

REPORT,

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Provincial Agricultural Society.

IT is an observation verified by a long and uniform experience, that all the arts, whether of ornament or utility, are of slow growth. The inventor generally sketches nothing more than a rude draught which, though bold in the design, is likely to be inelegant in the execution; and his humble race of imitators follow the track pointed out without a single spark of that divine fire which threw the first light on the path of their labours. At times a genius arises, brighter or more fortunate than the rest, who makes some small advances either in facilitating the mode of operation, or in mastering some of the difficulties with which it is beset; and in this way, the art, from trivial beginnings, proceeds by a series of steps to some degree of excellence. But all this is the work of time. The progress throughout its whole length is distinguished by many pauses or intervals; and what is begun in one age, continues unfinished and imperfect in the next. It often takes many generations to carry the system to its ulterior pitch of improvement, and to conquer the various impediments which are successively presented.

The justness of these views could be shown aptly by a reference to the history of the elegant arts, which have at once delighted and dignified mankind, and given grace and stability to social life. But it would be idle to wander so far, when we can arrive at the same