

WANGARATTA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE first annual ploughing match of the Ovens and Murray Agricultural and Horticultural Association took place on Tuesday, July 3rd, on the estate of the Rev. J. Docker, Boutherambo. The site selected for the match was all that could be desired, being a piece of maiden land at the head of the beautiful Boutherambo Plain, and from whence, partly embosomed in trees, a fine view could be obtained of the magnificent and almost baronical residence of the above reverend gentleman. The day was exceedingly fine, which tended in no small degree to enhance the comfort and pleasure of the large number of spectators who gathered to witness the result of the match ; a considerable number of the fair sex also graced the scene, and lent additional attraction to it. The entries for the match comprised seven horse-teams and three bullock-teams ; not so many as were expected, but still a sufficient number to cause considerable excitement and speculation as to the result. The ploughmen drew lots for respective places as follows—

Class A.—Horse-teams.

No. 1. John Jack, ploughing for Mr. J. Morrisor.

“ 2. Wm. McDonald, ploughing for Mr. McDonald.

Mr. McDonald.

" 3. John Plum, ploughing for Mr. C. Chandler.

" 4. John Moore, ploughing for Self.

" 5. Stephen Tuck, do. do. Self.

" 6. Wm. Lewis do. Rev. J. Docker

" 7. John Wills, do. do. Self.

Class B.—Bullock-teams.

No. 1. John Forde, ploughing for Mr. McDonald.

" 2, Michael Naughton, ploughing for Mr. Parfitt.

" 3. Saml. White, ploughing for Self.

The ploughing was completed by all the teams within the stipulated time, and, after a very careful survey of the work, the judges awarded their decisions thus:—

Class A.

1st. prize (£5) to John Plum, ploughing for Mr. C. Chandler.

2nd. prize (£3) to John Wills, ploughing for Self.

3rd. prize (£2) to John Jack, ploughing for Mr. J. Morrison.

Class B.

1st. prize (£5) to Michael Naughton, ploughing for Mr. Parfitt.

2nd. prize (£3) to Saml. White, ploughing for Self.

3rd. prize (£2) John Forde, ploughing for Mr. McDonald.

The ploughing, generally speaking, was very good, and would not have disgraced the oldest society in the colony. Some of the ploughmen were not so fortunate as others in having the new improved ploughs of Ransom & Simm's,

Improved ploughs of Ransome & Sims, or Howard's, with their splendid long steel mould-boards; the winners in both classes being much indebted for their position to this circumstance. There is not the least doubt that John Jack would have stood higher on the list but for the deficiency of his plough. Stephen Tuck's ploughing was also much admired; he labored under a similar disadvantage. The medal for the best team of horses or mares at work in the field was awarded to Mr. Thomas Fairburn's pair of grey mares—a really splendid pair of animals. For the best team of bullocks Mr. F. Moore, of Laceby, had the preference. The ploughmen were regaled with a plentiful lunch, and, after the business of the day was over, the officers and committee of the Association, with many other gentlemen, were invited to a handsome and substantial dinner by the Rev. J. Docker. Something like forty participated in it, and, judging from the expressions of pleasure manifested on every side, it must have afforded general satisfaction and delight. After the usual loyal toasts had been given and right loyally drank, the Chairman the (Rev. J. Docker) in a long and effective speech, proposed “Success to the Ovens and Murray Horticultural Association.” Then followed the President—Vice Presidents—Committee—Treasurer—Secretary—The Judges—The Farmers—Our Host—and a number of other toasts, as the auctioneers would say, too numerous to mention. It is not possible to give any-

mention. It is not possible to give any thing like an accurate report of the speeches, some of which were very good, for the wine glass circulated in such a rapid manner as to materially disarrange the correctness of your correspondent's memory; suffice it to say that the whole affair may be pronounced a decided success, which gives ample evidence of the stability and future prosperity of this useful association.

MARRAIGE EXTRAORDINARY.

In these days of rapid advancement no discovery is looked on with the wonder or admiration which it would have elicited a century back, but so novel a method of getting a wife has just been hit on here that, for the benefit of disconsolate and despairing bachelors, it should be made as public as possible. Not many miles from Wangaratta, a person who officiates as *Chef de Cuisine* to a well-known sportsman here, came to the conclusion that it was not good for man to be alone, so he cast his amorous glances on the fair daughters of Eve for a helomate. Unfortunately, however, none of the Wangaratta ladies could reciprocate the conjugal aspirations of the ardent and impatient wife-seeker; nothing daunted, he resorted to the novel method of sending an order to a labor-office in Melbourne (accompanied by his photograph) for a wife, giving a *carte blanche* to the proprietores to do the best she could for him. Several anti-malthusian ladies, tired of a cheerless life of celibacy, made application for the hand and heart (?) of the

cation for the hand and heart (1) of the
would-be Benedict ; one was selected,
booked by the mail, and a telegraphic
message sent to the expectant swain,
who flew on the wings of love to meet
his inamorato. She arrived safe and
sound, and, after a little billing and
cooing, the delighted couple hurried off
to church and became man and wife.
Verily this is a go-a-head country !