

## British Cleanings.

The foreign crops having been unusually good during the past season, wheat is now selling in France for less than one dollar per bushel, and it commands only about one dollar and nine cents in Great Britain.

**CHOLERA IN THE HAIR.**—A barber in England, during the prevalence of the cholera, expressed his opinion to a customer, on whom he was operating, that after all the cholera was in the hair. "Then," was the answer, "you ought to be very careful what brushes you use." "Oh, sir," said the barber, laughing, "I don't mean the air of the head, but the hair of the atmosphere."

**ANIMALS SUBJECT TO THE CATTLE PLAGUE.**—We learn from an English exchange that "the Rinderpest has now been finally expelled from the Jardin d'Acclimatation in the Bois de Boulogne. Thirty-five animals have died of the disease. It appears from the observations and experiments, made by medical men while the disease was in progress, that the following animals are liable to it: the zebra, the buffalo, the gazelle, the goat, the stag, and the wild boar."

**THE TRICHINE DISEASE.**—Berlin correspondents of the English papers record the prevalence of a panic in the Prussian capital, second only to that caused by the appearance of the cholera. The trichine disease, a new and terrible malady, is ravaging Prussia, and of those attacked by it, at least 25 per cent. die a horrible death. Surgeons trace the origin of the malady to a species of worm that attacks pigs, and as the Germans are especially a pork-eating people, and prefer their food only partially cooked, the new scourge has utterly disarranged their habits, and caused a feeling of intense alarm to pervade all classes.

**A HATCHING MONSTROSITY.**—A Dublin correspondence of *The Field* relates the following singular circumstance: "My turkeys ran in the same field as a Dorking cock and hens. A sitting of turkey eggs hatched, amongst others, a bird with four legs—a perfect turkey chick with the two practicable and undoubted turkey legs, but with two hinder perfectly defined legs, thighs, and five-clawed, and corresponding in every respect with those of the Dorking chickens. The Dorking legs were not nearly as long as the others, and consequently hung down useless. The chick lived for two days, and fed with the others."

**EXPORTATION OF IRISH HORSES.**—In the recent return of the Registrar General, it is shown that the number of horses in Ireland has considerably decreased during late years. The report says:—"In 1862, there were horses to the value of £31,975 exported from Great Britain and Ireland to Belgium; in 1863 the value exported to the same country alone was £60,915, showing an increase of £28,940 in one year's exportation, as compared with the previous year. A foreign demand still continues, for at the last great Munster (Limerick) fair, a buyer on the part of the French Government was present, taking animals fit for troop horses at from £24 to £30 a piece."

**POLLUTION OF RIVERS IN IRELAND.**—We learn from *The Farmer* (Scottish) that "in consequence of the introduction of gas for lighting the College at Maynooth, and the refuse being allowed to flow into the river Rye, which runs close to the town of Maynooth, and through the demesne of the Duke of Leinster at Carton, emptying itself into the river Liffey near Lucan, the fine breed of trout formerly existing, and which was carefully preserved by his Grace, is nearly extinct; and it is greatly to be feared that, unless measures are adopted to put a stop to the nuisance, the numerous fish in the lake at Carton will ultimately share the same fate."

**A STAG AT SEA.**—We learn from a British exchange that "the crew of the smack Gainsbro' Lass recently picked up a fine stag in the White Booth Roads, in the Humber. Though nearly exhausted when taken on board, and consequently very quiet, he soon came round, and after being refreshed with carrots, cabbages, &c., he took it into his head to knock everybody down who went near him. They managed, however, to keep him till next morning, when, meeting a smack bound for Hull, they transhipped him, glad to get rid of such a passenger. The captain, when he arrived at Hull, handed him over to Mr. S. Fern, who, after securing his legs, put him into his cart, and, rightly guessing to whom he belonged, drove him to Burton Constable, where he is now browsing in the park, none the worse for his trip to sea. It appears that Sir Clifford Constable's stag-hounds met on the 29th, at Hedon, and the stag, being pressed, took the Humber, and was picked up as described."

