

Editorial.

THE LATE SANDFORD HOWARD.

American agriculture has lost an intelligent and zealous labourer, and a multitude of sorrowing survivors a true friend, in the rather sudden decease, of Sandford Howard, the able Secretary of the Michigan State Board of Agriculture. This lamentable event took place at Lansing, and was caused by paralysis. We had the pleasure of being acquainted with Mr. Howard, and feel a mournful satisfaction in putting on record our high esteem for him, personally and our admiration of his abilities and attainments. Genial and affable in a high degree, his company was most agreeable. Well-informed on general subjects, and thoroughly posted in all agricultural matters, he had a ready conversational power which made him a valuable companion, from whom you could not fail to derive many useful hints and much important information. He was an excellent judge of cattle, and knew the points of the various breeds perfectly, so as to be able to give a critical opinion of any specimen presented to his view. Hence he was often employed in a judicial capacity at Fairs, and his decisions commanded very general respect. Mr. Howard has rendered great services to the agriculture of his native country in various ways. He laboured editorially for several years in connection first with the *Country Gentleman* and afterwards with the *Boston Cultivator*. He continued to contribute occasionally to the journals first named, and to others of their class, after his acceptance of the important office which he filled at the time of his decease. Our last interview with him was on the occasion of our visiting the Michigan Agricultural College, which is located at Lansing, and in the promotion of which Mr. Howard took the liveliest interest. We received much kind attention and help in our investigations, into the course of study pursued at that institution, which is one of the most flourishing of the kind in the United States, and whose efficiency has been very greatly promoted by Mr. Howard's exertions in its behalf. The deceased gentleman has left behind him not a few permanent evidences of his high capabilities,

industry, and perseverance, more especially in the State Agricultural Reports which emanated from his pen, and which contain some very valuable contributions to the course of scientific agriculture.

We find in the last number of the Massachusetts *Ploughman*, the following biographical sketch of the late Sanford Howard:

Mr. Howard was born in Easton, Bristol county, Mass., on the 7th of August, 1805. The only advantage of early education which he enjoyed were those of the common school. This knowledge of rudiments was the basis which, with observation, and the study of text-books, made him second to none in the sphere he finally chose for a life profession. He remained on his father's farm in Easton until 1830, when he married and removed to Hallowell, Maine, to manage a farm for himself. He early began to contribute to the *Maine Farmer*, his attention being directed especially to the improvement of stock, and this may be said to have been his leading specialty through life. In 1837, he removed to Zanesville Ohio, where he remained till 1843, devoting himself to agricultural pursuits, both with the hand and the pen, and was more than once selected by prominent breeders, to visit New York and other Eastern States, to select, cattle of various kinds for the benefit of that section of the country.

In 1843, he became associated with Luther Tucker, in the editorial management of the *Albany Cultivator*, a position which he retained till 1852, when he removed to this city, to take charge of the *Boston Cultivator* published by Otis Brewer, Esq. While engaged in this work, he was selected, in 1857, by the Massachusetts Society for promoting Agriculture, to go to Europe to select the best specimens of Ayrshire stock. This gave him an opportunity to extend his observations to the various breeds of cattle on their native soil, in England, Scotland, Ireland, and France, and to buy stock on private orders from individuals in various parts of the country. He went again the next year to select a herd of Ayrshire stock for Mr. Henry H. Peters, of Kerry cattle for Arthur W. Austin, of West Roxbury.

Mr. Howard continued his editorial labors till 1864 when he accepted an invitation to become Secretary of the Michigan State Board of Agriculture and removed to Lansing, the capital of that State, where he has since resided.