

this barren peat is the best to plough in deep upon clayey ground to serve as a drain, for it will change but little in half a century; it is also useful to mix with putrescent manure in the summer to preserve it for the next season. Being itself incapable of fermentation it prevents the fermentation and decomposition of the manure. But in the spring, when to fit it for use, it is necessary to induce some fermentation it may be readily made to heat, by turning and mixing with it a portion of seaweed or of the pickle of meat or fish. Where large quantities of peat have been mixed with the soil, it is always deposited to produce sorrel, which continues to flourish for many years; some have supposed this to be caused by an acid in the peat, but it is more probable owing to the coarseness of this kind of soil which does not in the course of many years become fine and compact, and the sorrel has been observed to occupy ground manured with a mixture of wood-ashes and peat, as readily as that which was covered with peat alone.

WEEDS IN GRASS LAND.—Ox-eye Daisy.—This plant will probably abound in the ensuing summer, being liable to increase in dry seasons such as the last. It is a fortunate circumstance that the only two weeds which spread much in our mowing land, the Crowfoot and the Ox-eye Daisy, will both make very tolerable hay. The daisy is by many accounted worthless, because being earlier in flower than our common grasses, it is generally mowed too late. But if it is mowed when nearly all in flower, but before any of the seed is ripe, it will be found equal to the average quality of the hay in Halifax market for cows; but horses do not appear to be fond of it. When it is allowed to ripen its seed it produces a great quantity, which is generally spread with the manure over all the cultivated ground. When there is a succession of dry seasons, perhaps the best way to master it, is to give a top-dressing to the grass land sufficient to make it produce at least two tons of hay to the acre, when the daisy will be found to be mostly suffocated by the clover.—*lb.*

CROWFOOT OR CUTTER CURS.—This prefers moist and rich soils. Cattle eat it willingly early in the season, but it becomes so very acid when in flower that they then avoid it. It loses its acrimony by drying, and makes very good hay, but it is like the Daisy, too early for Clover and Timothy, often turning black and decaying before mowing time. Top-dressing will not diminish the proportion of Crowfoot; to get rid of it, the land should be ploughed, a crop of roots taken from it, and then be laid down with clean seed. The practice of using the sweepings of the barn floor for grass seed always serves to introduce weeds. Wherever Crowfoot forms the principal part of the crop, it should always be mowed while it is full of flowers, as it will then make very good hay for cows.—*lb.*

SALTING MEAT.—The method for which a patent has been lately taken out by Mr. Payne, is thus described:—The meat to be salted is placed within a strong iron vessel, which is closed in an air-tight manner, and the air exhausted from it by means of an air pump; a communication is then opened with a brine vessel, whence the brine flows into the receiver, until it is about half filled; the air-pump is then again worked to draw off every particle of air from the meat, &c.—The brine is then permitted to fill the re-

ceiver, and a farther quantity is injected by means of a common forcing-pump, the pressure being regulated by a safety-valve loaded with about 100 or 150 lbs. upon the square inch. After remaining under this pressure for about 15 minutes, the meat is cured, and may be taken out of the receiver.—*Athenaeum.*

