

implements. You must be aware you were much behindhand in that respect; but we have only to look at the display of agricultural implements on the grounds to-day to see that a vast improvement is taking place. Suppose you were to put a joiner to work with bad tools, you could not expect his work to be as expeditiously or as well done as if he had good ones; just so with the farm labourer he cannot do his work either as well or in the same time as if you had placed better instruments in his hand. I will not now select any more particular points, but will direct your attention to what I may call the moral points in agriculture.—

The social position of the farmer, I am sorry to see, is not better here than at home; they are looked upon as persons wanting in intellect; but I have gone much among societies in all countries, and have found as much intelligence and intellect among farmers as any other class.—And after all, on what does a man's position depend, or what makes him superior to his fellow man; it is not the development of the intellectual powers? and is there any situation in life in which those powers are more called into play? none. And in England do we not find all the high positions and those requiring the most talent, filled by persons who have devoted their time and attention to Agriculture? In respect to Schools you all know better than I do how you are situated, and fathers do not think it necessary to educate their sons who are to become farmers; they think they have got on very well in the world without it, and do not see the necessity of their sons knowing more than they do.

In Scotland if one boy of a family evinces more cleverness than another he is either made a Minister or a Lawyer, while the most stupid one is always considered quite clever enough for a farmer and is not troubled with much education. The same opinion I am sorry to say prevails in America. But, gentlemen, the period has now arrived when farmers must be convinced that they require education, the knowledge of scientific agriculture has spread, and they must be acquainted with it, to keep pace with the improvements of the age. If a person is unwell he goes to a physician, who gives him a prescription which he gets made up at the apothecary's, and swallows his pills or draught; the farmer now must be both physician and apothecary, he must be able to prescribe for the soil, and compound his own prescriptions, to do which properly, requires education; and if time permitted I could bring forward many examples to prove to you that it requires a mind fully developed; thus one bushel of wheat contains about lb. of Phosphoric acid, besides about twelve other ingredients, the which they extract from the soil and give out to the support of animal life, which decomposing, returns again to the soil. Thus the wheel of Nature constantly revolving round requires a matured mind to understand it, and as it requires a matured mind to be able to apply it, you therefore see that mind is necessary

to the farmer and that Agricultural education must be had, in order that the character of the farmer may be raised and as it must be by mental cultivation, educate your sons. Now gentlemen you know your own Province better than I do, but I will not venture to say whether schools do exist, but there is one piece of advice I will give you, that is, to admit a certain amount of scientific agriculture in all your Parish schools, a small catechism will contain all the principles, and it can be taught at very little expense and in a very short time. I think you would do great good to the Province by establishing a large institution for agricultural education.

**PHENOMENON IN ROSS-SHIRE.**—A curious phenomenon occurred at the farm of Balvulich, on the estate of Ord, occupied by Mr. Moffat, on the evening of Monday last. Immediately after one of the loudest thunder peals ever heard there, a large and irregularly shaped mass of ice, reckoned to be nearly 20 feet in circumference, and of a proportionate thickness, fell near the farm house. It had a beautiful crystalline appearance, being nearly transparent, if we except a small portion of it, which consisted of hailstones of uncommon size fixed together. It was principally composed of small squares, diamond shaped, of from one to three inches in size, all firmly congealed together. The weight of this large piece of ice could not be ascertained, but it is a most fortunate circumstance that it did not fall on Mr. Moffat's house, or it would have crushed it, and undoubtedly have caused the death of some of the inmates. No appearance whatever of either hail or snow was discernible in the surrounding district.—*Ross-shire Advertiser.*

**EXTRAORDINARY FLOCK OF SHEEP.**—On the farm of Bahulick, near Beauly, is a small flock of the most extraordinary looking sheep, it may be safely said, in Ross-shire, or even in Inverness-shire. They are of the Cheviot breed. But what attracts the notice of the public so much is the black fleece and white neck. They are all perfectly black, with the exception of the neck and two streaks (one upon each shoulder,) which is white, and resembles very much a minister's white neckcloth, with its appendages, lying over the lappel of his black coat. Some of the ewes this season have got lambs which are certainly curiosities. They are regularly spotted black and white, very much the same as a carriage dog, with this difference that the spots are larger and not so numerous. Mr. Moffat, the tenant, has reared the whole of this interesting flock himself, and he may safely say that he is the only farmer in the Highlands who possesses such a peculiar flock of sheep.—*Inverness Courier.*