

stantly carried away of late years. He supposed however, the real fact to be that this description of stock had become valuable, and was making such fabulous prices as lean stock, that still less would be seen of them here in future. The cross-breeds in the show were the best he had ever seen, and the Scotch cattle were pre-eminently good. Another class in which he himself felt a little interest was the Leicesters; and he thought the Leicesters never cut a better figure, or the long-wools taken altogether. As to the Southdowns, continued Mr. Torr, why they have got so perfect that there is no use to talk about them; while the pigs are, as usual, wonderful! As a judge, he regretted to say, that of late years the practice had grown up of judging animals too much by tape and two-foot rule. Now, for his part he could not see much value in applying any such test. A bullock or sheep was not like a brick or piece of iron, cast in a mould, so many inches long and so many inches wide and deep. There was intuition, an innate taste, in all judging—something in a man's brain who had been nurtured and brought up as it were with stock, a principle within him which, if it were right, would make him a good judge. That man would form his opinion from the character of the animal, and something else perhaps which he might be unable to describe in words; but as to these measurements and computations, he had lived long enough in the world to know that they were of very little worth. He had tried all sorts of measurements in his time, but he would rather take the result of his friend Mr. Giblett's glance than all the measurements in the world as to weight (cheers); and as to character, give him the man who had devoted himself to one particular breed; but do not choose him to be a judge of any other."

Mr. Brandreth Gibbs, the honorary Secretary, to whose long and indefatigable exertions the Club is greatly indebted, in returning thanks observed:—

"He need say but little with regard to the present state of the Club, after what had been said by those who preceded him; but when he told them that they had a balance of more than £3,000 in addition to £1,500 of invested surplus annual income, and £700 more to receive on the following day in Baker-street, and that there was only about £1,500 to be paid out of all this for prizes, they would perceive that the Club was financially in a most satisfactory condition (cheers). It is now twenty years since the Club met in a small livery-stable yard in Smithfield. With its progress since they were all familiar. There had been two great eras in its existence: the first was its formation; the second was its removal to Baker street. From the latter its prosperity might be said to have dated. Its increase had since been progressive, and from having only £300 for a very limited prize list, it was now enabled to offer the

large amount he had mentioned. Although they were going to a magnificent hall, he should look back with feelings of great satisfaction Baker-street. Baker-street and the Smithfield Club had in his mind long been associated together. During the eighteen years that he had been the honorary Secretary, it was there that he had worked, and he should often have many pleasing recollections of the past. As regards the future, he could only say that he looked forward to a still more brilliant career for the Club and that no exertions should be wanting on that part during the coming year (loud cheers) render the first meeting worthy of the inaugural show of the Smithfield Club at the Agricultural Hall.

The Royal Dublin Society,—Winter Show

This important Society, which has been established, we believe, upwards of a century, held its Winter Show on the 18th and 19th of Dec. in the very extensive and convenient Hall, Kildare Street, and every portion was fully occupied by the different departments. The weather was most favorable, and the attendance of visitors very good. We abridge the following statement from our talented cotemporary *The Irish Farmer's Gazette*, a paper which, for the soundness of its practical views, must exercise a very beneficial influence both on the agriculturist and the agriculture of the lovely Emerald Isle.

It appears that the greatest portion of the now considerable income of this venerable Society is devoted to arts and manufactures, and the *Gazette* loudly, and it would seem justly complains of the comparatively little encouragement to agriculture, particularly at the Winter Shows, and the agricultural interest seems but feebly represented in the Board of management. This is an unfortunate mistake, as Ireland and the whole is by far more decidedly agricultural than any other portion of the United Kingdom, and the resources of its soil, particularly in stock raising, are immense. Still the turn of stock is said to have been astonishingly good on this occasion; and the report furnishes a number of animals both of pure and mixed blood that evinced excellent points, and would yield beef of the best quality. Sheep were well presented, particularly the long woolled, and Mr. Allan Pollock seems to have greatly distinguished himself in this department, as he did among cattle.

"Pigs are getting scarce in Ireland—a