tificial manures, to talk them into replenishing their worn-out implements from the mart of the great makers, to prevail on them to visit the annual shows of the Royal Agricultural Society, to throw them, in short, in the way of seeing the products of advanced husbandry, and of hearing the ideas of enlightened cultivators. By some or all of these means they may be put upon the high-road to improvement, and when they have gone in inch there is little fear, unless they are afflicted by a hopeless incapacity, that they will refuse to go the ell. He who lives within the diameter of a little circle has ideas as narrow as his horizon, but the influence of numbers and skill together is irresistible, and no impersonation of ignorance or bigotry has probably ever visited a single great agricultural exhibition without returning a wiser and a better farmer.

STEAM CULTIVATION.

[Mechanical science is rapidly overcoming what have hitherto been considered as insuperable difficulties in the employment of steam as a motive power in the cultivation of the soil. The last number of the *North British Agriculturist* contains a report of Professor J. Wilson's Lecture on Steam Cultivation, delivered to the Agricultural class in the University of Edinburgh. As the Professor is well known to, and highly appreciated by a number of the leading agriculturists of this province, and the subject on which he so ably treats possesses a general interest, we are induced to transfer the report to our pages without abridgment.—*Editor.*]

The Professor intimated that he intended to confine his observations to "Steam Cultivation," because it was a question which had, he believed, a deeper and far more important bearing on the country at large than even its most sanguine supporters at present claimed for it. After remarking that the present year would stand more prominent than most in the history of agricultural progress, as that in which the great problem of steam cultivation had been solved, he said he had thought it desirable to discuss the subject on this occasion, so that it might get a little publicity by their meeting; because, although it had made wondrous progress during its short existence, still it was one entirely new to the great majority of agriculturists in the south, and to a still greater number in this part of the kingdom. He then gave a rapid but interesting sketch of the progress which had been made in the plough since primitive times, contrasting, as he went on, the rudely-constructed implement of the ancient Egyptians with the finely-proportioned broad-mould now turned out of our manufactories. In principle, however, both implements were the same, and practical men had been long turning their thoughts to ascertain whether some better principle could not be brought in to supersede what had been so long in use. The great desideratum, said the lecturer, therefore, has been to obtain a machine that shall have, like the plough, the capability of doing a large amount of work, and like the spade, of doing it in such a manner as to satisfy those conditions which we consider desirable for the purposes of successful cultivation. This twofold desire seems to have been held by the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society, when three years ago, they offered a prize of £500 for the "Steam Cultivator that shall in the most efficient manner turn over the soil, and be an economical substitute for the plough or the spade." At the Chester meeting of the present year it was decided that the problem had been solved.