

for the farmer to learn, is not lost when compared with the advantages which they may bestow. *Part of three years* will accomplish all, but three years are doubtless an immense time for a young man to *lose*! So it would be; but, to place the subject in its proper light, I would put this statement and question for consideration—Whether the young farmer's *time*, who is for years constantly following his father's footsteps over the farm, and only superintending a little in his absence, while the father himself is, all the time, quite capable of conducting the farm, is not as much *lost*, as the phrase has it, as it would be when he is occupied in acquiring a scientific education at a little distance from home? Inasmuch as the young man's *time* is of use to the *farm*, the two cases are nearly on a par; but, in as far as both cases affect himself, there is no question that science would benefit him the more—no question that a superior education would afterwards enable him to learn the practical part of his profession with his father, with much greater ease to himself. The question is thus narrowed to the consideration of the alternative of the cost of keeping the son at home, following his father as idly as his shadow, or of sending him to college. Even in this pecuniary point of view, the alternative consists merely of the difference of maintenance at home, and that in a town, with the addition of fees. That this difference is not great, I shall now show.

Part of three years, I have said, would accomplish all amply, and in this way: the first year to be devoted to mathematics, the second to natural philosophy, and the third to natural history and chemistry; and along with these principal objects, some time in both years should be devoted to geography, English grammar and composition, book-keeping, and a knowledge of cash transactions. The two months' vacation in each year could be spent at home. There are seminaries at which these subjects may be studied, at no great distance from every farmer's home. There are, fortunately for the youths of Scotland, universities, colleges, and academies, in many parts of the country. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and St. Andrews, can boast of well-endowed universities and colleges; while the academies at Dundee, Perth, Ayr, Dollar, and Inverness, have been long famed for good tuition.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL AT KIMBOLTON.

This new institution was formally opened at Kimbolton on Monday se'ennight. The chair was taken by the noble promoter of the institution, His Grace the Duke of Manchester, who addressed the company upon the object of the meeting. After which Professor Johnston spoke at great length on the subject of Agricultural Education. He said:—

"You have several branches of education and nounced, but those usually given at grammar-schools will not be neglected. Another reason why you should support this school liberally is, that in these midland counties there is no other of the same character. You have, too, an assurance that the various branches of education will be properly attended to. Mr. Thorntou and Mr. Eager have been appointed masters; and I am convinced the more you know of them, the more will you be convinced that the committee have made a judicious selection. There is a farm attached to the school, and it will be put under such management that the pupils will get that practical knowledge without which the best theories are as nothing. Then as to the charge for the education of the pupils, the committee have wisely fixed it at 25*l.* a-year; this is a sum so low that any one who can scrape the money together will find it a most admirable investment. To you farmers I now particularly address myself. You had better, by far, give your sons a good education than a large fortune—they may lose what you put in their pockets; but once lodge a good store of knowledge in their heads, and they will not lose that. The District too, which have been chosen, is most excellent; and if a further recommendation be required, I point to the names of the committee and visitors of the school, as a sufficient guarantee that the masters will meet with encouragement in the performance of their duties. By this school you will elevate the character of the neighbourhood, and of the agricultural class in particular, and enable your sons to remain in the same locality where you have lived so long, which is by no means a small recommendation to a farmer. There is always a great desire among farmers that their children should succeed them on the same lands; but a great change is coming over the country, and many names once flourishing in certain districts have now become extinct. The cause of this is that there is a great progress of improvement; and if the people do not progress with it, they will be swept away to make room for others more skilful and more enterprising. If you go to the manufacturing districts, you will find that the people there are under the impression that the farmers of England do not cultivate the land properly, and make the most of it for the production of food for the people—that they do not possess the requisite knowledge, and they are actually educating their own sons as farmers. How necessary is it then that you should place your children in a proper position to stand up against difficulties; and I know of no plan whereby this can be accomplished so effectually and so economically as by educating them well, and placing them in these schools."

The noble chairman then introduced Mr. Blacker, of Armagh, to the meeting.

Mr. BLACKER addressed the meeting as follows:—

"It is with great diffidence that I venture to