

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

NOVEMBER.

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PROVINCIAL EXHIBITIONS.



THE principle of competition is now being developed to an extent never before observable in the history of this Province.

What a mighty impetus has been given to invention and well-directed industry, by our Provincial Exhibitions! The results of these Exhibitions are pregnant with inestimable benefits to all classes of the community. They have planted the seed of which the future will produce most abundant fruit. Among

the eager thousands whose interest was excited, and whose curiosity was gratified, must have been many who obtained profitable suggestions at every visit to the show grounds of the London Exhibition. While the manufacturer and the artisan would learn the most valuable of all lessons—the disadvantages under which they had laboured, the deficiencies they had to remedy, and the prejudices they had to overcome; the agriculturist too, would be laying in an important stock of knowledge, to be hereafter applied to his own advantage and the public good. Our modern agriculturist is no longer the half-educated, semi-civilized, though noble-hearted specimen of humanity that he was, even in the beginning of this century. Then, the sole instruments of tillage in the cultivation of the soil were the plough and the harrow,

Bloomfield's description of which is no unapt portraiture of their proprietor:—

"The ploughs move heavily, and strong the soil,
And clogging harrows with augmented toil,
Dive deep."

But the modern plough is an improvement constructed on mathematical principles, which by its mould board raising each slice of earth (furrow slice) from its flat position, through an upright one, lays it over, half inclined on the preceding slice." The perfect instrument produces the skilled labourer. A good ploughman will set up a pole a quarter of a mile distant, and trace a furrow so true up to that goal, that no eye can detect any divergence from absolute straightness. Mr. Pusey, a high English authority, justly says, that this is a triumph of art. Soon, however, this triumph of art will give place, as many "triumphs of industry" have, to the crowning industrial triumph—steam, and our children when they hear such expressions as that of James Montgomery, relative to the seed of knowledge, "broadcast it o'er the land," will one day ask what "broadcast" means. Remarkable the President of the Royal Agricultural Society of Great Britain, at the recent meeting at Manchester, "It is but a short time since it (steam) was thought inapplicable to agricultural purposes, from its great weight, but more recent experience has proved this to be a mistake; and already in most districts we find that it has been pressed into the service of the farm. The small locomotive, mounted on a frame with four wheels, travels from village to village with its attendant, (the threshing machine) performing the operations of thrashing, winnowing, and cleaning, at less than one-half the cost by the old and tedious process of hand