MANURES.—At a late meeting of the Ashmolean Society, Professor Daubeny exhibited a specimen of Mr. Daniell's New Patent Manure, which is stated by the Inventor to consist of carbonate of ammonia, sawdust, and bituminous matter. As the materials from which this new kind of fertilizer is drawn appear to consist of inorganic matter exclusively, Dr. Daubeny pointed out its discovery as an instance, amongst many others, of the means which nature has placed within our reach for increasing the amount of vegetable produce proportionately to the increase of mankind, and so maintaining the necessary ratio between subsistence and an increasing population. In a purely pastoral or agricultural community, it might be unnecessary to have recourse to any other fertilizing substances that those which the manure of animals affords; but in a highly-advanced condition of society, in consequence of the large amount of produce consumed by the inhabitants of the great towns, it becomes necessary to seek for new materials to support the loss which the soil of the country sustains. Thus bone-dust is procured from South America in such quantities, that it is computed, on the calculation that each head of cattle supplies bony matter equal to 51 lbs. in weight, that not less than one million two hundred thousand oxen are slaughtered annually in that country for the supply of bone-manure to England alone. Guano, or the dung of sea-birds, is likewise an expensive article of importation for the same purpose; but as both these sources will fail in proportion as the several countries become more peopled, it is fortunate that we may find substitutes for them in inorganic substances. Such is the nitrate of soda, so much used of late; such is the new manure invented by Mr. Daniell; and it may be confidently predicted, that by the discovery of such agents, agriculture will be enabled to keep pace with the increase of population, if the latter be not stimulated by unwise regulations; and that as animal life increases in a direct ratio to the amount of subsistence, so the nutritious effects of animal manure, by giving greater energy and vigour to the organs of plants, will cause them to draw more abundantly from the atmosphere, and thereby force a proportionately larger quantity of them into existence. Mr. Buckland thought that an important principle, respecting stimulating manures, had been brought forward, viz. that a plant, under their action, draws more freely from the atmosphere. In addition to the increase of animal manure with population, the quantity of carbon given out by animals, and left to be absorbed by plants, is proportionately increased. He further adverted to the discrimination necessary to be exercised in restoring artificially land that has been exhausted, and instanced a case furnished by Professor Johnston, of Durham, of certain pastures in Cheshire, which had become exhausted of their phosphate of lime, by its being absorbed into the cheese made with the milk of the cattle fed there, and which were restored by a top-dressing of bone-manure.—*lb.*

PATENT WOOD-CARVING.

We have been highly gratified by an inspection of the process and proceeds of this ingenious patent, now in full operation under the direction of Messrs. Braithwaite and Co., of Henrietta-street, Covent-Garden.—Having often lamented that the fine old art of carving in wood should have been allowed to forfeit its place in the ranks of architectural adjuncts, we are delighted at any thing which promises to revive a much-prized style of decoration. The tendency of the age is to extinguish art and to precipitate science. Wood-carving stood half way between the two, and seems to have shared the fate of many other mediators by being sent to the wall. The patent in question, if it does not offer a revival of its full spirit, at any rate presents a reproduction of its forms.

The process combines the double action of heat and pressure; and there are not wanting scientific reasons why the wood, subjected to this fearful ordeal, should be firmer in texture than in its natural condition. We have implied that the forms intended to be imitated are faithfully preserved; and we further consider that the tone imparted by the action of fire, is extremely gratifying to the eye by its richness and variety. The specimens submitted to our notice presented a very striking appearance, and we could not but fancy we were standing amidst the handicraft of past ages, rather than amidst the produce of a patent of to-day. Massive carved oak-tables, magnificent cabinets, bold cathedral screens, quaint reading-desks, grand bishops' chairs, picture-frames, cornices, corbels, *lassi-re-lievi*, and other odds and ends of a dismantled cathedral-church, met our view, and at prices which, in "the present miserably poor day," are great recommendations.

We are not sufficiently acquainted with the details of its mercantile operation, to state with accuracy the comparative expense of real carving and "patent carving;" but the reduction in the cost of the latter must be a strong inducement to those virtuosi who have a penchant for things of other dates, but who dread the uncertainty of necessary outlay as well as the vagueness and incompleteness of the supply of the desired objects. A person with such a taste may now design his own pet Gothic *sanctum*; and instead of racking his taste to reconcile chance incongruities, may tranquilly superintend the pre-ordained placing of his harmonious stores. An admiral might line his cabin with sculptures of heroic deeds or Neptunian emblems, and when his perilous course is run, he may transport them to his terrestrial retreat. The churchman may decorate his *studio* with Gospel truths in action, nor fear to leave behind, in the shifting of his useful career, these memorials of his creed. The man of literary leisure may surround himself with classical reminiscences—the geologist with an impression of the latest fossil remains; in fact, its adaptation to human tastes is unlimited, and we await with great interest the results of this ingenious invention.

What is of still greater importance in our view is the prospect it affords of reviving the Art of Carving, by the necessity which at present exists for the labours of the artist-scientific chisel in adaptation of parts to the whole. We doubt not that the wealthy will prefer those efforts which are unique, and will occasionally resort to genuine carving; but for the generality of individuals, who are not so endowed, the substitution of the fine and varied forms of ancient art, for the flimsy and tasteless effects of modern cabinet-making will be a boon of which they will speedily accept the advantage.—*Eng. rep.*