

TO OUR READERS.

Although we have addressed our Readers so recently, still, we might be considered as betraying indifference did we not transmit to them a few kindly words at the opening of another year.

It is the intention of the Board and the publishers, that the Journal shall henceforth be embellished and illustrated by diagrams where necessary, and we have the pleasure to present our Readers with the first, as a specimen, in the present Number. If the Agricultural and General Public should considerably extend to the Journal the desired patronage, nothing will be spared, whether as regards increase of size, variety and excellence of matter, or profusion of embellishment, so as to place it in favourable comparison with any existing Agricultural Periodical. Of course this will be a work of time, and the realization of progressive success must, as it ought, ever to regulate expenditure. However there is every disposition on the part of the Proprietors to render it, by degrees, worthy of its Official Character as a faithful Agricultural Guide in every department.

We think it right, on an occasion like the present, to say something as to the means by which the Industrial Interests of the Country might be benefitted by the action of the Board of Agriculture and the Agricultural Association, especially in connection with the Provincial Exhibition.

We would again suggest, that a very beneficial reform might be wrought, by providing, as nearly as may be, that the premiums should be offered and awarded to the individual who shall best illustrate the *means* by which we can raise *maximum crops* at the *least expense*, and the *principles* of producing beef *economically*. The mere fact that Mr. so and so has received the first premium for the best bull,—that Mr. so and so has received the first premium for the best wheat,—that Mr. so and so has received the first premium for the best Model Farm, and that Mr. so and so has received the first premium for the best crop of any kind, is all very well, so far as it goes. But would it not be of more importance to the Agriculturist to be informed, at same time, of the best method of realising his wishes—of the exact means employed by the successful competitors in each class, to raise and produce such superior specimens. Would it not be a real gain to him to have explained the few secrets of practice—the secrets of skill which are so apparent around him. At present he returns home as ignorant of all this as ever—he returns home as much in the dark as ever—without the acquisition of a single new principle, or new method to guide him in any department of Practical Husbandry.

Now we ask should not these Exhibitions become practical schools—superior schools of Agriculture? The statements of the Exhibitors—the awards of the Judges—and the public addresses should be the vehicles for conveying to the Agricultural Community such valuable practical information so much desiderated. At present the golden opportunity is lost to the Agricultural