Agriculture.

THE GOOD OLD PLOUGH.

[A few evenings since we accepted an invitation from the Hutchinsons, and attended one of their concerts.—We were so well pleased with one of their songs, that we solicited a copy of the words. It contains truthful sentiments beautifully expressed.—*Genesee Farmer.*]

Let sing who may of the battle fray,
And the deeds that have long since past,
Let them chant the praise of the tar whose days
Are spent on the ocean vast.

I would render to these all the worship you please,
I would honor them even now;
But I'd give far more from my heart's full store,
To the cause of the Good Old Plough.

Let them laud the notes that in music float,
Through the bright and glittering halls,
While the amorous twirl of the lady's bright curl,
Round the shoulder of beauty falls.
But dearer to me is the song from the tree,
And the rich and blossoming bough,
O, these are the sweets which the rustic greets,
As he follows the Good Old Plough.

Full many there be that we daily see,
With a selfish and hollow pride,
Who the plowman's lot, in his humble cot,
With a scornful look deride;
But I'd rather take a hearty shake,
From an hand, than to wealth I'd bow;
For the honest clasp of his hand's rough grasp,
Has stood by the Good Old Plough.

All honor be then to these good old men,
When at last they are bowed with toil,
Their warfare then o'er, they battle no more,
For they've conquered the stubborn soil;
And the chaplet each wears, in his silver hairs
And ne'er shall the victor's brow,
With a laurel crown, to the grave go down,
Like the sons of the Good Old Plough.

Dogs of almost every breed are taught to work by the Germans. It looks odd enough to see these sagacious animals, of all descriptions, from the thick-headed bull-dog, and mild and intelligent Newfoundland down to the candle-leg, half-hound, and snapish rat-terrier employed instead of being away as they do here—the majority of the dogs, however, are of the larger kind, and it is quite amusing to see their waggons to work, and the various ways in which they are employed.

No person is presumed to use a wheel-barrow without a dog to draw the load, and in vehicles of this kind we saw loads of wood, milk, butter, cabbages, vegetables, meat, bread and hot coffee, and refreshments for travellers. All the labor the person behind had to perform was to act as steersman, while the dog would stop and instantly obey when so ordered. We saw a few cases where the teamsters had become intoxicated and fallen asleep, and the teams had turned around to watch them.—*Home Journal.*

IMPROVED HORSE RAKE.—Mr. George Whitcomb, of Greenwich, Fairfield county, Connecticut, has invented and taken measures to secure a patent for an improvement in Horse Rakes. The improvement refers to a simpler manner of operating the rake-head than is at present, employing one with spring-teeth. By a combination with a lever, stirrups, and the rake-heads, arranged conveniently to be operated by the driver, the teeth of the rake are worked in a superior manner, so as to elevate and depress them at proper periods to do the work, to gather up and discharge the hay while raking it into windrows, &c.

THE INTRODUCTION OF COAL INTO ENGLAND.—When this fuel was first introduced into England, the prejudices against it were so strong that the Commons petitioned the Crown to prohibit the "noxious fuel." A royal proclamation having failed to abate the growing nuisance, a commission was issued to ascertain who burned coal within the city and neighborhood, and to punish them by fine for the first offence, and by demolition of their furnaces if they persisted in transgression. A law was at length passed making it a capital offence to burn coal in the city of London, and only permitting it to be used in the forges in the vicinity. Among the records in the Tower, Mr Astle found a document, importing that in the time of Edward I, a man had been tried, convicted and executed, for the crime of burning coal in London. It took three centuries to efface entirely this prejudice.

During the month of September, 580 male, and 528 female, making a total of 1208 children, were born in Berlin, the capital of Prussia, during the same time 833 persons died. Of the births, 181 are reported as illegitimate, and of the illegitimate children 94 died during the month, facts which carry with them their own solemn comment. In the same month 2,222 persons came into the city to reside, and 1,271 left it, the whole increase of inhabitants is 1,572.

RAT-CATCHERS.—The rat-catchers of the city of Paris have just held a meeting at the Hotel de Ville; their deliberations were presided over by the Inspector of Highways, who also exercises jurisdiction over the gutters and sewers. The object of the meeting was to take measures for the coming rat campaign. A million and a half of these vermin are supposed at this moment to be underrunning Paris. It was decided that arsenic should be the poison used in their extermination. Last year, 143,330 rats were killed and their tails were deposited in the Hotel de Ville in proof of the fact.

IRON PAVEMENT.—The North British Mail states that a successful experiment has been made with iron for paving. The bars of iron of which the pavement is composed are about three inches broad, and nearly the same depth. They are laid parallel to, and about one inch apart from each other—the object of the last named provision being, we presume, to afford more secure footing to the horses as they pass along the street. The new invention seems a decided improvement. There is but comparatively little noise, and the horses appear to find a firm and secure foot-hold.

