

give your advice on the subject, as others, as well as myself, may and will be greatly benefitted thereby.

I am, Sir,

Yours most respectfully,

DAVID WILSON.

[Our correspondent will find the above question already answered at page 45, No. 3 of the present volume. We will, however, repeat a little more fully what we there said. The proviso in Clause 40 of the present Act was originally introduced with the view of obviating the inconvenience which might sometimes occur from the Presidents of the Township Societies in any county meeting as *ex-officio* directors of the County Society, and by an accidental numerical majority outvoting the elected Directors of the County Society, and thus controlling the disposition of the funds of the latter, when in fact, in case of the Township Societies they presided over having no members also members of the County Society, these *ex-officio* directors could not be considered as representing at the Board of the County Society any persons who were interested in it. We are, however, well informed that the parties who suggested the change did not intend that it should be understood and acted upon in the way which the words of the Act, as they stand at present, seem to authorise. The intention in introducing the proviso was, that it should be, in effect, as follows: "Provided that each such Township Society, and Mechanics' Institute, shall have upon its list of members at least ten persons who are also members of the County Society, and paying not less than five shillings each, or that such Township Society or Mechanics' Institute shall have otherwise contributed two pounds ten shillings, annually, to the funds of the County Society." It is in the spirit of the proviso as here written, that several County Societies have, to our knowledge, interpreted it, and when the Act again undergoes revision by the Legislature, the clause will probably be amended to this effect. As it stands at

present, it certainly seems to warrant the construction put upon it by the County Society mentioned by our correspondent, and we cannot undertake to say that they have not the law upon their side in so doing. It might be a question for the lawyers to argue, whether a contribution by members of the Township Society, individually, to the amount of ten dollars, to the funds of the County Society, is in fact a contribution by the Township Society itself, within the meaning of the clause; but, without resorting to legal quibbles, we think the County Boards cannot go very far wrong in meeting the Township Societies in a spirit of compromise, and acting upon the proviso as if it were printed as above written.—*Eus.*]

KEEPING FARM ACCOUNTS.

To the Editor of the Agriculturist.

SIR,—

Let any farmer make the experiment, and he will find it interesting as it is useful, and both interesting and useful, to know from year to year the actual produce of his farm. Let everything, therefore, which can, be measured and weighed, and let that which cannot be brought to an exact standard, be estimated as if he himself were about to sell or purchase it. Let him likewise, as nearly as possible, measure the ground which he plants, the quantity of seed which he uses, and the manure which he applies. The labour of doing this is nothing compared with the satisfaction of having done it, and the benefits which must arise from it. Conjecture, in these cases, is perfectly wild and uncertain, varying often with different individuals, almost a hundred per cent. Exactness enables a man to form conclusions, which may most essentially, and in innumerable ways, avail to his advantage. It is that alone which can give any value to his experience. It is that which will make his experience the sure basis of improvement; it will put it in his power to give safe counsel to his friends; and it is the only ground on which he can securely place confidence in himself.

W. A. C.

Ancaster, February, 1860.