

most singular speech of the evening. The toast he had to propose was "The agricultural labourers." He showed the state of dependent relations of class with class, and pointed out the peculiarities of the labourer's position:—

"And yet there are those who think lightly of the labourer—who call him rude and boorish—who make his ignorance a bye-word. They say he is uneducated, because he knows little of things that do not concern his own calling; but above all, because he is taught to do, and he is not taught to talk—because in this land, where we choose members of Parliament by their talk, and Cabinet Ministers by their talk—a false test of ability, a false test of knowledge, a false test of education has been set up, and by this false test the labourer has been judged. (Loud cheering.) But it is not by this test, it is by his works that you shall know him. Try him by what he does, not by what he says. (Loud cheering.) Try him by what he knows of his own business, not by what he knows of his neighbour's.—Put a plough into his hands, and although he cannot define a straight line like others taught by rule in set forms of speech, he will run a furrow mathematically exact between its extreme points, though they be as distant as the eye can reach. (Loud cheers.) Is there no education there? What say you of the training of that eye, of that hand, of that head, which can not only see the line, but follow it so truly, making an unerring instrument out of two rude horses and a plough. (Loud cheers.) Or do you hold that only to be education which is to be gained in books; that only to be knowledge which is the development of abstract rules and general ideas? (Cheers.) Take another case. Give one of these ignorant peasants a quarter of corn, bid him sow it over six, or eight, or ten acres; he will not sit down to pen and ink, and consult books. If he lost hours at that work, the world would forthwith dub him a scholar, and doff its hat to him; but he goes straight to the field, and distributes the grain so exactly over the space assigned, that the harvest you shall see no spot unoccupied—no spot more crowded with plants than another. (Cheers.) Is there no education in this? Is there no education required to give so exact an appreciation of quantity—so intimate a knowledge of the capacity of a given space? (Loud cheers.) Propound the same problem to a philosopher. (A laugh.) I believe the labourer would sow a whole farm before the other could make out his rule; and when he had this rule, I doubt if he could ever teach a scholar to apply it. (Loud cheers.) But this is not all; I have as yet spoken only of the mechanical skill of the labourer. I come now to that knowledge which he possesses in common with yourselves—the knowledge of the art of farming—an art which has ever formed the delight of the noblest and most elevated characters of all times—an art which exacts from those who practise it the power of dealing with the incidents, occasions, and emergencies, as presented by the varieties of the seasons, by the nature and constitution of domestic animals, by the nature and properties of plants—an art which elevates and dignifies the mind by the perpetual study and constant contemplation of God's most interesting works; and yet the labourer, so gifted, so trained, is held to be a boor because he cannot talk. (Loud cheers.) But you are not led away by this sophism. Whatever you may do on the hustings—whatever you may approve in Parliament, you have never chosen your shepherd for his talk. You judge the agricultural labourer by what he can do, you love him for his honest worth; you reverence him for his wondrous sagacity, for the genius of his instincts; and now when we are met

together at this high festival, with the magnates of the land, with the distinguished in arts and literature of the civilized world: now we have expressed our loyalty to the throne—(cheers)—our respect for the illustrious Prince, our patron, and the patron of all that elevates society—(loud cheers)—now that we have expressed our gratitude to our distinguished guests for their presence—(cheers)—to our especial leaders and benefactors for their services—we find no toast so satisfactory to our judgment, so grateful to our feelings, as the toast of 'The Labourer,'—even though he cannot talk.—(Great cheering.)"

One or two other speeches finished the proceedings; Mr. Evelyn Denison eliciting a hurricane of cheers by incidentally mentioning the name of "Stanley" in connexion with the impetus given to the use of guano, by Lord Stanley's Liverpool speech, some years ago. The president elect, Lord Ducie, was unable to attend from illness.

We learn from official sources that the number of visitors to the show-yard on Tuesday was 3,000, who paid 5s. each for admission; on Wednesday, when the charge was lowered to 2s. 6d., the visitors amounted to 14,500; and on Thursday, the last day of the show, when the price of admission was reduced to 1s., the numbers were 18,000. Altogether the numbers, though not equalling some former years, produced an unequalled revenue, in consequence of the increase of price.

The proceedings finished on Friday by a dinner to 1,800 labourers of the neighbourhood, invited by ticket through the ministers of every denomination:

"The guests consisted of persons of all ages and of both sexes—all of them clean and neat in their appearance, every face beaming with happiness and radiant with smiles. They were of a class above the very lowest grade of labour, as was evidenced by their being almost all in holiday attire; the women were dressed in plain but clean cotton gowns, and there was scarcely a smock-frock to be seen amongst the men.—Their behaviour throughout was, upon the whole, most orderly; their patience was a little tried at the outset by being kept waiting for the arrival of some of the more distinguished guests—they bore it well; and their hilarity though loudly expressed never surpassed the bounds of decency and order; so it was during the time that the few speeches were delivered. As may be supposed, of the two duties of an audience, the cheering was much better performed than the listening; but there was no speaker with a voice loud enough to be heard all over the great hall, who was not sure of being listened to; and even with regard to the feeblest, it may be stated that the conduct of the audience would form a favourable comparison with that of their employers—the tenant-farmers, on the previous Wednesday. Add to this, that though the ale circulated freely on the occasion, yet, when the proceedings were over, no one seemed inebriated—no one showed a disposition to protract his stay at the dinner-table, but all retired at once, hilariously but orderly, to the show-yard adjoining, where the younger portion of the guests amused themselves with various sports on the greensward; after which tea was served to those who wished it, and the festivities were quietly brought to an end.

"The expense of providing hired waiters for the dinner would have added considerably to the expense of the arrangements. This was obviated in a great measure, by putting down on the tables at once all the provisions, consisting of cold beef, mutton, lamb, plum pudding, &c., and leaving the guests to help themselves. Still some superintendence was necessary, and this duty was undertaken by the Clergy, and several respectable