Among the recent inventions, is a ventilating stove, intended, we suppose, to enable a fire to blow itself.—This may be a convenient arrangement, though it lays the inventor open to the imputation of blowing hot and cold air at the same time. We presume the ventilation is by a downward draft; for it would be awkward to have a stove that would blow up. Perhaps, after all, the object is to save the expense of advertisements, by enabling the ventilating apparatus to blow up itself.

HOW TO BURN COAL.—The art of burning coal is not properly understood as it ought to be. Too much coal is usually placed in the stove, by which the draught is destroyed and the gasses are imperfectly consumed. The Miner's Journal, of Pottsville, says there are two errors in the way we burn coal, by which over one-half is wasted. 1st. We have to shut the door of our stove or furnace, to make a temporary over-combustion at one time, and and at another time we have to leave open the door and let in cold air to cool off. 2. The gas that ascends our chimneys carries off with it a deal of coal that is unburned, merely coal in vapor which gives out little heat for want of air to consume it. We lose the heat of the unconsumed vapor of coal when the door is shut. When it is open the vapor is consumed, but the heat is reduced by a flood of cold air and carried up the chimney. What is required then is an air-tight door over the ash-pit, through which you can let in just what air is necessary for quick or slow combustion as desired. The door that admits the coal should be tight, and should never be opened except to put coal in. A small flue should admit a stream of air, heated by contact with the stove, to mix with the gas on top of the fire. In buying a stove, if you find that the stove or furnace door must be left open when you want to moderate your fire, reject it; for it is essentially wrong in its construction, and it will consume three tons of coal where one would answer if the draft door were air-tight.

A FAIR OFFER.

Doctor Franklin, it is said, once made the following offer to a young man: "Make a full estimate of all you owe and all that is owing to you. As fast as you can collect, pay over to those you owe. If you cannot, renew your note every year, and get the best security you can. Go to business diligently and be industrious; discard all pride; be faithful in your duty to God, be regular and hearty in prayer morning and night; attend church and meeting regularly every Sunday, and do unto all men as you would they should do unto you. If you are too needy in circumstances to give to the poor; do what ever else is in your power for them cheerfully, but if you can, help the poor and unfortunate. Pursue this course diligently and sincerely for seven years, and if you are not happy, comfortable and independent in your circumstances, come to me and I will pay your debts." Young people try it.

ECONOMY IN CANDLES.—If you are without a rushlight, and would burn a candle all night, unless you take the following precaution, it is ten to one an ordinary candle will gutter away in an hour or two, sometimes endangering the safety of the house.—This may be avoided by placing as much common salt, finely powdered, as will reach from the tallow to the bottom of the wick of a partly burnt candle, which if the same be lit, will burn very slowly, yielding sufficient light for a bed chamber; the salt will gradually sink as the tallow is consumed, the melted tallow being drawn through the salt and consumed in wick.—[Economist.

A subscription of $80,000, has been raised in the State of Ohio, for the purpose of erecting an Agricultural College.

VESSELS BUILT IN THE UNITED STATES.—From the tables accompanying the Secretary of the Treasury's Report, we learn that in 1851 there were built in the United States 211 ships, 65 brigs, 532 schooners, 326 sloops, and canal boats, with a total of 298,202 tonnage. Pennsylvania owns tonnage amounting to 284,374, being an increase of 25,000 over the previous year. New York has 1,941,013, being an increase of 95,000. Maryland has 304,444, which is an increase of 11,357. Delaware has 11,880, being a decrease of 4,839. North Carolina has 53,722, being a decrease of 31,496. Virginia has 59,769, being a decrease of 4,497; and the District of Columbia has 22,903, which is an increase of 5,593.—The steam tonnage in the United States has increased during the year, 57,700 tons, and now amounts to 583,760 tons.

A design of Sir Joseph Paxton, for the intended Exhibition of all Nations at New-York, has been on view in London. The plan is upon a similar principle to that of the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, and the materials are glass, iron and paste. There are two entrances, one at each end, and the construction of the door-way is somewhat similar to that of the transept entrance to the Exhibition in Hyde Park. The roof is to be of slate, in order to resist the weight of snow to which it may be exposed in the United States. The structure will be built upon arches, and the galleries will be supported by brackets. The design is on the whole remarkable for its simplicity and practicability, and is another proof of Sir Joseph Paxton's great skill in this department of art.

☞ It is a fact that intemperance and ignorance are closely connected with crime. Of 587 prisoners in Auburn State Prison, last year, 450 had been habitually intemperate, and nearly all the rest regular drinkers. In England, of 4,105 convicts transported in 1840 only 330 (less than one tenth) could read.

EXTRAORDINARY MARRIAGE.—On the 2d instant an extraordinary marriage took place in the parish of Doonmane, county Maryborough. The bridegroom, Charles M'Dermott, is 76 years of age, and the bride is in her 84th year, and is a great grandmother.

France with an army of 600,000 men has 900 Lieutenants, whilst England with 100,000 only, has 2,333.—The poor aristocracy, created by the law of primogeniture are thus provided for in the army or navy, and the more imbecile in the State Church. This absurd law exists nowhere in the world but in Britain and her Colonies, and in Spain and Portugal.