

do for them what, although they have the power, they do not for themselves.

Farmers are, however, beginning to bestir themselves to investigate their interests, and the causes which affect them prejudicially. Were proof of this wanted, we need only refer to the formation and success of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture, and the spirit abroad in several counties in Scotland, particularly in Haddington and Aberdeenshire. Such signs we hail as the first heavings of political life in the agricultural world.

We give little heed to what is said regarding the unsuitability of tenant farmers to sit in Parliament, their representing only a single class, their want of influence, &c. Farmers display in the management of their own business, whether as a class or as individuals, an amount of prudence and energy which is not surpassed by any class in the community. Look at their management of the Cattle Plague in Aberdeenshire. That was a business in which tenant farmers took the leading management; and contrast their success with the muddle which resulted in the neighbouring county.

We see it remarked by the London Press that Scotch M.P.'s do not add much to the wisdom of Parliament. If such be the case, is it not advisable to try whether more practical wisdom can not be found in the agricultural world—a hitherto untried field?

The past history of our country abundantly teaches that if a class feel itself aggrieved by unjust and oppressive laws, that class must in the first instance rely upon itself for deliverance. When the country groaned under the incubus of protection, did relief come from the landowners, who are sometimes called the natural legislators? Certainly not. The champions came from the manufacturing class, which being immediately affected, was first aroused to a sense of the oppression. So stimulated, they discovered among themselves men such as Cobden and Bright—men possessing ability not only to vindicate triumphantly the cause they undertook, but

whose views and opinions on imperial questions command a leading influence both in Parliament and the nation.

There may not at present be visible in the agricultural class such men as Cobden and Bright, but are the farmers prepared to recognise such leaders when they do appear? Are they prepared in the meantime to choose the best men of their own class who can be had, and in fighting for them to fight for themselves? If they are, then they may rest assured that, when they anxiously look for them, men fitting to represent them, with advantage to their constituents and honour to themselves will not be wanting. The next election will show. Meanwhile the electors should be girding themselves up. Let them remember that the first step towards the accomplishment of their wishes, is to secure the election of representatives, the ablest who can be had but possessing at least the indispensable qualification, that they really represent tenant farmers on the questions of importance to them, and are willing and anxious to fight in their cause.

If farmers be thus true to themselves, fitting representatives will not be wanting—leaders not only able, but willing and anxious to guide the way, and whose duty and honour it will be to achieve ultimate success.