market towns, and the general impression seemed to be decidedly in favour of moderate protection. The condition of all parties connected with the landed interest is represented as one of unprecedented and alarming depression, and little or no hope of improvement is entertained so long as the free-trade policy is persisted in.

On the other hand, Mr. Cobden has held a large meeting at Leeds, and has declared that he will

not allow the farmers one farthing's worth of protection again, and no doubt thinks he has set this much vexed question at rest forever. Mr. Cobden assigned as a reason why he had remained so long silent, the contempt which he felt towards his opponents, whom he represented as a very stupid, selfish, and inferior class of people. This clever agitator, we perceive, is also making a stir respecting the management of the Colonies, and Canada appears to have received a share of his attention. Much as promptness and decision are to be admired in the statesman, we yet think that Mr. Cobden's claims to that character would suffer no diminution, if he manifested a little less dogmatism, and evinced a more generous and impartial spirit towards other interests than those which he takes under his own special guardianship. Unhappily, these questions have always been, and it would appear still are, made class questions. In an empire so extensive as the British, abounding in interests so great and complicated, that system of legislation comes best recommended which embraces impartially every interest, and adapts itself under the guiding power of enlightened experience, rather than mere abstract theory, to the ever-changing wants and circumstances of practical life. It is a sad pity that statesmen cannot discuss a purely commercial question, like that of free trade, in that disinterested spirit, and with the calm deliberation, with which all honest seekers after truth approach the consideration of political economy, or the doctrines and principles of moral philosophy; for just in proportion as legislation is guided by high and comprehensive considerations, will a nation be united, contented and prosperous.

We observe that at many of the rent audits in different parts of the United Kingdom, reductions have been made on the last half-year's rent, varying from 10 to 25 per cent. Sir Robert Peel has addressed a circular to his numerous tenantry, intimating his desire to meet the times. The right honourable baronet thinks that the price of grain may be diminished at the present time—from causes apart from free importation—below what it may be fairly reckoned upon on an average of years to come. He accordingly proposes to his tenantry the postponement of any new arrangement till more experience is acquired of the effects of free trade in corn. In the meantime—while Sir Robert distinctly avows his opinion that any attempts to regain protection are utterly hopeless, and that grain, under the new system, in years of scarce harvests at home, can never be high, and that in ordinary years prices will rule low—he proposes devoting 25 per cent. of his rental, when all arrears are paid, to draining and otherwise improving his farms, without any charge upon the respective tenants. He further offers the loan of money, on moderate interest, to such tenants as are enterprising, with sufficient guarantee, either by a long lease or otherwise, that they shall reap the reward of their improvements. Now, while we say that all this is truly honourable to Sir Robert Peel, yet we regard it, in the altered state of things, as nothing more than his duty. Many others, no doubt, will follow the example; but it unfortu-