

THE urgent requests of some valued friends, and the hope of the Writer that, though unsuccessful in gaining the prize, the following Essay may be to some extent useful, have conspired to bring about its publication.

The following is a copy of the award of WILLIAM M'COMBIE, Esq. of the *Free Press*, and JAMES GEDDES, Esq., Orbliston, with reference to the merits of the three Essays submitted to them for adjudication:—"We have carefully perused the three Essays 'on the Improvement of the Agricultural Labouring Population,' submitted to us for adjudication by the Committee of the Royal Northern Agricultural Society, and unite in naming the paper bearing the motto '*Fortuna Sequatur*' as the one, on the whole, best entitled to Lord Haddo's prize.

"We feel bound, however, to say that, while all the Essays display a commendable spirit, and embrace suggestions of more or less value; yet, in our opinion, none of them comes quite up to that adequate and thoroughly practical treatment of the subject which its great importance demands."

With this brief explanation, the Essay is submitted to the scrutiny of a discerning public.

G. M.