

moting agricultural societies, sufficiently attest. The judge was also President of the Upper Canada Pomological Society, and a few days previous to his decease he forwarded to the Secretary of that body a somewhat lengthened report on fruit culture; an abstract of which we hope shortly to lay before our readers.

MR. ROBT. BAKER, OF WRITTLE, ESSEX.—The last English papers bring us the information of the decease of this distinguished agriculturist, in his 66th year. Mr. Baker was not only an extensive practical farmer, but also a land valuer of large experience; and took great interest as a director both of several local societies, and the Royal Agricultural Society of England, to the pages of whose journal he contributed many valuable papers. In conjunction with the late William Shaw, he originated the London Farmers' Club, and was elected its President for two years. His papers, read at its monthly discussion meetings are among the best which that useful society has sent forth to the public. Mr. Baker did much, both by precept and example, for the advancement of the Agriculture of his native county, and his loss will be long felt by the whole agricultural community.

MR. THOS. NUTTALL.—This eminent naturalist died a few months since on his small estate, at Rainhill, England. He was born at Settle in Yorkshire, 1784, and was brought up to the business of a letter-press printer. At the early age of 22 he emigrated to the United States, and from connections which he soon formed in Philadelphia, he directed his powerful mind to those subjects in natural history, which eventually placed him in a high position as an observer and explorer of the ranks of nature, —particularly in the departments of Botany and Ornithology. He explored at different times a large portion of the North American continent, often travelling alone and exposed to the many privations and dangers incident to those early days. He was for some years Professor of Natural

History in the Harvard University, Boston; and contributed largely by his observations and writings, to the natural history of the North American continent. Mr. Nuttall contributed three additional volumes to that splendidly illustrated work on American trees, *Michaux's Sylva*, and soon afterwards, on the death of a near relative, returned to England, in 1842, where he continued most successfully to prosecute his studies and enlarge the boundaries of his favorite pursuits. His nephew was imbued with a similar spirit to himself, and had been devoting several years to the flora of the East Indies. Last Fall he sent his uncle a large case of plants, who in his anxiety to open it, unfortunately overstrained himself, and from the time of this injury he gradually declined. Mr. Nuttall was one among many instances of the successful pursuit of knowledge under difficulties; having reached a high position in science from a very humble beginning, and died as he had lived, universally beloved.

Correspondence,

LAND DRAINAGE.

AIKENSHAW, Jan. 10, 1860,

To the Editor of the Agriculturist,

Sir,—I hope you will give the accompanying communication a place in your columns. I look upon it as particularly valuable as a proof of the continued interest our esteemed friend Mr. Marks takes in the advancement of Agriculture; and as the subject of draining cannot be kept too prominently before the readers of the *Agriculturist*, it may call forth some remarks, or the results of some experiments that may be of use.

Yours obediently,
E. W. THOMSON.

JANUARY 5th, 1860.

To E. W. Thomson, Esq., President of the Board of Agriculture.

Dear Sir,—In the year '54, you may recollect, I put forth in the *Canadian Agri-*