

question the benefit such a rail-road would be to the people of the British Isles, as well as to those of British America, we humbly conceive that there can be no question of the fact, that the advantages would be perfectly reciprocal. Easy and certain means of communication between the British Isles and British America, cannot fail of producing great advantages to both, and the general prosperity of British America must add to the prosperity of the British Isles. Time, we have no doubt, would prove, that the rail-road in question would produce all the advantages we could possibly anticipate to the British Isles and British America, and we hope we may be spared to see this great national work put in progress of construction by the aid of the British government.

To the Editor of the Agricultural Journal.

SIR,—Your very favorable notice of the communication of a ploughman in last number, in some degree induces the present, for next number, which may be followed, not continuously, but occasionally, perhaps, during the Winter months, on some Agricultural subject.

From the tenor of the maker of the Journal, on ploughs and ploughing, which I have observed, from the October number of last year, in an article ending with "our object in writing this, is to induce our ploughmen to become as eminent and scientific, as they are expert workmen," up till the last number. Your views on one of the two points, which you do not agree with, were not surprising, but anticipated.

It can be demonstrated on paper, as well as in the field, that the proportions of furrow given to young ploughmen to aim at as a standard, for *lea* ploughing, viz.: 6 inches deep, by $7\frac{1}{2}$ wide, can be set to the most perfect position, and to the satisfaction of the most fastidious eye on the matter. Or, in other words, these proportions of furrow, which exceed in depth the proportion of two-thirds of its breadth, can be set with sock and coulter sides at equal angles to the horizon, measuring the same both ways, and so *packed* and closed, as to prevent the

possibility of seed being lost, and the vegetation of grass. Certainly, a furrow above measure, or too square, such as nine by nine, cannot be gyrated farther than the perpendicular, and consequently stands on edge, unenclosed.

But though it is not uncommon, or rare, to find ploughs that leave furrows much less square, than the one given as a standard, standing on edge, it does not necessarily follow, that it is impossible to make perfect ploughing with the squarer proportions. If these proportions are held, and placed properly, the fault lies in the trim of plough. It may be laid down as an axiom, that the plough which will manage properly the squarest furrow is the best for *lea*; but good holding may be bad ploughing, since the truer the proportions of furrow held, the worse the ploughing, if the plough be not trimmed to work the narrow and deep kind of furrow. First class ploughmen are more apt to make bad ploughing with a bad plough, than the inferior class are, because the former, knowing comparatively better the advantages of the narrow and deep dimensions, and detesting the flat sort, he goes beyond the powers of the trim of his implement; while the latter, though less skilful, takes the best of the two faults, and lays it flat.

But since it is admitted that that style is best, which gives the minutest division of soil, and closes the furrow properly, hopes may be entertained of gaining those over to the style which they cannot but admire in ignorance of the means to attain it, but which, on knowing, they deprecate as false and ruinous. Strange inconsistency—analagous to desiring a gigantic superstructure, and prescribing a tiny foundation.

This hue and cry against square ploughing, or rather against that deep cutting on landside, and other things increasing the draught essential, to secure it perfectly, is of English origin, arising from the use of wheel ploughs, and testing the efficiency of ploughs by the dynamometer, which criterion, more than all things put together, creates more nonsense and excitement than common sense can see through, and leads them out of the principles of good ploughing. Lightness on draught is desirable, so far as it does not interfere with the efficiency or perfection; but when it so engrosses the subject as to