

The following letter we copy from the *Albany Advertiser*. It is written by an American gentleman, now in Scotland, and contains interesting information:

Mr. L. TUCKER—You have probably received papers containing accounts of the great annual show of the Highland Society, held this year in Glasgow; I will therefore not attempt any description of the exhibition itself, but will merely say that the show of animals and implements, was on a magnificent and immense scale, and the number was perfectly bewildering. A week at least would have been necessary in order deliberately to view every thing. There were, however, some meetings incidental to the occasion, which were specially interesting to me, and of which I will endeavor to give a brief report.

First, I would notice an Education meeting. Arrangements had been made by which five boys, from the Lanne Agricultural School near Belfast, in Ireland, were present, with their teacher, Dr. Fitzpatrick, from Lanne, Mr. Skilling, from Dublin, Sir Robert Bateson, from Templemoyle, and other gentlemen interested in the cause of Agricultural instruction, were also present.

The boys were from 14 to 16 years old, and had been in the Agricultural class two years. Prof. Johnston stated that by this meeting it was hoped that light might be thrown upon two points. 1. Is it possible to give boys instruction in agriculture, practical and scientific, that will be of use to them in after life. 2. Can this be done without interfering with other studies. These questions were both most distinctly answered in the affirmative by numerous gentlemen present, connected with agricultural schools in Ireland and England. The boys before mentioned were finally placed upon the platform, and with a view to answering the second inquiry were questioned in geography, grammar and arithmetic, by Mr. Gibson, inspector of schools. The examination was a somewhat severe one, especially upon grammar and geography; yet notwithstanding the embarrassments and novelty of their situation they appeared admirably. I think that some one of them answered every question. They were then examined upon various points in chemistry connected with agriculture, by Prof. Johnston, and lastly, upon practical farming, by various other gentlemen. Their answers showed not only that they had learned by memory, but that they had also reflected. Frequent and irrepressible bursts of applause interrupted the examination, and the most sceptical were convinced. These boys devote one hour each day to scientific and practical agriculture, and once in the week they are questioned upon the studies of the preceding five days. An enthusiasm was aroused by this exhibition which will hardly expend itself in mere words. A resolution was passed "that it was the opinion of the meeting that agricultural instruction should be introduced into the schools of Scotland." A large committee of influential and distinguished gentlemen was appointed to deliberately consider the subject. I may here mention that Mr. Skilling, superintendent and teacher in the Norman Farm School near Dublin, gave most ample testimony in favor of Prof. Johnston's works. They are introduced into all the Irish schools, and their importance impressed upon every teacher. The Catechism was written expressly for schools, and has been found of signal benefit.

A most excellent feature of this Show was the introduction of public breakfasts, at which certain questions of interest to the farmer were discussed. The subjects were fixed and made public before the meeting, so that gentlemen came prepared with facts and arguments. I was exceedingly interested at the last one. The subject was "the disease of potatoes." The discussion was most animated, and lasted more than two hours after the

active business of the meal was over. A large number of gentlemen spoke, and almost every one brought out new facts and new views. All agreed that the evil was wide spread and increasing. Each person supposed to know any thing of the subject, was in turn called upon to give particular statements both as to his own experience and that of his districts, his views of the cause and the remedy. Mr. Alexander of Southbar, a very distinguished farmer, attributed much of the disease to improper stowage of the potatoes during the winter; to placing them in large masses so that they heated and lost much of their vitality. He had never known a failure except from improper treatment. Mr. Fleming of Barochan, an equally eminent authority, said that the less ripe the potatoe when dug, the less likely to fail. After raising several thousand varieties from seed, he has never produced a healthy kind. For several years he has dressed his potatoes with certain saline substances, such as sulphate of magnesia, nitrate of soda, &c. &c.; all those so treated, have succeeded admirably. Mr. Anderson, a manager of large estates in Ireland, laid much stress upon the thorough draining, subsoiling and pulverization of the soil. He digs his potatoes before they are ripe, selects the most perfect tubers and buries them in shallow, narrow pits, from two feet to thirty inches wide, heaping the earth as high as possible. There they remain until the planting season arrives; the drills are then opened, the manure placed the potatoes taken out, planted and covered within half an hour; by following this course, he has no disease. Several speakers mentioned the fact that potatoes which had lain exposed to the sun until they became green, make the best seed.

This sketch will give an idea of the way in which these breakfasts are conducted. They ought to be accompaniments of every agricultural meeting. In the present instance, practical men from all parts of the country came prepared to give their views upon certain subjects, and the result was such an amount of information and of facts as could have been in no other way so easily collected. Each farmer went home with a large stock of suggestions, and increase of knowledge, whereby to conduct new and more intelligent experiments. After a few such conversations, they will undoubtedly be able to devise certain means for the arrest of this formidable disease. As with this subject, so with every other, much light would be accumulated, were practical men freely to exchange their facts and theories. If those interested in agriculture could be induced to enlist with spirit in one such conversation, they would be most amply repaid; and judging from my own experience, look forward with pleasure to future opportunities of a like nature. I am, very truly yours,

JOHN P. NORTON.

SYDNEY.—We have advices to-day from Sydney, of the 18th May inclusive, from which we take the following low list of prices:—Fat cattle selling at 34s. per head, when "in very superior condition;" best fat sheep, 5s. per head; milch cows, 55s. per head; beef 3d. to 1d. per lb.; mutton, 1d. to 1½d. per lb.; 1s. to 1s. 3d. for a pair of fowls; coals, 18s. to 22s. per ton of 28 bushels. The governor, Sir George Gipps, had been obliged to make concessions respecting the tax on depasturing licenses, and had published explanations by which it appears that one license will cover a station capable of depasturing 4,000 sheep and 500 head of cattle, and 1l. only extra will be charged for every extra thousand head of sheep; and if the owner should double his flocks from 4,000 to 8,000, he will have to pay in all 14l. instead of 20l. His Excellency also recommends to the home government that a fixity of tenure should