

Montreal 6th Oct. 1859.

SIR,

I have no doubt you are sometimes favoured with angry outpourings from certain correspondents--unsuccessful competitors, against awards which have appeared in the prize lists on the occasion of Public Exhibitions and Trials, with violent antagonism to the system of competitive Trials as at present conducted.

It is presumed, nevertheless, that but few think competitive Trials unworthy of public attention ; for it cannot be denied that when periods of competition come round, and after a fair comparison, inferior and worthless implements are discarded, so that, with judges of ordinary honesty, prizes can reach only such implements and machines as exhibit the best adaptations of power, and turn out the work in the greatest quantity, and of the most superior quality.

It is difficult on all occasions to lay down specific conditions for the trying and testing of certain implements, preliminary to their entry for trial ; and it is very doubtful whether it would not be better, on all occasions, to leave the judges at perfect freedom to give due weight to any consideration or supernumerary perfection, in addition to those enumerated and contemplated in the "Prize List," or prior to testings taking place.

The nearest approximation to perfection being the object, although definite and specific conditions be laid down, there appears to be no rational reason against giving the preference to an Implement or Machine showing perfections in addition to those stipulated in the Prize Lists. This would be only giving encouragement to ingenuity in the right direction. Are we to reject such specimens because we are presented with none that we have bargained for ?

I have always advocated the propriety and advantage whether in the case of Stock, Machines or Implements, of establishing certain clearly defined and specific points for testing each specimen. From the Report of the Transactions of the Board of Agriculture of 1858, such points might be established, and in one of the Numbers of "The Journal" the same year, you gave a list of points for establishing the superiority of Short Horns. These and similar digests would be extremely useful if placed in the hands of judges in every department, leaving them, at sametime, at perfect freedom to use their discretion, and I am persuaded such an arrangement would be attended with the best results. Such digests would of course be prepared with the assistance of the best practical skill in each department.

The object ought to be to publish, on all occasions, such a Report, as should be entitled to remain as a standing authority and truthful record, up to the time of its appearance, of the state of agricultural improvement in the Province, whether