

land is undrained, your buildings are unfit for a respectable farmer—(applause)—your fields are too small, and your hedgerows are too numerous. ("Whose fault is that?") I have been told, but I do not believe it, that it is because game is respected that your fields are small. But I won't believe it, because I know that the aristocracy of this country have a very high sense of their position and dignity, and are ready to fall in with that which is for the benefit of the country. We want to know more of the requirements of agriculture. In the largest fields in Norfolk I have seen four fields for a thousand acres [cheers], and there are more partridges in the fields of Norfolk than you ever see here. And how is this done? Because the farmers of Norfolk, liking to see the liberal landed proprietors enjoy their sport, drill a few rows of buckwheat in their turnips, and they always have capital partridge shooting. [cheers.] I tell you, that you cannot go on in Lancashire and Cheshire as you are going on now. [Cheers.] Your farmers cannot spend money enough—they cannot be intelligent enough—they cannot be good customers enough to the other classes of the community, because your system is a starvation and poverty system. [Applause.] Excuse me for speaking honestly, but I believe that railways and the facilities of intercourse between man and man in this kingdom will cause a great change—will enable farmers and landlords of any poor districts to go into well-farmed districts in other parts of the country which have been reclaimed and improved and made fruitful by the investment of capital and intelligence. I do not charge upon agriculture any particular prejudice more than belongs to any other class of the community. We know that in manufactures, and in every invention and improvement, we have always had great contention against old customs and prejudices. But I address myself now to the manufacturers of Manchester. We know there are men in Manchester who, by science and capital, are now becoming princes, and are purchasing the broad lands of the kingdom. I say to them: "You have done great things—you have got a magnificent city, but take care to learn agriculture. Take care to raise amongst you, for money is no object, a college in which agriculture can be taught as a science." (Cheers.) I said so to-day to a manufacturer, and he said, "Mr. Mechi, I will give you £500 for that object to-morrow." (Cheers.) To the great landed proprietors I would say: "Look out amongst your tenant farmers for some son—some young man whose father, having a desire to make his son more than himself, has given him a good education, and offer some premium, pay some part of the cost to the tenantry on your estates, that your sons may go to those colleges now existing. Some years ago, at great personal and pecuniary inconvenience, I took an interest in the college at Cirencester, in Gloucestershire. That college was founded for the sons of the farmers of England, but, I say it with great truth, that the education was so inferior, that, when we got professors of the highest class, we found it was throwing pearls to swine; for the education received

by that class of individuals would not enable them to imbibe that science which would have been so beneficial to them. Therefore I say to the landlords, and particularly the Manchester gentlemen who have plenty of money and plenty of ability—establish a noble college in which the agriculture of this country shall be taught. You have not got all the difficulties to go through that we had at Cirencester. That college is established, and we are turning men into the world who will be an honor to agriculture. Do you the same. I know you will do it, and why? If you ask me why I am here to-day, I say it is to do honor and give my support to an excellent man in Manchester, Mr. Brooks. (Loud cheers.) I felt that when Mr. Brooks threw open his farming operations and drainage to all England, with a noble and liberal spirit, he was doing a great good for agriculture. I say, as a general rule, if we had more knowledge—and I have had to buy my experience, as we have all had to buy our experience—but, I say, if you had great and established rules and principles of action, those questions of drainage, farm buildings, steam engines, and other things, would not be questions of dispute, but they would be accepted as common and every-day occurrences; and I have no doubt we shall have no discussion on the subject fifty years hence. (cheers.) They will be matters of course, like your breakfast, dinner, and tea. There was one point touched upon by Mr. Chadwick, which is of the utmost importance. We, as farmers, think that if we keep 200 sheep to 100 acres we have our farms well manured; but when you have 400,000 sheep in Manchester—(cheers)—or what is better, that you have 400,000 men, women, and children, with all their cats and dogs (laughter), horses, and everything else, and allow all these advantages to be wasted, you are not sane men. Now you are coming to Board of Health principles, and carrying away all this in tubes; and I hope you will find some spirited men wise enough to look at profit and say, "I will give £1,000 a-year for the sewerage of Manchester. I will get an act of parliament to bring it fifteen miles away. I shall put it on 10,000 acres of land, and I shall make £100,000 out of it." [Applause.] I am not speaking theoretically on this question—I have laid down two miles of piping myself, on my own farm, for the conveyance of liquid manure; and I can only say that I should be too happy, if I were within five miles of a town, to be able to get the manure from it. I assure you it will pay. I tell you honestly you could put a ton of liquid manure, send it five miles, put it on your farm, and throw it down in a shower, plough it, spread it in the soil for three farthings a ton. If you don't do that, I can only say that the men of Manchester are not what I calculated them to be. The Almighty has blessed us with a bountiful harvest—consequently Consols go up, money gets cheap, labor will be well employed, and our friends in Manchester are rejoicing at the prospect of an abundant trade. I say to you, on public and on national grounds, do all you can to mitigate the vicissitudes of the season which are sometimes so fatal. You can only do that by