**A PRACTICAL JURY.**—The clip the following from *The Field*:—"At an industrial exhibition recently held at Vienna (Isère) a variety of artificial legs, constructed on an entirely new principle, were exposed to view. The jurymen, whose duty it was to decide on the comparative merits of the instruments, were much perplexed. At last they bethought them of assembling half a dozen Crimean and Mexican amputees and starting them over a half-mile course equipped with the rival legs. The prize is stated to have been won by an invalid, both of whose legs were taken off at the knee, but who, nevertheless, went over the distance in nine minutes."

**DREAD OF CATTLE PLAGUE INFECTION.**—A correspondent of the *Irish Farmers' Gazette* writes to that journal, as follows:—"I fear, from the great number of Connaught-men now coming from all parts of England to spend Christmas at home, that some of them will convey the cattle plague. Can you adopt any precaution regarding them?"

The reply of the editor is as follows:—"We regret to say that cattle dealers persist in going backward and forward to England, and never think of changing their clothes. There were more than one of those persons in our market this week, and although remonstrated with, still continue the cruel practice. Those dealers or jobbers may have some other means of living should the cattle plague be brought into this country; but we cannot too strongly condemn their conduct, which is monstrous. If they don't change their habits, we will publish their names, and hold them up to public condemnation. It looks to us like defying Providence."

**HYDROPHOBIA.**—A remarkable case of this mysterious disease is related by a correspondent of *The Field*. He says:—"In the month of March last a dog, apparently mad, found its way into the grounds of a gentleman residing in Hertfordshire. It bit the gamekeeper and several dogs. The part bitten in the keeper—the wrist, I believe—was immediately excised. The bitten dogs were sent to the Veterinary College, London, and kept there for some time. Appearing healthy, they were taken home and regularly shot over. About three weeks ago, one of them, a valuable retriever, showed decided symptoms of hydrophobia, and died mad. The virus had, therefore, lurked in this animal for eight months! As the history of the case is now being thoroughly investigated at the Veterinary College, with the presumed view of a properly scientific description of all the facts by competent authorities, I offer no remarks of my own on its remarkable features."

**THE ECONOMY OF STEAM.**—In a recent issue of *The Field* we find the following:—"Enough has been written from time to time to convince the most sceptical that steam cultivation, as an economical process, is an established fact; and we are, accordingly, surprised that anyone who has weighed the evidence, and examined carefully into the subject, could have written such a letter as appeared some twelve months since in the *Times*, in which it was stated, 'That the question was as yet in too elementary a condition to be adopted by tenant-farmers.' Why, is it not a fact that the most successful employers of steam-tackle are rent-paying farmers? and, what is more, not one of those men who have once given it a fair trial would be without its assistance on any account. No doubt we have not arrived at perfection—improvements may from time to time be made; but we have mastered the great difficulties. Steam cultivation has been taken from the realms of theory, and fairly started on the sober roadway of practice; and of all the improvements with which the present age has been fruitful, this undoubtedly demands the first place."

**THE "PEELER" AND THE ELEPHANT.**—The *Morning Post* gets off the following:—"On Monday week a menagerie left Manchester for Dundee, between one and two o'clock. The elephant was ridden down Market-street by his keeper, and such an unwonted sight at that hour of the night so frightened some pedestrians returning from a party, that they ran screaming into one of the side streets. A constable of the A division thereupon remonstrated with the keeper for riding the elephant in the street at such an hour, and after some high words, sought to exercise his authority; but the elephant distinctly intimated his disapproval of such a proceeding, and the policeman narrowly escaped a blow from the animal's trunk. Nothing daunted, the policeman obtained the help of some brother constables, and they proceeded to the Victoria Station. The elephant and his keeper were by this time in the box about to start by the two o'clock train, and the police endeavored to get at the keeper. He called 'Charley, Charley,' and the intelligent creature at once struck at the police with his trunk, but fortunately missed them, and the police, convinced that the elephant was too much for them, retired discomfited."

