

emigrants are to be found in the world, but they don't make either without being trained; and it takes infinitely more training to make a farmer than a soldier, although many do not think so. By this system a township could be settled at once. I do not mean the township set apart for training, but one settled by those that are trained, and able to go on land for themselves. As bad roads are the greatest obstacle the new settler has to contend with, I shall describe a very simple mode of making a very serviceable road, and one durable for a long time. Except 16 or 20 feet in the middle of the road allowance there should not be a stick chopped on it until it was going to be done altogether, then after chopping the width the road was to be, say 21 feet, collect all the brush that can be got within reach, and spread, and chop fine as possible, tread it down close, and cover from a ditch on either side of the road. If the land is very rolling or of a gravelly nature, I need not say the brush is not needed, but where it is of a level or a swampy nature you can't have too much of it. This prescription for road making may provoke the smile of an engineer, but I have seen pieces of roads made in this fashion that lasted for 10 years, and were good in fall when all the rest were impassable.

If our roads are drained, our farms must be drained, and if our farms are not drained neither can our roads, and once more I will say, that without draining, fencing, subsoiling, and manuring, we can never be the great people that orators would try to persuade us we are. To make a great nation, the individuals in it must be wise and industrious.

Miscellaneous.

GIGANTIC SERPENTS.—We have all been accustomed from childhood to regard with awe the enormous serpents of the hot and damp inter-tropical forests; though the specimens carried about in travelling menageries have but little contributed to nurture the sentiment. A couple

of coils of variegated music looking like a tessellated pavement, about as thick as a lacquey's calf, rolled up in the folds of a blanket at the bottom of a deal box, we had difficulty in accepting as the impersonation of the demon which hung from the branches of an Indian tree, and, having pressed out the life of a buffalo in his mighty folds, and broken his bones, swallowed the body entire, all but the horns. Here again there is incredulity and disappointment; and the colossal dragon, which looms so large in the distance of time and space, grows small by degrees and beautifully less in ratio of its approach to our own times and our own eyes. Yet enough of size and power remains, even when all legitimate deductions are made, to invest the great b with a romantic interest, and to make the inquiry into its real dimensions worthy of prosecution. * * * The old Roman historians report that the army of Attilius Regulus, while attacking Carthage, was assailed by an enormous serpent, which was destroyed only by the aid of the military engines crushing it with huge stones. The skin of this monster, measuring 120 feet in length, was sent to Rome, and preserved as a trophy in a temple till the Numanian wars. Several writers mention the fact, and Piny speaks of its existence as well known. Diodorus Siculus mentions a serpent which was captured, not without loss of human life, in Egypt, and which was taken to Alexandria; it measured 30 cubits, or about 45 feet in length. Suetonius records that one was exhibited in front of the Comitium at Rome, which was 50 cubits, or 75 feet in length. It is probable that these measurements were all taken from the skin after having been detached from the body. I have had some experience in skinning serpents, and am then fore aware of the extent to which skin, when dragged off by force, is capable of stretching: one-fourth of the entire length may not unfairly be deducted on this account. But even with this allowance, we must admit, unless we regret the testimony of sober historians, who could hardly have been mistaken so grossly as to warrant such rejection, that serpents did exist in ancient times which far exceeded the limits that have fallen under the observation of modern naturalists. There is a well-known picture by Daniell, representing an enormous serpent attacking a boat's crew in the creeks of the Ganges. It is a graphic scene, said to have been commemorative of a fact. The crew had moored their boat by the edge of the jungle, and, leaving one of the party in charge, had gone into the forest. He lay down under the thwarts, and was soon asleep. During his unconsciousness an enormous python emerged from the jungle, coiled itself around the sleeper, and was in the act of crushing him to death, when his comrades returned. They succeeded in killing the monster, "which was found to measure 62 feet and some inches in length." This seems precise enough; but we should like to know