

race is usually estimated at about one thousand millions of individuals. If the sustenance of a portion of these multitudinous millions is derived from other sources than Agriculture, this circumstance is balanced by the fact that there is a great deal of agricultural produce raised in excess of the total demand for food. Let, then, the thoughtful husbandman, who desires to form a just idea of the importance of his pursuit, reflect, when he gathers his little flock about him to partake the morning's meal, that one thousand millions of fellow-men have awakened from sleep that morning craving their daily bread with the same appetite which reigns at his family board; and that if, by a superior power, they could be gathered together at the same hour for the same meal, they would fill both sides of five tables reaching all round the globe where it is broadest, seated side by side, and allowing eighteen inches to each individual: and that these tables are to be renewed twice or thrice every day. Then let him consider that, in addition to the food of the human race, that of all the humble partners of man's toil—the lower animals—is to be provided in like manner. These all wait upon Agriculture, as the Agent of that Providence which giveth them their meat in due season; and they probably consume in the aggregate an equal amount of produce: and finally, let him add in imagination to this untold amount of daily food for man and beast the various articles which are furnished directly or indirectly from the soil for building materials, furniture, clothing and fuel.

The grand total will illustrate the primary importance of agriculture, considered as the steward—the commissary—charged with supplying this almost inconceivable daily demand of the human race and the subject animals for their daily bread: a want so imperative and uncompromising, that death in its most agonizing form is the penalty of a failure in the supply.

But although agriculture is clothed with an importance which rests upon the primitive constitution of our nature, it is very far from being the simple concern we are apt to think it. On the contrary, there is no pursuit in life which not only admits, but requires, for its full development, more of the resources of science and art,—none which would better repay the pains bestowed upon an appropriate education. There is I believe no exaggeration in stating that as great amount and variety of scientific, physical, and mechanical knowledge is required for the most successful conduct of the various operations of husbandry, as for any of the arts, trades, or professions I conceive, therefore, that the Legislature and the citizens of the great State over which you, Sir, (Governor King,) so worthily preside, have acted most wisely in making provision for the establishment of an institution expressly for agricultural education. There is a demand for systematic scientific instruction, from the very first steps we take, not in the play-farming of gentlemen of leisure, but in the pursuit of husbandry as the serious business of life.

THE LATE SMITHFIELD FAT CATTLE SHOW.

We condense the following items from the *Mark Lane Express* :—

We give the following figures, stating in the closest form which breeds have come up in unwonted force, and which of the new classes have contributed most to the increase of our present show. The entries were :—

	1855.	1856.	1857.
Devons	17	21	32
Herefords	20	21	36
Shorthorns	40	42	43
Scotch, Irish, and Welsh	16	13	18
Other pure breeds	3	18	22
Cross bred	7	12	8
Extra	9	13	17
Total	112	140	176

An increase, it appears, of one-third, both in the Hereford and Devon classes, has been the principal item in swelling the catalogue and filling the show-yard, though the Shorthorns still remain a long way ahead of the other breeds. The total number of cattle is very much greater than on any other occasion.

As to excellence, we have no hesitation in pronouncing this exhibition the best ever collected together in Baker street Bazaar. Class after class presented an array of animals of remarkably high character, with rarely an inferior beast; and, as we might anticipate from the extension of good breeding of late years, the quality is almost universally of a superior