

rectly bring dollars to the purses of all those who would support our views, or would increase the power and influence of political parties, we have been unsuccessful in exciting an interest in our publication, or obtaining sufficient support. We were so sanguine in our hopes of general support, that we sent our Journal to many individuals who had not ordered it, thinking as the object of the publication must be so well understood, there would be no objection made to support it, as the annual subscription was only one dollar. We would be sorry that any individual to whom we may have addressed it, should imagine that by doing so, we only wished to levy a tax or contribution of five shillings upon them for our own profit. We can assure them there is no profit to us by the publication; and we are so vain as to think we might be able to give any subscriber, whether interested in agriculture or not, the value of his subscription. We offer this explanation to those who returned the Journal, as well as to those who received and refused to pay for it, on the grounds of not having ordered it. We state now that it is not our intention to attempt to enforce payment from any one to whom we send this Journal. If we are paid we shall be thankful, but we shall always consider the subscription only as a debt of honor, or a contribution towards the support of a publication, issued solely with a view to advance the general prosperity of the land we live in. We never would have addressed the Journal to any individual of education or standing in society, who we could have supposed for a moment would have refused to be a subscriber to it, when there could be no mistake about the true object of the publication; but we find we have been mistaken. In reply to our complaint of want of support, it has been said to us, "there was no obligation upon you to write or publish—no one required this at your hands, and you must, therefore, abide by the loss, as it was your own choice. We cannot describe the motives which urged us on better than in terms attributed to the late Rev. Sydney Smith, they are the following:—"I write for three reasons: first, because I really wish to do good; secondly, because if I don't write, I know nobody else will on this subject; and thirdly, because it is the nature of the animal to write, and I cannot help it. Still, in looking back, I see no reason to repent. What I have said ought to be done, generally has been done, but always too

late done; not, of course, because I have said it, but because it was no longer possible to avoid doing it." I, perhaps, go too far in saying "generally has been done"; but I can say truly, that much of what I have been the first to suggest publicly, has been done, and if all which I have suggested is not yet done, I believe it ought to be done, and the sooner the better.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS.

At the request of a number of the parochial school-masters, Professor Johnston gave a lecture in the High School Hall, Edinburgh, on the introduction of agricultural instruction into elementary schools in Scotland. There was a full attendance of school-masters and others interested in the matter. Mr. Gunn, of the High School, having been called to the chair.

Professor Johnston rose and said, that he should not have presumed to have appeared before them (the parish school-masters,) in reference to so important a subject as agricultural education, had he not been requested to do so by various parties—by members of their own body and others. He had communications from various quarters on the subject, and had also had transmitted to him a memorial addressed to the Lord Justice-General, from a parish school-master, expressing a desire on the part of himself and others of the body, to introduce among the various branches of education taught in their schools, some instruction in the principle and practice of agriculture. Besides, he had been encouraged to bring the matter before them, because of the result of a meeting lately held in Glasgow for the purpose of considering whether it was possible to introduce into elementary schools instruction in the elements of chemistry as applied to agriculture, and that without interfering with the ordinary course of study in these schools. He had previously had some doubts on the subject, but after hearing some boys from the Irish National Schools, who were brought to Glasgow for the purpose, examined, all his scruples had been removed; and being himself satisfied, he now appeared before the present meeting for the purpose of stating his views on the matter. He was encouraged also from what he had since observed in various parts of the country; for he found that there was a general desire on the part of the agriculturists that their children should receive that sort of education of which they themselves were deficient, in order that they might improve their condition in life by cultivating the land to more advantage than had hitherto been done. It was important that such instruction as he alluded to should be given, because the population of the country was a head of the present productive powers of the land, because the land did not now produce enough of corn for the people, and because the land of the country could easily be made to maintain a much larger population; and in doing so, give more profit to the farmer. Scotland was as much advanced in the science of agriculture as any other country; but in every other country it had been demonstrated that the best cultivated districts might be improved by the application of chemistry to the land. The general persuasion of its importance was such, that Agricultural Chemistry Colleges had been established at Petersburg, at Moscow, in the West Indies, in England, and also in Ireland. In fact, agricultural schools were springing up everywhere, in a way adapted to the circumstances of each country. He was clearly of opinion, that it was of especial importance to introduce agricultural instruction into our parish and other elementary schools. He need not tell them how difficult it was for the farmer to acquire new and additional information when engaged in the cultivation of his farm; therefore it was of great importance, if the land was to be made more productive, that kind of knowledge