

deep as you can, make the plough imitate the spade, and let the fields bring forth abundantly, as do gardens.

Amongst many proofs of the benefit of deep ploughing and stirring the soil, I will mention one or two in this immediate neighbourhood.

In 1845, a nine acre field of good turnip land was divided into three equal proportions; number one containing exactly three acres, was ploughed up the usual depth of five inches; number two of three acres was ploughed ten inches; and number three was ploughed first eight inches deep, a second plough following and loosening the soil five inches more. Eight loads of yard dung, and three bushels of "Lowe's patent manure," were used per acre. The seed was sown in May, on the ridge.

All came up pretty evenly. In July, numbers two and three took the lead, and produced both of them good plants.—In November, a rood of each taken fairly from the field, was weighed:

No. 1	produced at the rate of	16½	tons per acre.
2	do	22	do
3	do	27½	do

In 1846, the same field was got ready for barley. Seeds were sown, and all were served alike. In September, the crops were thrashed—

From No. 1,	11	sacks to the acre were obtained.
do 2,	12	do do
do 3,	13½	do do

The clover layer was not weighed, but the eye could tell the difference between shallow and deep ploughing.

Black sandy land has been similarly tried with advantage.

Further proofs I could bring, but let the above suffice for the present. England can grow the best corn, as she already does the most, per acre if she will. The game is in her own hands. A system of deep ploughing, rich manuring, thin seeding, and constant stirring and cleaning, with judicious cropping, will advance the interests of the British farmer more than all the Parliamentary petitioning in the world.—*West Norfolk.*

From the Preston Guardian.

SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

SPEECH OF HEWITT DAVIS.

Hewitt Davis, Esq., one of the judges, said—My Lord and gentlemen—My visit to Preston has been one of extreme pleasure, for I have come here in an enlightened district, among gentlemen whose pursuits have caused them to look to science as a means of attaining fortune, and find them lending their aid to extend the benefits of science to a class that has hitherto derived but little advantage from its aid. (Cheers.) Agriculture hitherto has been a pursuit learned by the son from the practice of his father, little aided by the information that science has diffused; they have been but little aware of what a scientific knowledge of chemistry, botany, and mechanism would do for them, but fortunately those are now brought home to them by such societies as this. Farmers are by this means brought together, and are here shewn what others have done, and by rivalry, which I look upon as the source of all information, they are being led forward in the pursuit of knowledge and a better practice (cheers.) Now, gentlemen, in addressing you, I am addressing you as if I were not a farmer; but I am a farmer, and my means have been considerably enlarged by the pursuit (cheers.) In my early life I had the advantage of an education, that has taught me the importance of reducing everything I am about to engage in to figures, and it has been my knowledge of accounts that has made me a farmer. It is necessary that I should bring this fact before you, because advocating as I do a new system, having started a new routine, I have obtained the character of being a speculative farmer, but you, gentlemen, who appreciate the value of figures, will say that I am for no speculation (cheers.) From early life I was made an economist; and true economy has taught me never to hesitate in spending £5 if I could gain £6 by the transaction; but to enable every one to do this they must understand accounts (cheers.) I am brought forward as an advocate of thin sowing. I was taught farming on the old princi-

ple of sowing two and a half bushels of wheat to an acre, and afterwards saw that where by accident a greater amount of seed was deposited, there the crop suffered in the early springs and at harvest there was not so much corn at that place as where less seed had fallen. It was from this that I commenced sowing less seed, and I went on every year gradually, not speculatively, reducing the amount till I brought it down to one bushel (cheers.) This may appear to be a matter of small importance, but when I tell you that if the saving which has been of so much importance to myself were carried out throughout the United Kingdom, it would amount to more than the average supply of corn that this country has drawn for the last twenty years from other countries, and that the saving in money would amount in value to more than seven or eight million pounds per annum—because the practice I follow in regard to the sowing of wheat I also observe with respect to other grain, and derive a like advantage (cheers.) I have found from experience the success of thin sowing, and naturally sought for a reason why it should produce a larger crop. I perceived that a larger number of grains were deposited in the ground, and that more plants were produced than by any possibility could be obtained by the old system of sowing; and I was led to reason what was the consequence of this. If you were to plant a dozen acorns upon a square yard of ground, you would very soon have a dozen small trees growing, and a yard would in a very short time, become too confined for them; each tree would trespass upon its neighbour, and the natural consequence would be that out of the twelve not one would be healthy; and after a period only so many would remain as there might be space and food to enable to reach maturity.—Exactly the same result follows from sowing too much corn. All know what extraordinary success has attended gardeners in producing finer vegetables, and by what means they have attained this. One of the means taken by gardeners to produce full grown plants is, taking care that from a certain period each plant shall have room to develop itself to the full size. This plan is adopted by the farmers with regard to the turnip, although I don't think that they allow it sufficient room. They don't calculate at an early period the space which the turnip requires, still they know the necessity of putting in the hoe and thinning the turnips. But why should gardeners find it necessary to sow peas and beans thinly in a garden, and yet the same thing should not be attended to in the field? It is because farmers have not been taught to calculate; they do not understand figures—do not bring that mathematical education, if I may use the term, which is necessary, into the pursuits of farming (cheers.) By giving corn space at an early stage, it is enabled to attain maturity. Each plant is not unduly pressed by its neighbour, and the earth is not unduly robbed of a quantity of manure to support a number of useless plants. This is the theory of thin sowing; but there is another consideration attending it which I look upon as one of the means of introducing a better system of farming in another respect, namely, that of cleaning land. I found that it was much easier to clean the land of weeds by hoeing each crop than it was by allowing it to require a fallow by neglecting it for three or four years, thus losing the value of a year's crop upon the land; and besides, there is no expense so great as that of cleaning fallow land. The expense of a fallow is £4 or £5 an acre; and I find that not half that sum is spent in sowing each crop thin and keeping it clean, so that by this system is not only the expense of the fallow land saved, but each year a larger crop is obtained (hear, hear.) Thin seeding, therefore, is a matter of very great importance, whether we look to the saving of corn or to its waste (hear). It is a most extraordinary fact, that hitherto one-tenth of the grain grown in this country is again returned to the earth in seed; of every ten bushels of wheat one is for seed—and yet what is the fact? A grain of wheat, when planted out singly, when given space enough to reach maturity, returns two or three thousand fold, whilst it only returns the former under the present system ten-fold. Surely if nature gives us the power of raising a thousand-fold, man is very backward indeed in only raising ten-fold; but such is the fact. I have thought that