

climate. This plant, which is extensively cultivated, and takes from a great depth the necessary moisture, is the lucerne. By its aid, the farmers around Paris are able to grow beautiful wool and good beef and mutton. He hoped that France will show next year at the great Exhibition that it also has good cattle and splendid merino sheep, such as the Scottish farmer would greatly admire. And he could assure them, that they would receive on that occasion as good and as hearty a welcome as that which had been received by him and the other members of the French deputation. (Cheers.)

Sir J. S. FORBES.—It is with great satisfaction that I have to propose a toast relating to the agriculture of the sister countries. Although this Society has long been engaged in promoting agricultural improvements in Scotland, its sympathies have been already warmly enlisted in the prosperity of agriculture in the neighbouring countries. And it is therefore, my lord with great satisfaction that I have to propose the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland. These Societies have both adopted considerable portions of our system in their organization, and we have had the greatest satisfaction in co-operating with them and assisting them in following the course which we have so long endeavoured to pursue in this part of the country. Their success, my lord, had been quite equal to the energy with which they have carried on their operations, and they have certainly advanced with a rapidity proportioned to the power which they were enabled to bring forward in the cause in which they were engaged. (Cheers.) In England their shows have become proverbial as exhibitions which cannot be equalled in any part of the world, and in Ireland, where there was so much room for improvement at the commencement of the undertaking of the Great Irish Society, much has been achieved, and the progress of the Society has been most satisfactory. I regret that the noble Earl (Earl Grey) who lately proposed a toast to the meeting, has unfortunately been obliged to leave, or I should have coupled his name with this toast; I shall, however, now simply give the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland.

We make room for the following remarks of Mr. BAILLIE and Mr. AITCHISON, in reference to the tenantry of Scotland, and the Local Agricultural Societies. The former observed:—I acknowledge, my Lord, that it is with the greatest pleasure and the most heartfelt satisfaction that I rise to propose health and prosperity to the tenantry of Scotland. And in introducing the toast to your notices what can I say which is not already well known and acknowledged? Upon the whole habitable globe there is no body of men who have made for themselves so high a character for their skill, for their enterprise, for their perseverance, under difficulties, as the tenantry of Scotland, taking them as a whole. (Applause.) I am perfectly aware that I must be addressing many men who came from distant parts of the country, many in all likelihood who are tenants, and who

are farmers on the other side of that silver Tweed on the banks of which we are now sitting. And I would therefore say that I do not make the statement which I have made in any spirit of invidiousness or with any wish to raise any unpleasant feeling in their minds, because I, a Scotchman, choose to say that there are no tenants like the countrymen whom I am glad to say are my countrymen. (Applause.) If there is any one of you, if there is any Englishmen here who doubts what I say, who would wish to see the proof of what I have stated to you, I would ask all of you, gentlemen, to wander through the fields which lie on this beautiful river, to go along Tweedside, to visit the Lothians and to look at the grain crops, and to look at the species of Agriculture of which we in Scotland are particularly proud—our turnips—I would ask those who doubt my statement to go through these districts and when they return to me I am sure they would say that they found a country which was cultivated and which was farmed equal to many of the gardens that they had left behind them in England. (Cheers.) I have very little doubt that these gentlemen have all heard of Berwick and Roxburgh, and the Lothians, and they will say “Why you have chalked out the very best counties in Scotland, you have picked out the gardens of Scotland as specimens of the skill and enterprise and perseverance of Scottish tenants.” Well, I would say, come a little further with me towards Meellerstrain, and in that part of the county I will shew you land which was moors and mosses, a sort of country which by an English eye would have been said to be barren and unimprovable, and I will shew you where I used to shoot snipes and wild ducks, and where the plover and the muirfowl almost dwelt, the change which has been effected by the enterprise and by the skill and by the perseverance of the Scottish tenantry. I will shew as fine arable land as any one can boast of on Tweedside. But I will take you a little further, I will ask you to come with me to the land of brown heath and chaggy wood. I will ask you to come to the Highlands, and when you have thus seen Tweedside and Aberdeenshire and Skye, I will then believe that you will come to me and say, “Now I understand why you said that there was skill and enterprise and perseverance about the Scottish tenants which cannot be surpassed by any other tenants in the world.” (Cheers.) But I happen to have the honour of being a Scottish proprietor, and I am sure I may safely say that I only echo the feeling of almost every other, if not of every other proprietor, when I say that we regard every tenant dependent on us as our friend—(cheers)—for you will join with me, my lord, in the opinion that there can be no more highly educated, no more intelligent, active and spirited men than the Scottish tenants, take them as a body. As to the local agricultural societies, I will only say that they have been of the very greatest importance to the interests of agriculture, and I am persuaded that by continuing the course which they have adopted of giving premiums to the ploughmen they will promote in a very great degree the agricultural interests of the country. (Cheers.)