

posits in the most regular manner the seed and the manure with one operation. Large quantities of fine bone and rape dust, guano, &c., are used for manurial purposes.

In consequence of the cold and wetness of the spring, a state of things which I am sorry to say continues to the present date, the grain crops generally wore an unpromising aspect. This, I am informed, is generally the case throughout the British Islands. The wheat is thin upon the ground, very weakly, and will need warm and suitable weather immediately to realize an average crop. The prospect at present, I should say, is decidedly against an average being realized. Spring grain of all descriptions is looking indifferently, and the hay crop, unless more genial weather sets in, will be but indifferent. It has rained, more or less, almost every day, since I left Quebec on the 9th ult., to the present time, with a temperature many degrees below the average. The grain markets have therefore an upward tendency, and will soon assume, I fear, a serious aspect if the present weather should continue much longer. Crops, which are extensively cultivated in this part of the kingdom, are looking, I think, comparatively better than grain, but the prevailing wet and cold keeps them back. On naturally warm soils, and where the ground has been thoroughly drained, all kinds of crops are looking better; but even there the prospect is not encouraging. The same may be said of the nurseries and market gardens around London, which have suffered much from the ungenial weather and high winds. There was a good prospect for fruit, but the late cold and storms were thought to have been injurious.

Last Wednesday I went to the Crystal Palace, where the charity children connected with the church in London assembled, instead of at St. Paul's Cathedral, as has been the custom for a great many years. The great Handel Orchestra was filled with some four thousand children, dressed in the Sunday costumes of their respective schools. The arranging of the children, and their various quaint costumes had a very imposing effect, which was heightened to a degree which no words can describe when they set up to sing, accompanied by the magnificent organ, with an audience in front of near thirty thousand elegantly dressed persons, of both sexes. A scene like this once witnessed will be remembered with pleasure as long as the mind endures. After singing some half dozen pieces of sacred music, the performance concluded with the national anthem, which was sung with great effect, and the scholars betook themselves to various games in the extensive and beautiful grounds which surround this magnificent, and I need not say, unearthly structure.

In coming up from Manchester to London a gentleman happened to be in the railway carriage with me who was going to the colony of Natal in Africa. There were two other passengers, one a magistrate of the County of Lin-

coln, and the other I understood was a barrister. The question soon arose relative to the comparative advantages of our different colonies as emigration fields; and a sort of discussion, in a conversational style, was kept up for upwards of an hour and a half. I had of course to set forth and defend the claims of Canada, about which in two or three points my opponents evinced a lamentable want of correct information. Having set them right, I gave them some of the pamphlets with which I had been furnished by Mr. Hutton, of the Bureau of Agriculture, which I find very convenient and useful, particularly in my intercourse with the people of the agricultural districts.

I purpose being in Paris the end of the week, to attend the National Agricultural Exhibition of France, on which I hope to send you some hasty notes in my next. G. B.

Grape Culture in Canada.

We copy from Mr. Hutton's Report of the Bureau of Agriculture, the chief part of a highly interesting correspondence on the subject of the practicability of successfully cultivating the grape in this country, for the purpose of wine-making. We cannot help thinking that Mr. De Courtenay is somewhat too sanguine in his estimate of the adaptation of the climate of Canada for this purpose. Experience has shown that there is something peculiar in the American climate in regard to grape cultivation. In cases where from careful observation and comparisons, there was thought to be good reason for anticipating full success in the culture of the European vine, actual trials have been only followed by disappointments. There has been some influence or other preventing the vine from adapting itself to situations on this continent which seemed on a cursory view entirely suited to it, that the most experienced cultivators could not fully understand. But the subject is one well deserving attention. Although the European vine may not succeed, there is no difficulty in favorable situations with varieties of the native grape. Whether a good article of wine can be produced, however, in such quantities, and over such considerable areas of country as to make the product one of commercial importance, has yet got to be shown. There can be no doubt of the truth of Mr. De Courtenay's remark, in which Professor Hincks quite agrees with him, that if Canada could become known as a wine-producing country, the effect in creating a favor-