

Home they must tramp, if it be three miles, to the fire that censeth not, and the pot as black as Satan. No wonder that in the brightest and busiest seasons of the year, you see from every cottage door, staring out at you, as you pass, a smoky-capped, greasy-headed woman.—The pot, which keeps her at home, also gives her the colour of the chimney, while long inactivity swells her heels.

Now, sir, I am quite serious in these my reasons against the use of this root, as food for man. As food for other animals, in proportion to its cost, I know it to be the *worst of all roots* that I know anything of; but that is another question. I have here been speaking of it as food for man; and if it be more expensive than flour to the labourer in the country, who, at any rate, can stow it in pies, what must it be to tradesmen's and artisan's families in towns, who can lay in no store, and who must buy by the ten pound or quarter of a hundred at a time? When broad-faced Mrs. Wilkins tells Mrs. Tomkins that, so that she has a *potato* for her dinner, *she does not care a farthing for bread*, I only laugh, knowing that she will twist down a half pound of *beef* with her 'potato,' and has twisted down half a pound of buttered toast in the morning, and means to do the same at tea time, without prejudice to her supper and grog. But when Mrs. Tomkins gravely answers, "Yes, Ma'am, there is nothing like a potato; it is such a saving in a family."—I really should not be very much out of humour to see the tête-à-tête broken up by the application of a broom-stick.—*Cobbett's Year's Residence in America.*

*From the Gardeners' Chronicle.*

### INFLUENCE OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

At a period when all those dependent upon agriculture are so frequently reminded that they will in future be exposed to competition with the whole world, and that they must, in the absence of all special protection in their favour, trust entirely to their own energies and resources, it is but natural that they should pay attention to the opinion and advice of their friends. Very much yet remains to be done by the farmer, both as regards the cultivation of the land he occupies, and the selection and management of the stock he rears, and it must be admitted that those who refuse to avail themselves of those appliances and means of modern improvement, which have been placed within their reach by the discoveries of the chemist and physiologists, or the inventions of the mechanist, ought to retire from a field in which they can have but faint hopes of success. Still whilst the agricultural community must not be regardless of the strictures so freely and in many cases so justly applied to farmers and their doings, we are fairly entitled to raise our voice against the unmitigated censure of your powerful contemporary, the *Times*, who denies that agricultural meetings are productive of any real good,

and may thus be supposed to prejudice the minds of that portion of its very numerous readers who are not practically acquainted with the subject in all its bearings.

I venture to assert that agricultural societies in general, and even this much abused Christmas Show, with all their faults, do some good; nay, more, that they are even calculated to promote indirectly, and to a certain extent, the interests of the labouring classes; if this be true, may not the end justify the means? In the first place, these meetings form a rallying point for all who either feel an interest or are practically engaged in agriculture. The daily habits, and the social position of the farmer, do not under ordinary circumstances bring him sufficiently often into contact with those parties from whose more extended views and information he may derive advantage.—Railway communication now offers facilities of which, during the past week, some thousands of farmers have availed themselves with this legitimate object in view. It may fairly be assumed that not a few of them have been enabled, after a careful inspection of the stock and implements in Baker-street, to carry back with them to their homes matter for serious reflection, and have received hints for practical improvement, which can be derived from ocular demonstration alone.

Secondly. To enable the cultivator of the soil to carry out such a system as modern practice proves to be essential to render his occupation profitable, efficient implements, and that description of stock which combines aptitude to fatten with early maturity are absolutely necessary. Different localities may be especially favorable to different breeds, but in these important points the best description of animals must always agree. Surely these exhibitions must be calculated to dispel prejudices entertained in favour of comparatively inferior animals, and are no bad criterion of real merit. The most enterprising agriculturists of every class, whether landlords or tenants, have been long engaged in proving by experiments, which can never be reduced to any degree of certainty, the relative value of stock of every description. To enable them to carry these expensive and tedious experiments to a successful issue, careful trustworthy servants, in whom reliance may be placed, are indispensable. If the establishments of these much abused breeders and feeders be inspected, in their service will be found not only a larger number of labourers than are employed as a general rule upon holdings of the same size, but if their character be investigated, they will be found to be good servants, and to receive rewards in proportion to their intrinsic value. They are in fact worthy of their hire. It will be proved, moreover, that these useful, deserving men, to whose care stock and implements of the most valuable description are entrusted, are conscious that they form an important part of a well-ordered system of agricultural economy. They

feel sure that so long as they faithfully discharge their respective duties, they may reckon with certainty upon that constant employment which never fails to render the labourer independent in feeling as well as position, and thus raises him morally and physically in the social scale.

If then, sir, these exhibitions promote indirectly, and to a certain extent only, more general and constant employment, the real source of the genuine independence of the labouring classes; if they prove, moreover, directly the superior value of well-bred stock, and the comparative economy of careful, judicious management, as contrasted with that bad quality, inferior condition, and slovenly treatment which is still to be found in too many of our homesteads, they must be productive of some real good. It strikes me that if the principle of action, which animates those who take this lead in agricultural improvement were more generally adopted, it would go far to supersede those really paltry and insignificant rewards for long servitude, &c., which I must confess would be more honoured in the breach than the observance, and go far to prove that there is something amiss in that part of our social system; but I am not aware that any valid objection could be urged against such premiums as would excite competition in the skilful execution of the various operations of husbandry, or management of stocks; and would promote at one and the same time, and in the most effectual and legitimate manner, the mutual interests of the employer and employed.—*A Subscriber and Member of the Royal Agricultural Society, Dec. 15.*

## Newcastle Farmer.

COBourg, MARCH 1, 1847.

The vast amount of loss suffered by the Farmer, in consequence of the killing out of Wheat sown in the Fall, will necessarily induce the enquiry as to the cause, and the possibility (if any,) of avoiding it, and also whether any remedial measures can be adopted.

The climate of Canada in that particular, has certainly altered for the worse, (the cause we cannot here enter into.)—There is now no longer a thick covering of snow, to protect the wheat plant from the severity of the frost, or, if frozen in the first instance, to prevent injury to the plant by the alternation of frosts and thaws in quick succession; and it is certainly our opinion that, where the grain is thoroughly acclimated, it is not the frost, however severe, which destroys the plant. We believe that the cause of its