

to draw, and not a moment too soon, the attention of the world to the vast, unoccupied lands of Central South Africa, and that before many years have past we shall see this portion of the continent playing its rightful part as one of the great food-producing centres.

Of what the soil is capable of producing we can form a fairly good idea from what we have seen during the progress of the expedition. From first to last along the line of march, wherever we came across any native population, they have brought in freely—and that, too, at the end of the season and despite their rude and simple system of tillage—liberal supplies of mealies, rice, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, Caffre corn, &c, thus proving that even with such unskilled labour they are able to grow enough for their own wants and to spare. Mr. Selous (and no greater living authority exists upon this portion of Africa) declares that in no part of Africa that he has ever visited are food supplies found in anything like such abundance among natives as among those in Mashonaland.

It may be objected, and fairly—"Granted that you have secured a country with vast food-growing

THE DARWIN MEDAL.

This new medal of the Royal Society, which has been founded in memory of Charles Darwin, and was awarded for the first time at the annual meeting of the Royal Society on Monday last, has upon the obverse an excellent portrait of the great man whom it commemorates. The reverse bears a pleasing wreath of plants that have been treated of in Darwin's writings—dionæa, primroses, orchids, and ampelopsis hederacea—surrounding the name "Carolus Darwin" between the dates MDCCCIX., MDCCCLXXXII., the years respectively of Darwin's birth and death. The medal is 2½ in. in diameter, and is struck in silver. It is, as already announced, to be awarded every second year, its first recipient, as our readers are aware, being Mr. Alfred Russel Wallace, on account of his well-known researches in the Malayan Archipelago. The general design of the medal, we understand, was suggested by Dr. John Evans, treasurer of the Royal Society, and president of the Numismatic Society, and the execution of the dies was intrusted to Mr. Allan Wyon, F.S.A., Chief Engraver of her Majesty's Seals.