

knowledge and experience dictate. In all countries this is beginning at the right end. It has the advantage of being a safe road, and in the result will prove the most profitable.

The remaining papers in this series will comprise a popular view of the leading principles of Agricultural Chemistry, adapted to the comprehension and wants of our agricultural readers; and while we hope to interest and improve their minds, we trust that we shall not at least mislead them on any material points of practice.

SMITHFIELD CHRISTMAS CATTLE SHOW.

This annual exhibition of fat cattle came off as usual at the Bazaar in Portman Square, on the 7th and 8th of December. It would appear from the reports which have reached us, that the late Exhibition was upon the whole eminently successful.—Although the mere number of animals does not appear to have been much above that of previous years, yet their quality was in some important respects decidedly superior. The different classes were better filled up. There has evidently been of late years among the exhibitors at the Smithfield Show, a disposition to pay more attention to the useful and symmetrical qualities of the animals, than to excessive, and we may add, unprofitable fattening. The late show has surpassed all previous ones in this important improvement, the object being not the mere production of the bulkiest and fattest animals, but such as possessed the largest weight of wholesome food, with the least amount of waste.—We have seen at former Smithfield exhibitions, animals so excessively fat that several of the points and characteristics of the different breeds were completely hidden. It would appear that the recent improvements have been effected chiefly by the feeder, for most of the prizes have been awarded to that class. The restrictions as to the mode of feeding and the amount of food consumed by each animal have been dispensed with, being found either impracticable or unsatisfactory in their application. In sheep, both long and short woolled, the exhibition was good; and among the successful candidates we notice the old familiar names of Webb, Stonam, Hitchman, Earl of Leicester, and that zealous untiring improver of agriculture, the Duke of Richmond. The pigs were also good—some specimens of the Chinese breed being particularly fine. Three Berkshire pigs are said to distance all competition. They were bred and fattened by Mr. Pusey, M. L., the well known agriculturist. We had almost omitted to say that HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT, (who,—many of our readers may not be aware,—is an extensive practical farmer,) was as

usual a successful competitor. A keen competition took place for many of the animals, and high prices were obtained. The exhibition of seeds and implements was very extensive, including several novelties. Among the latter is the application of *gutta percha* to agricultural purposes. We will conclude this brief notice in the words of an eye-witness. "The show, particularly in sheep and pigs, surpassed any of its predecessors; and the perfection to which these classes have been brought, reflects the highest credit on the enterprise, skill, and science of the agriculturists of England. It is impossible to overpraise this part of the Exhibition; and as usual, the Prince Consort, the Duke of Richmond, and other zealous agriculturists, who have done so much to give an impetus to the farmers of England, sent numerous and meritorious animals."

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LOWER CANADA.

We have received the *January* number of the *Journal and Transactions of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society*, which contains several valuable articles, and some interesting information. We agree with the editor in attributing much of our present embarrassments to the slovenly and unskilful way in which our agriculture is too generally conducted. It is true that in Upper Canada we have many exceptions; we know of farms that are well managed, and yield a profitable return; yet it must be acknowledged, that in general, we are lagging behind. The following sentence contains an important truth, which all who feel an interest in their country's welfare should deeply ponder.—"The present depressed state of Canada has no chance whatever of improvement, but by what she may derive from the augmented produce of her own soil."

It would appear from the Report of the last quarterly meeting of the Directors of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society, that notwithstanding some difficulties and drawbacks, it continues to persevere in its useful labors. We are sorry to see that the French translation of the *Journal* has not been remuneratively sustained; yet the Directors have resolved not to relinquish it. There is no better test of the public spirit and intelligence of the farming class in any country, than the degree of support they afford to agricultural papers and Societies. We observe with much pleasure that the Lower Canadian Society has imported a number of short treatises on the science and art of agriculture, "with a view of having them published in a cheap form, and circulated in the country and at the schools, in order to give our youth a taste for farm-