

first step taken was to procure two imported Durham bulls for the special use of the members. It happened, fortunately for the society at this time, that an English gentleman of some capital settled in the County. He brought with him a number of very superior rams and ewes of the Leicester breed, these were perhaps among the first direct importations of sheep that came to the country, a few years showed the beneficial effects of them. Although not under the control of the society, yet several individual members of it, had very good stallions. By this time the society had its annual shows both spring and fall, besides its ploughing matches. The next step at improvement, was the purchasing of and presenting to the members, a copy of Hind's Science of Agriculture, the object being to throw some light upon the chemical nature of soils, so that improvements in culture should be gone into. It also offered high premiums to mechanics for improvement in and introduction of new and labor saving machines, and those have been continued by the society up to the present time. Thus has this society been going on step by step in improvement each successive year; suggesting something new, purchasing and distributing (at cost price) new and suitable varieties of fall and spring wheat, clover seed, gypsum, plaster, &c., until we have arrived at the state of progress which we enjoy.

The whole of these improvements, whether in our stock, mode of culture, domestic utensils, the economic arrangement of our barns, barn-yards and outbuildings, the proper management and application of manures, the housing and feeding of cattle, and even the luxuries of life which we enjoy, are all traceable back and through this society, which had its origin more than a quarter of a century ago.

We can now look back with feelings of pleasure upon those days, although they were not days of ease and enjoyment, but hard toil. Man did in those times, verily eat his bread by the sweat of his brow, for the old adage of "no work, no meat," would have soon been confirmed.

If we can look back and observe the amount of good done, under circumstances of hardship and difficulties, how much more then can now be accomplished when we have none of these things to contend against. We have now wealth, experience, time and talent,

at our disposal, are we properly applying these? We fear many are not, and against whom we hold up a finger of warning. We will make our remarks general, let those to whom they will apply think of them. We said we fear not, the too prosperous times which we have for some time enjoyed, the very high prices attainable for our produce, especially wheat, have blinded our eyes. We have been too well satisfied with past and present prosperity, without casting even a passing thought on future evils.

Wheat has for some time commanded a high price, higher in proportion than any other article of produce. The consequence has been for some years the whole attention has been turned to the raising of it. Wheat after wheat, wheat after wheat, every field is wheat; no rest for the soil, nor replenishing of the necessary productive ingredients. No, every spark of life which it possessed has been sucked out of it, until Nature has cried out, enough, by not yielding her usual bountiful supplies.

We agriculturists have received a check; an all-wise Providence has interposed His hand by sending a blight, a plague, cutting down our usual fair fields by blight, rust, and myriads of the midge fly; we are thereby compelled, whether willing or not, to yield our land that rest which under the present system pursued, it requires.

The question naturally arises, what is to be done to get rid of this evil?

We would say pursue a regular system of rotation of crops. Supply the land by manure and proper cultivation, with the nutriment which has been extracted from it, and trust to Providence for the rest. The system which we would recommend may in another part of this report be treated upon.

One of the greatest enemies which the farmer has to contend against is the rust. Volumes have been written upon this subject, without effecting a cure; hundreds more may be written with a like result. We have little faith in those all-cures of patent medicine vendors, dispensed under the pretence of remedies for the blight. We pretend to give a thorough cure for this without any quackery, and it is in the power of every individual to carry out our suggestions. They are the result of observation, and every farmer is as well acquainted as we are with the facts, and upon reflection, will bear us out