

THE BIRMINGHAM CORN EXCHANGE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT MARKET.—We have great pleasure in announcing that there will, in a short time, be erected in Birmingham a commodious corn exchange, to which will be attached an agricultural implement market. Our corn market has long been celebrated as the most important in the midland counties. To the discredit of the borough, and to the inconvenience and annoyance of those who attend it to sell or purchase grain, it has been held in the open air in the Bull-ring! Thanks to the public spirit of Mr. Joseph Sturge, Mr. Chas. Sturge, Mr. Lucy, Mr. Boddington, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Carpenter, Birmingham is about to be emancipated from the discredit, and the farmers, corn-dealers, millers, bakers, and others who attend our corn market, will ere long assemble in a spacious, admirably lighted, and noble corn exchange, erected in the very centre of the borough. A company is formed; £5,000 has already been raised by £25 shares, confined to the corn trade; a committee of management has been appointed; the plans have been prepared; the ground has been purchased, and the erection of the building commenced. The design, which we have seen, is of the Roman Doric order, of the same height both on the outside and the inside. The site of land on which the corn exchange will be erected is at the back of High-street, and about forty years ago was occupied by two rows of butchers' shops, and known as "St. George's Market." There will be two entrances, one from High-street, opposite Union-street, the other at the lower part of Castle-street. At the High-street entrance there will be a vestibule, 40 feet by 21 feet, leading to the corn exchange, which will be a room about 140 feet long by 40 feet wide, divided into seven compartments by means of Doric columns and pilasters, between which the stands will be arranged on each side. The chief feature in this part of the building will be the roof, in which the usual "tie" will be dispensed with, for the double purpose of increasing the apparent height of the building and the space for lighting it. The roof, being semi-circular, will be composed of enriched panels, or coffers, which will be glazed with thick sheets of glass, of great length, to obviate the unsightly and green-house appearance caused by the lap of the glass when in short lengths. The roof will be surmounted by a lantern top, covered with bent glass. The whole of the framing, both in the roof and lantern, will be of the lightest construction consistent with the safety of the building, in order that the greatest possible quantity of light may be obtained. It is calculated that it will take 6,000 square feet of glass for the roof alone. At the Castle-street entrance there will be a vestibule of 50 feet by 16 feet, with enriched columns and ceiling, as at the High-street entrance. There will be accommodation provided in the corn exchange room for one hundred stands, which will be let to the trade at a certain sum per annum—

probably about £8. It will be the largest separate corn exchange in England—calculated to hold 3,000. It will be let for other purposes, holding public meetings, &c. The elevation in Castle-street will be of an ornamental character, having deeply-recessed entrances both to the exchange and the floor underneath, containing about 700 square yards, which it is proposed should be let as a public market for the sale of agricultural implements. There will also be a committee room and a large coffee room attached to the exchange. The total height of the building will be about 50 feet. In our opinion, such a building will be an honor to the corn trade, a credit to the borough, and admirably adapted for the purposes for which it is intended; and we doubt not, that under the superintendence of our talented townsman, Mr. Samuel Hemming, the architect engaged by the committee, it will not only be a well-arranged, but a substantial and handsome structure. The estimated cost of the land and building is, we understand, about £10,000. Mr. Briggs is the contractor.

TREATMENT OF PIGS.—A farmer made the following experiment in the treatment of pigs: He put six pigs together for seven weeks. Three of them he left to shift for themselves, and he had three of them curry-combed and well cared for. At the expiration of the seven weeks the latter consumed five bushels of peas less than the former, and weighed two stone four pound more than they did.

THE BLOODHOUND.—This dog, which is undoubtedly descended from the talbot, which animal has long since been extinct, and was well known by his pendulous ears and spotted skin, is of the same family as the old sleuthhound. His height is about twenty-seven inches, his colour generally a reddish cinnamon, shaded with tan. His use in former times was to pursue the deer when wounded by the keeper, and for that purpose he was hunted in a long cord, called a lyme, from which circumstance he was occasionally designated as a lyme-hound. Thieves, and also poachers, were hunted down by the aid of the fine nose of the bloodhound, which practice has been revived to a considerable extent in modern times. From this stock are descended the hounds of the present day in all their varieties. But modern practice has proved, like the attempt to cross our horses with the Arabs which are now brought to this country, that the re-introduction of the blood only deteriorates, and not in any way improves, the capabilities of the animal. The modern bloodhound is bred more for show than for use; consequently his scenting powers, not being so much an object as his size, colour, and general beauty, have greatly degenerated.—*Bell's Life.*