

The next great feature of this department was the table of preserved fruit in glass jars, exhibited by Mr. J. Atherley, agent for Mr. Rowley, 509 Market St., Philada. Next to growing a fine fruit is the pleasure we derive in being able to preserve it. Mr. Atherley seems to possess that secret to perfection. I observed a jar of Duchesse Pears in this collection, preserved whole; until now I had supposed it next to impossible to preserve fruit without paining them; this jar of Duchesse would indicate that the problem is solved. A dish of fruit marked "Pound Pears," were very fine. This I should hardly consider a proper name for a Pear seeing as we have many varieties of Pear that will weigh one pound or more.

W. Hummel had fine Louise Bonne de Jersey Pears, marked as weighing, one eleven oz., one nine oz., and three eight ounces each.

The display of Apples by the Lycoming County Agricultural Society was very fine, but as these were not the production of any one individual, it was hardly the thing to allow them to compete.

Mr J. Kepple of Harrisburg, exhibited a table of native grapes embracing some sixteen varieties. Roger's Hybrid, No 19, and No. 34, were particularly fine. The Catawbas in his collection were the finest I have ever seen, so fine indeed that a dish of the celebrated "Iona" appeared quite common placed alongside of them. In this lot I noticed the Maxatawney and Rebecca, neither of them anything extra. A dish of Allen's Hybrid, a white grape, was very beautiful, resembling more a Chasselas de Fontainebleau than a native. I afterwards learned that this grape, with several other varieties in this collection, were not grown by the exhibitor. It is the rule in most Societies, to demand that the articles should be *grown* by the exhibitor, which seems but fair.

Thos. Oliver, gardener to Gen. Cameron, exhibited six bunches of foreign grapes marked Black Prolific, quite small in bunch and berry, but jet black in color; one bunch of White Buel, Muscat, Tottenham Park, Gros Gromier du Cantel, identical with Gros Colman, as exhibited by Mr. O'Keeffe; a bunch of Black Haniburg and one other variety.

The Pumpkins in this department were quite a feature, the largest I noticed was marked one hundred and forty pounds. The potato growers were out in force. "Early Rose" by Geo. M. Rupp, Cumberland Co., looked very promising. Of all the potatoes shown, including some twenty kinds, the "White Mercer" was pronounced the finest and fairest potato exhibited. From this department I made my way to the floral tent, and what your

correspondent there saw and heard will be given in my next.

[Our correspondents criticisms are *just*, but not tinged with that *mercy* which he would have if he had had our experience in "getting up" fairs. No one knows how hard it is, to get the "good judges" our correspondent would like to see; but those who have tried Executive Committees have to do the best they can. If good exhibitors stay away because of probable slights, good judges stay away for similar reasons. We never knew a judge, however impartial and competent, who was not abused. In the present case, we have no doubt the officers did the best they could to get the best judges, and that the judges did the best they honestly could. If we were exhibitors under such circumstances, hurt though we might be by the judgment, we should construe it charitably, and say nothing. Fairs are not so much for personal interest as for public information, and he who contributes to them should feel that in all probability his aid, useful as it is to the general good, may possibly be at some sacrifice to himself.

With regard to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, there have been annual exhibitions in September every year, for over a quarter of a century. The day was fixed a year ago, and printed on the schedules, which have laid on the societies tables every monthly meeting night since then. It is hard to understand what other notification would be necessary. Perhaps the "officers of the Society" might in their turn complain that "members" took so little interest in the Society, as never to honor it with their presence, even to know what is going on.

We do not offer these suggestions because we think our friend's strictures are not just, but because our experience in such cases, makes us feel a very large charity for all faults and short-comings. These fairs and exhibitions are of immense value to the community. Those who give their time as officers, judges, exhibitors and so on, are amongst the best of public benefactors; and many a time when we feel like scolding at their blundering, the glory of their deeds, seems to plead with us to be as merciful as possible.—Ed. *Gardener's Monthly*.

[We reprint the above, because we think it will do good to a number of persons to lay to heart the wholesome sentiments. A public exhibition is, more than anything else, a spontaneous effort of the people; every man, woman and child is expected to play his or her part; all have to join hands to form one united circle, and if cupidity or sourness of temper or any other unworthy spring of action gives rise

to kicking, it greatly mars the profitable enjoyment of an Exhibition.

We were not without kicking horses at the recent Great Exhibition at Halifax; but we would remind some of these gentlemen, whether they be of the press, or the turf, or the workshop, or the barn yard, that a horse that stopped to kick never yet won the Derby.—Ed. J. of A.]

AGRICULTURAL NEWS OF THE SEASON IN SCOTLAND.

(From the Farmer.)

Farmers, as well as others, have been so busy electioneering of late that agricultural reports have been temporarily suspended. The weather has been calm and dry, with occasionally a touch of frost. For all kinds of seasonable farm labour it could not be better. The termination of the excitement regarding the elections will have a good effect on trade, and we have seen further evidence of a firmer feeling in wool, leading to higher prices.

The agricultural implement makers will be well represented in the new Parliament, Mr. James Howard, the Messrs. Samuelsons, father and son, and Mr. Bentall, being all returned.

Mr. P. McLagan and Mr. William McCombie, both "farmers' members," have been successful candidates for seats in Parliament. Mr. McLagan has proved himself such a useful member, on agricultural questions, that his defeat would have been a great loss to the agricultural interest. The defeat of Sir William Stirling Maxwell, however, is a decided loss, while that of Mr. Milner Gibson, the knight of the obstructive metropolitan narrow-bone and cleaver interest in the late Parliament, is a gain.

The Edinburgh Christmas Club have held their usual Christmas Exhibition of Cattle and Poultry.

The exhibition of fat cattle and other stock, under the auspices of the Northern Counties Fat Show Club, was fixed for 4th December at Inverness. Last year the show was a complete success, when promoted chiefly by private individuals, and the success ought to be still greater now that the exhibition takes place under the auspices of an association. The following special prizes are offered: Messrs. Macdonnell & Co., Tartan Warehouse, for the best fat Highland ox of any age, £5 5s.; the Inverness fashers, for the best fat short-horn ox, £5 5s.; Inverness hotel-keepers, for the best fat polled ox, £5 5s.; Messrs. R. Carruthers and Son, for the best fat ox, £5 5s. In addition to these prizes, £36 has been contributed