

3. Some of the books minutely allude to the manners, feelings, rural occupations, or industrious habits of the common people. Now the reputed writers of these books were poor men, belonging to the humblest class of society, who had personally mingled in every scene of humble life.

4. Others of the books, e. g. the Acts of the Apostles, and the epistles of Paul, contain remarks of striking but remote coincidence with the ascertained condition, in politics, science, history, or topography, of the provinces of the Roman empire. Now the reputed writers of these books, personally traversed the districts to which their remarks apply, and held intimate intercourse with the native population.

V. Some early enemies of Christianity, such as Celsus, Porphyry, and the Emperor Julian, attacked the books of the New Testament in form, and laboured to destroy their credit, yet they never called in question their genuineness. Julian wrote in the fourth century, Porphyry in the third, and Celsus in the reign of Adrian, or about the middle of the second: and they all, especially Celsus and Porphyry, enjoyed the amplest opportunity of assailing the books by every possible argument of coincidence or testimony; yet they felt constrained to admit their genuineness, and were obliged to rest contented with cavilling at their inspiration.

VI. The names and transactions of the reputed authors are recorded by writers of the first and second centuries. "Paul" is spoken of by Clement of the first century, and Ignatius of the second; "Paul and the rest of the apostles," by Polycarp of the second century; "Peter and John," by Ignatius of the second century; "Peter," by Clement of the first century, and the Papias of the second; and "John and others who had seen the Lord," by Irenæus of the second century. Now Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp, Papias, and Irenæus, are all admitted to be genuine writers, and, along with about twenty others, most of whom also make personal references to the apostles, are the only extant Christian authors previous to the third century, by whom the penmen of the New Testament could have been noticed.—They all lived so near the period when the books of the New Testament profess to have been written, that had any imposture existed, they could not have failed to detect it, and must have traced it to the very age in which several of the apostles survived. But they mention the penmen of the New Testament with confidence, and speak of them as having occupied exactly the position in which their reputed authorship of the books represents them to have been placed.

VII. Most of the books of the New Testament are mentioned singly or collectively as existing documents by the early Christian writers. "Matthew" is mentioned by Papias; "Mark" by Papias; "The Four Gospels" by Cyprian; "John, Matthew, Luke, and Mark," by Tertullian; "the Gospels" by Justin Martyr; "the Scriptures of the divine Gospel," by Eusebius; "the Historical Books," by Justin Martyr; "the Gospels and Apostles," by Ignatius; "the Acts," by Origen and Cyprian; "First Corinthians," by Clement; "Ephesians," by Ignatius; "St. Paul's Epistles," by Tertullian; and "the Scriptures of the Lord," by Theophilus. Now Clement wrote in the first century, Ignatius, Papias, Tertullian, Theophilus, and Justin Martyr in the second, Cyprian and Origen in the third, and Eusebius early in the fourth; and all these writers treat the books which they respectively mention, as of received and of undoubted genuineness.—*Christian Teacher.*

**FEEDING INFANTS.**—The late development of the teeth is a sufficient indication that solid food is not designed for infancy; as their gradual but general removal, points out what kind is best adapted for advanced life. For the sustenance of the first seven or eight months, we all know that an aliment is elaborated, which, for nutritive quality, adaptation to the necessities of the case, is placed at an immeasurable distance from the utmost attainments of art. In cases where it is inexpedient or impossible to carry out this beautiful arrangement, for gratifying at once the sympathies of the mother and the instincts of the infant, the absurdity of loading the young stomach with an aliment not analogous, one would imagine is self-evident and obvious. But custom, prejudice, and ignorance, are too fully operative of mischief, and hundreds fall victims of error or caprice, who might, by common sense,—how very uncommon it is in fact!—have grown up the delight of their parents, and the happy possessors of a healthy and vigorous constitution. The olla podrida of a modern nursery too often consists of mixtures and nostrums, which lull to a treacherous quiet the

complaining, but do not alleviate the disorders of their unfortunate inmates. They even tend to increase the evils which improper diet has produced, and one derangement of the system after another is excited and kept up by the unenlightened fondness, and undirected or misdirected assiduity of affection itself. The digestive apparatus of infants and young children is evidently adapted throughout for the simplest kind of food only; while jellies, cakes, biscuits, and sweetmeats, in endless farrago, take the place of the diet which Nature by analogy would indicate.

## AGRICULTURE.

### IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOIL BY LAYING DOWN TO GRASS.

(From Johnston's Agricultural Lectures.)

One of the most common of these methods of improvement is that of *laying down to grass*. This may be done for two, three or four years only, or for an indefinite period of time. In the latter case the land is said to be laid down permanently, or to permanent pasture.

1. *Temporary pasture or meadow.*—If the land be sown with grass and clover-seeds, only as an alternate crop between two sowings of corn, the effect is fully explained by what has been already stated. The roots which are left in the soil enrich the surface with both organic and inorganic matter, and thus fit it for bearing a better after-crop of corn.

If, again, it be left to grass for three or five years, the same effect is produced more fully, and therefore this longer rest from corn is better fitted for soils which are poor in vegetable matter. The quantity of organic matter which has accumulated becomes greater every year, in consequence of the annual death of stems and roots, and of the soil being more closely covered, but this increase is probably never in any one after-year equal to that which takes place during the first. The quantity of roots which is produced during the first year of the young plants' growth must, we may reasonably suppose, be greater than can ever afterwards be necessary in an equal space of time. Hence, one good year of grass or clover will enrich the soil more in proportion to the time expended, than a rest of two or three years in grass, if annually mowed.

Or, if instead of being mown, the produce in each case be eaten off by stock, the result will be the same. That which lies longest will be the richest when broken up, but not in an equal proportion to the time it has lain. The produce of green parts, as well as of roots, in the artificial grasses, is generally greatest during the first year after they are sown, and therefore the manuring derived from the droppings of the stock, as well as from the roots, will be greatest in proportion during the first year. That farming, therefore, is most economical—where the land will admit of it—which permits the clover or grass seeds to occupy the land for one year only.

But if, after the first year's hay is removed, the land be pastured for two or three years more, it is possible that each succeeding year may enrich the surface soil as much as the roots and stubble of the first year's hay had done; so that if it lay three years it might obtain three times the amount of improvement. This is owing to the circumstance that the whole produce of the field remains upon it, except what is carried off by the stock when removed—but very much, it is obvious, will depend upon the nature of the soil, and upon the selection of the seeds being such as to secure a tolerable produce of green food during the second and third years.

2. *Permanent pasture or meadow.*—But when land is laid down to permanent grass it undergoes a series of further changes, which have frequently arrested attention, and which, though not difficult to be understood, have often appeared mysterious and perplexing to practical men. Let us consider these changes.

When grass seeds are sown for the purpose of forming a permanent sward, a rich crop of grass is obtained during the first, and perhaps also the second year, but the produce after three or four years lessens, and the value of the pasture diminishes. The plants generally die and leave blank spaces, and these again are slowly filled up by the sprouting of seeds of other species, which have either lain long buried in the soil or have been brought thither by the winds.

This first change, which is almost universally observed in fields of artificial grass, arises in part from the change which the soil itself has undergone during the few years that have elapsed since the grass seeds were sown, and in part from the species of grass