**THE HONEY GUIDE.**—Says Dr. Livingstone, "The honeyguide is an extraordinary bird; how is it that every member of the family has learned that all men, white or black, are fond of honey? The instant the little fellow gets a glimpse of a man, he hastens to greet him with the hearty invitation to come, as *Mbia* translated it, to a bees'-hive and take some honey. He flies on in the proper direction, perches on a tree, and looks back to see if you are following; then on to another and another, till he guides you to the spot. If you do not accept his first invitation he follows you with pressing importunities, quite as anxious to lure the stranger to the bees'-hive, as other birds are to draw him away from their own nests. Except while on the march, our men were sure to accept the invitation, and manifested the same by a peculiar responsive whistle, meaning, as they said, 'All right, go ahead; we are coming.' The bird never deceived them, but always guided them to a hive of bees, though some had but little honey in store."

**POISONOUS PLATTINGS.**—Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier writes to *The Field* as follows:—"Some time since I directed attention to the new chemical toys known as Tharaoh's serpents, and described the poisonous properties of the sulphocyanide of mercury of which they are composed. My friend, Professor Church, informs me that he has tested the vapour given off by these fiery serpents during combustion, and that he finds it contains a very considerable quantity of mercury, sufficient to amalgamate with and decolorise a piece of goldleaf very rapidly. As the vapour of mercury is very inimical to the human constitution, too much caution cannot be used in playing with these poisonous toys."

"My immediate object in writing is to caution the reader against a still more poisonous compound, which is likely to come into very general use. It is described in the following paragraph, taken from the *Standard* of Tuesday:

"A bright light, possessing very high actinic power, is produced by the combustion of a mixture of twenty-four parts of well-dried pulverised nitrate of potash with seven parts of flowers of sulphur and six of the red sulphide of arsenic. This mixture can be sold at 3d. a pound, and its light is therefore much cheaper than that of magnesium, to which it is said to be only very slightly inferior in actinic energy."

"I will only add to this account, that this compound could not be used in any enclosed building or room, without the arsenic, which would be volatilised during combustion, imperilling the life and certainly injuring the health of every person who inhaled the slightest amount of vapour produced by the burning."

**THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE ON ANIMALS.**—The following recently appeared in the Paris correspondence of the *London Times*:—"In a remarkable work, 'L'Espace Celeste et la Nature Tropicale,' by M. Emmanuel Liais, the well-known traveller and astronomer, there occurs an interesting disquisition on the effects of climate on the organic world. The author's opinion, founded on personal observation during a long sojourn in tropical countries, is worthy of notice. The great diversity of vegetable and animal productions on the globe, according to climate, shows that the climate exercises some influence on them, but this influence, according to M. Liais, is only indirect. Certain beings, it is true, can only live in certain climates, and if transported to another will die; but, on the other hand, those that can bear emigration constantly retain their generic and specific characteristics, whence it is to be inferred that, even before moving, their nature was such as to permit of their being acclimatised elsewhere. In the case of man, it was formerly supposed that difference of colour proceeded from climate, but it is now proved that under the equator the European still preserves the characteristics of his race: while the black, whether transported to America or Europe, still remains as black as before. M. Liais denies that domestic animals ever return to a supposed primitive wild type, for he has seen in the *campos* of Brazil oxen and horses as diversified as our domesticated breeds, and which, nevertheless, can only be caught by the lasso. Animals of different colours have different degrees of strength. The parasites that destroy so many horses and oxen in America do not attack, in all colonies, all varieties with equal violence; and yet no variety or breed seems to have, for all that, predominated over the other, and therefore led to any uniformity. Nor do epidemics attack all races alike. In 1850, at Rio de Janeiro, yellow fever raged simultaneously with cholera; but the former only attacked the whites, while the latter almost exclusively fastened upon the blacks. It has often been said that in tropical regions sheep lost their fleece, which was replaced by hair. M. Liais denies this, stating that it is their wool which prevents their spreading all over the country, because certain troublesome parasites abound; for instance, in the Brazilian *campos*. These parasites get into the thick wool and torture them so that they at last decline in health."