

THE HOG.

The following note was received too late for insertion in the December number, and was mislaid until after the matter for the February number was set up. We make this explanation as an apology to our respected friend the writer.

Woodhill, Dec. 16. 1849.

Dear Sir, — Although the accompanying note from Mr. Kerr (a considerable produce merchant in Hamilton) conveys little that is worthy of record, yet as it bears testimony to the estimation in which the Canadian settler's *invaluable friend, the hog*, is justly held, you may perhaps spare it a corner in your excellent and improving paper; improving, I will add, in more than one sense of the term. The animal referred to is from the well-known breed of Mr. Harland, near Guelph. I got him nearly four years ago, and through his aid have obtained a very satisfactory breed of swine. I killed a lot of hogs last week, about fourteen months old, each of which weighed over 200 lbs. I can safely pronounce them to be *true and quick feeders*. They run out all summer, and after about six weeks' feeding with peas, weighed as above. The pork is white and beautiful as the most delicate veal. Mr. Harland's stock is the large white Yorkshire. The sow I use is a mixed Berkshire.

I remain, Sir, yours truly,

ADAM FERGUSON.

Hamilton, 7th Dec. 1849.

Hon. Adam Ferguson, Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of one of the *finest hogs* that has been offered in this market this season. Its actual weight is 532 lbs. I have shewn it to several individuals who are well acquainted with the different breeds of hogs, and they pronounce it the best specimen of the *pork kind* they have ever seen.

Yours, &c.

W. G. KERR.

THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN EUROPE.

An Address delivered before the New York State Agricultural Society, at Syra use, Sept. 13, 1849, by James F. W. Johnston, F. R. S., S. L. & E.

(Concluded from page 39.)

GREAT BRITAIN.—In striking contrast to the case of Spain, is the agriculture of the Island in which I was born, and from which so many of your forefathers have come. I need not tell you of our uncertain climate—our fickle sky, our frequent rains, our late frosts in spring, our early frosts in autumn, the cold winds and temperate suns of our most favouring summer, the mists and fogs that settle over us at every season of the year. I only remind you of these things, and ask you to contrast with them the large crops we can reap, the high rents we can pay, the poor lands we have enriched, the local climate we have ameliorated, the wide wastes we have subdued beneath the plough, the northern districts we have tamed down to the production of wheat, the large population we have reared, and in ordinary seasons are still able to feed, and—amid all the croakings and complaints of individuals and of classes—the vast amount of material comfort and of intellectual elevation which the island exhibits. How much kinder, on the whole, the Deity has really been to us than to prolific and sunny Spain; how much better our fortunes as a people, how much happier our individual lot!

PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN.—Among the greatest of those practical improvements in the treatment of land, by means of which British agriculture has been advanced to its present condition, I may mention:

1st. *The alternate husbandry*—a judicious rotation of

crops. In this walk Flanders was probably the earliest among modern European countries to make decided and important advances.

2d. *The introduction of thorough drainage*.—To a certain extent and in a certain way, under drains have been made in almost every country of Europe, and are at least as old as the time of the Romans. But the necessity and almost universal profit of the system as it is now understood and practised, was first demonstrated in Scotland, and owes its general introduction to Mr. Smith, of Deanslon.

3d. As the complement of thorough drainage, the introduction of *deep and sub-soil ploughing*. These practices have renovated shallow, worn out soils, by bringing up new materials; have opened a passage for the roots to descend deeper in search of food; and have provided a more ready outlet for the surface waters into the drains below.

4th. *The judicious and continued application of lime*—according to principles now beginning to be generally understood. When applied without the requisite knowledge, or without regard to future consequences, the use of lime has been, and will still be, one of the most ready means of exhausting the most fertile soils.

5th. *The use of bones*—in various forms, as an application to land in various conditions, and for the growth of various crops.

6th. Generally, what is called *high farming*, comprehending:

a. The culture of green crops extensively.

b. The making of rich home, and the purchase of valuable foreign, manures of various kinds to a great extent.

c. The rearing and feeding of improved breeds of stock, for the conversion of one form of produce into another, which meets with a readier market, or is otherwise more profitable.

d. The custom of *full feeding*, both for plants and animals, from early youth to full maturity.

It is the characteristic of this kind of farming, that it spares no reasonable expense—in implements, in manures, in labour—as all experience has shown that a liberal treatment of the land, makes the land liberal in return: and that to the stingy farmer, the land is most niggard of her crops.

7th. *The introduction of lighter and better contrived implements*, of machines to economise labour, and of horses having a quicker step.

Such are generally the practical methods or processes by which British agriculture has been advanced to its present condition.

In connection with this improved condition of British agriculture, and the practices it involves, you will excuse me if I advert for a moment to one aspect in which British agriculture may be regarded, which at the present moment is most vitally connected with the interest of the English farmer, and may be neither uninteresting nor unimportant to you.

Were an intellectual foreigner, previously unacquainted with Great Britain, with the character of its people, or with its social condition, to be informed regarding this country, that though occupying only a small and thickly peopled corner of Europe, shrouded for many months of the year in fogs and mists, seldom and briefly visited by the fervid sun—never, I may say, by such a sun as now shines upon us—and raising its own grain crops with cost and difficulty to feed its rapidly increasing inhabitants—were he to be told that the Legislature of this country, in which the agricultural body is the predominating interest, had thrown open its inland harbours to all comers, and trusting to superior energy, perseverance and skill, had invited even the most fertile and favoured regions of the globe to a free competition in their own grain markets, fearless of the results;—apart