

ment, becomes an impediment to our nobler aspirations; and when the spirit awakes to the consciousness of its infinite capacity, its very efforts to be free tend to burst the bonds of the body, which becomes more and more irksome as the mind grows mature; at length the ruinous condition of the earthly tabernacle strengthens the desire for one that is heavenly and eternal; and when the body obeys not, then the attentive believing spirit begins to enjoy true liberty in acquaintance with God's purpose to his creature; and already catching a gleam of glory from beyond the grave, the regenerated man passes through death and finds it only one stop to enter for ever through that gateway into satisfying and endless life.—*Ibid.*

"POOR, BUT HONEST."—The newspapers, and other equally great authorities, make use of this phrase in biographical notices. "He was born of poor but honest parents!" Poor, but honest! that is to infer that the parents ought to have been dishonest because they were poor, but that in this particular case they were honest, in spite of their poverty. This common phrase is an insult to the condition of ninety-nine men out of a hundred, and an indignity to human nature. There might be, considering the manner in which many fortunes are acquired, some little shade of meaning in saying of the heir of fortune, "he was born of rich but honest parents; but the 'poor but honest' phrase is atrocious. Let it be reformed altogether.

JOHN WESLEY'S CALMNESS.—Robert Hall said to John Wesley, "The most extraordinary thing about him was, that while he set all in motion, he was himself perfectly calm and phlegmatic; he was the quiescence of turbulence."

CHRISTIAN UNION.—With real Christian union, though the machinery of expediency himself (not to mention where he must come from.) Christian men would march right onward and demolish all the meshes it could weave; for the more honest man always has the advantage of his more crafty opponent.

AGRICULTURE.

DRAINAGE.

The inclosed letter being from a practical farmer, in the immediate neighbourhood of this town, addressed to Professor Johnston, and read by him at the Durham Monthly Agricultural Meeting, is deserving of particular notice; it shows the certain and immediate return for capital laid out, and advocates forcibly and sensibly the advantage of 3-foot drains, contrary to the opinion of most farmers, who prefer shallower cuttings:—

Spylaw, 5th June, 1815.—My landlords, the governors of George Watson's Hospital, and the Merchant Maiden Hospital, of Edinburgh, defray the expense of cutting, amounting to from 36s. to 42s. per acre, while the remainder only of the charge—the drainage being performed altogether with tiles, upon soles—falls to my share, amounting, with filling it in by the plough, to from 45s. to 50s. per acre. My proposition, however, I may state is thus stated low, as the tiles are estimated at prime cost—being manufactured by myself—and no charge made in this price for the expence of the erection of the tile works. It will be noticed, also, that this work being on the farm, the expence of carriage of tiles is, to a great extent saved. This explanation—when I have stated that the depth of the drains has been in every instance, when practicable, 3 feet from the bottom of the furrow—answers, I think, your second query; and I shall go on, therefore, to reply to the others in their order. 1st, I have now finished upwards of 550 acres in the manner above described, the total length of drains being 267,030 yards. 2d, As explained, my drainage costs less than in ordinary cases can be calculated upon, and I conceive I can, with all safety, trust to being remunerated for my share of the outlay by the two crops first following the operation, viz Turnips and Barley, or Wheat; no doubt in many instances I derive more. But this depends so much upon the nature of the soil, that a definite answer is not easily given. Upon obstinate clays, and land rendered sterile by noxious elements generated by an impervious subsoil, the advantage of thorough draining is, I conceive, to more than double the value. Thus, such land in many instances rented at 10s. per acre, would be better worth cultivating subsequent to such an operation, effectually made at 20s. or even 25s. per acre. 3d, The nature of the soil on this farm varies very much, but in general it is what is popularly described as a free loam upon an indurated subsoil, in many parts

altogether clay, but generally exhibiting, at frequent intervals, a free mixture of sand, which being porous, renders the drainage less difficult, so that, in almost every instance, I have found the comparatively wide distance apart of 23 feet effect a most perfect purpose. This, however, is no doubt in part owing to the great depth. The average rent is 24s. per acre; average distance from markets, if by this is meant expence of carriage of produce, I cannot call more than six miles. But as much of our Barley especially, ultimately finds its way to Edinburgh, where, and in the Lothians generally, the prices upon an average are from 3s. to 4s. per qr. higher for the same quality (and the same may be said of Wheat and Oats in proportion,) the difference of value of produce in the two districts cannot be estimated at less, in ordinary seasons, than 16s. to 18s. per acre, of the land under crop in each year. 4th, As to my confidence in being able to meet a free-trade in corn—it is not easy to say what would be the full effect upon prices of a total abolition of the Corn Laws, and there are other considerations, besides mere price, which ought to have influence with the farmer,—cheapness incident upon a full foreign supply of grain, being a different thing from cheapness as derived from the employment of additional labour and exertion at home. I therefore do not feel quite prepared to answer this question in all its bearings, but were the matter of additional supply the only element to effect price, I must say, individually—having nearly completed my improvements, I would prefer an open trade with the Continent, and the concomitant, as I would expect, of an arrest of ameliorations at home, to a full and perfect cultivation of the extensive breadths of neglected land in England; as the foreign supply I conceive would prove more scanty ultimately, and less elastic to our growing necessities, than what we should derive from a free application of science and the modern principles of practical agriculture to our own soils.—*John Dudgeon.*

LARGE FARMS.—It will be found, I think, when the subject is well considered, that it is not large farms that make a wealthy tenantry, but it is a wealthy tenantry that makes the large farm. Therefore, those landlords who wish for large farms, which, in this view of the case, every landlord will naturally do, his first exertions must be to improve the circumstances of the farmers he has; and as they can only better their circumstances by improved cultivation, his first object should be to give them agricultural instruction. Suppose knowledge is generally diffused over any particular district, the value of land (to those who have improved) is enhanced, by their knowing, from experience, what an increased return can be had from it. If any tenant who adheres to old prejudices gets into difficulties, or wishes to emigrate, the man who has improved is the person who will give the highest price for his farm, from knowing what he can make of it; and, by what he has made, is also the person best able to pay for it. Thus the improver extends his farm from time to time, as opportunity offers. On the other hand, suppose that no such opportunity occurs—that no one wishes to emigrate, or may be forced to sell from being in difficulties, then the improver, having acquired a little capital, and knowing who can part with his own farm to advantage, from its high state of cultivation, looks round to other localities where agriculture is less understood, and where land, therefore, may be obtained on cheaper terms; he sells his own farm, and purchases elsewhere, one twice or three times the size, which his skill and exertions will soon double the value of; and his old farm goes to increase the farm of some of his neighbours whom he leaves behind him; and thus, in any case the acquisition of capital leads to the increase of the holdings, as I have stated.—*W. Blacker, in Appendix, No. 8 Land Commissioners' (Ireland) Evidence; Part 1.*

SPARE THE LITTLE BIRDS.—We can scarcely imagine a more mischievous employment than that of shooting little birds. It is really infamous. There is scarcely a little bird who expands its fine plumage to the sunshine, and greets our ears with its notes, but is a local benefactor, not only by its soothing us with its melody, but in destroying the multitudinous insects which infect our shrubbery and fruit trees. For it is a work of benevolence in destroying the caterpillar, a bird is worth, to the husbandman, its weight in gold. Notwithstanding that such is the fact, and it is universally known that birds are the messengers of good to man—there is scarcely an hour of the day but the report of the gun is heard in every direction carrying fright and death into their ranks. In most cases this shooting of birds is a wanton sport, proving that man is athirst for blood, and that he seeks the enjoyment of the propensity in a way where the indulgence can be gratified with impunity. Talk of protection for manufactures,