

large and small breeds. I also felt disappointed in the small amount of Flax and Poultry on exhibition, and there was no display of farm cereals, except a number of small specimens belonging to the ordinary collection of a seedsman, exhibited chiefly with a view to business purposes.

The Show of Implements was far more extensive than on any previous occasion, constituting a department that was both attractive and instructive in no ordinary degree. Several of the larger English makers were represented, but no inconsiderable amount was from Irish firms, clearly indicating the progress which has been made of late years in the agricultural mechanics of that country. Fowler's steam plough was put into operation on a farm at Blarney, and did its work admirably. Other implements and machines, such as ploughs, scarifiers, reapers and mowers were also tested, affording the spectators much interest and instruction.

The above will give the reader some general idea of this great national gathering. On the first day the admission being half a crown, the yard was not inconveniently crowded, and upon no similar occasion did I ever see so large a number of elegantly dressed and handsome women, who appeared to take great interest in the various departments of the exhibition. The Irish ladies have always been distinguished for natural grace and beauty, and those of Cork are considered to excel in these attractive qualities. The Grand Banquet of the Society was attended by some four or five hundred people, including a large portion of the Irish aristocracy. The Lord Lieutenant, who is very popular in the country, attended the dinner and delivered a very suitable and eloquent speech. The whole proceedings of the evening, and all I could otherwise learn, were full of faith and hope in the future welfare and prosperity of Ireland.

G. B.

Belfast, July 31st.

P. S.—I have now been through Ireland from south to north, and my impression of the state and capabilities of the country is decidedly favourable. The facilities afforded by the Encumbered Estates Act for transferring landed property have been attended by the happiest results; and it is satisfactory to know that by far the greater part of these estates have been purchased by Irish capital. A general glance at the tenantry and their farms is sufficient to

ascertain in whether the landowner is needy otherwise. In many places the dirty mud holes of the peasantry are rapidly giving way to more elegant cottages, so that this just reproach of Ireland and her landed proprietors is in a great way of being wiped away. A higher standard of domestic comfort is being raised, the demand for labor is now constant, and wages have considerably advanced, and are still advancing. No part of the United Kingdom is the educated of the people better, if so well attended to, than the national system, based on the non-denominational principle, is daily acquiring strength in the ordinary schools and the colleges. It has been over the latter both in Cork and Belfast with the principal Agricultural institutions connected with the National Board of Education of which more hereafter. The weather, though cool, is more propitious, and the crops are promising, but late. Every day I meet with persons interested in Canada, and the Prince of Wales's visit is a matter of common talk and congratulation. It cannot fail to do us much good should leave the Emerald Isle with pleasing impressions, and cannot readily forget the hospitality and generous nature of her people. Tomorrow I cross the channel for Scotland to attend the Highland Society's Show at Dumfries.

### The Breeding of Sheep.

We take the following extracts from an excellent paper lately read before the London Central Farmers' Club, England, on the subject of "Pure-bred and Cross-bred Sheep," by Charles Howard. We copy from the "Farmer's Gazette":—

"The sheep of this country are divided into two classes, short-woolled and long-woolled established breeds under the former are the South Down, or Sussex Down, Hampshire or West Country Down; under the latter are Leicester, Cotswold and Lincoln; all possessed of some most excellent qualities, or they would not have survived their way and all but exterminated the inferior local breeds that were once to be found in this country; and perhaps it will be well to glance at the history of those breeds.

The South or Sussex Downs are probably descended from small gray and black sheep, which were found upon the high mountainous districts throughout England. The late Mr. John Ellman found a very inferior and ill-formed description of sheep