

when I say that this toast is a proper expression of your respect for our sacred character and calling, and I trust I may regard it as a pledge equally becoming in bodies of men as well as individuals to give, that all your schemes, albeit they may refer to matters of merely temporal interest, have been begun and will be carried on in the fear of God. The province of duty assigned to the clergy is not very different from that undertaken by this Society. We are charged with the care of the immortal interests of our fellow-men; but while alive as I hope, to the superior importance of our own high and holy vocation, our spirit is not so illiberal and contracted, or so unworthy of educated men, as to prevent us from appreciating the value of your patriotic labours. On the contrary, we acknowledge with gratitude your invaluable services, and we bid you all hail as fellow-labourers with us in the great and wide field of philanthropic exertions. (Cheers.) Of the manner in which the clergy have discharged their sacred trust it does not perhaps become me to speak, but we are willing that you should be our judges. The national character of a people, it has been well said, is moulded in the institutions under which they live. The churches in this land present to you the yeomen and the peasantry of England and Scotland, the tenant-farmer and the hardy tillers of the soil. They have long been under our charge, none know them better than you, and if you will find us men more upright, more industrious, more intelligent, more enterprising, take them all in all, more religious, more exemplary in all the duties of social and domestic life, more meek and uncomplaining when their lot has been cast in evil days, and some unforeseen calamity has disappointed the hopes of the husbandman—if you shall find us better men in any land then count us if you will to have been careless and unfaithful shepherds. In the welfare of these parties we never can fail to take a warm and lively interest, and hence it is that we cannot with sufficient gratitude repay the exertions of this high-minded and patriotic institution which seeks to promote the welfare of those who belong to it, and which this evening exhibits the comely spectacle of landlord and tenant as having one common pursuit and one common interest united in free and friendly converse, competing with each other how they may best promote the welfare of their common country.

The CHAIRMAN observed, in reference to the Highland Society, that it had now been in existence for eighty years, and instead of increasing in infirmity as it grew older, it was increasing in vitality and energy. (Cheers.) As a proof of this he might state that on a recent occasion no fewer than 153 persons had been admitted members of the Society in one day. One cause of its great success had undoubtedly been the great influx of the tenant-farmers of the country into the Association. These tenant-farmers had taken a great interest in the Society, and the local agricultural societies in connection with it, had contributed much to its success. (Cheers.) As a proof of the very high position which the body now held, he might mention that only last year it was

entrusted with the management of the statistical inquiry then instituted. That inquiry had been most successfully conducted, and its success was no doubt greatly owing to the services rendered by the farmers of the country. As to the occasion which had brought them together, he felt that it was unnecessary for him to expatiate on the character of the show; in the presence of so many men of much greater experience than himself, he would not presume to point out its particular features, but he was sure all would agree with him in thinking that it had been a most successful one.

Earl GREY, in proposing the Deputation from France, among other happy remarks observed: Gentlemen, you will also I am sure rejoice with me to have this opportunity to give a cordial welcome to the imperial deputation which is present on this occasion. (Cheers.) I hope and trust that they have been pleased with what they have seen, not only here but elsewhere, particularly at the recent Show of the Agricultural Society of England. I hope that what they have seen upon these occasions, not only of our progress in agriculture, but of the state of feeling towards France which has been exhibited on this occasion, as it was upon that, must have given satisfaction to our guests. [Applause.] Gentlemen, I feel that it is quite unnecessary that I should say more in recommending this toast to your notice, and I will therefore now conclude by asking you to drink Success to the Agriculture of France, and the Imperial Deputation now present.

M. YVART, President of the French deputation, replied to the toast in the French language to the following effect:—The deputation had been sent to Great Britain for the purpose of obtaining information respecting the agricultural exhibitions of England and Scotland, and to report upon the effects of those institutions upon the improvement of the agriculture of the country. The deputation had been much interested in what it had seen, and had admired many a time the agricultural stock of Great Britain. The French Government will introduce into its own exhibitions whatever is good in the proceedings that the deputation had here seen. He [M. Yvart] had heard with great pleasure the toast to the agriculture of France, because there is no country where the agricultural interests are greater than in France—where there are so many people—so large a population—connected with agriculture. And in France, if the farmers have a good deal to learn from their neighbours, there is notwithstanding, some good farming. In the north of France they might see good farming—farming that will compare with that of the best parts of Scotland. There is in France great application of the science of chemistry to the growth of beet root. With chemistry the French first got sugar from beet-root, and during the last few years they have also got good spirits, which, in consequence of the disease in the vines was much needed by commerce. In other parts of France they apply some good practises to the production of cattle.—though not by the means of turnips, but with some plant which is better adapted to their dryer