

resulting from that forethought and arrangement which will guard against the misapplication of labor, and doing it unseasonably. In ploughing, for instance, though the field first intended for it, or in which the ploughs may have actually been at work, should from its situation, be rendered unfit (by rain or other cause) to be worked, and other spots, even though the call for them may not be so urgent, can be ploughed, this business ought to go on, because the general operation is promoted by it. So with respect to other things, and particularly carting, where nothing is more common, than, when loads are to go to a place, and others to be brought from it, though not equally necessary at the same moment, to make two trips, when one would serve. These things are only mentioned to show, that the manager, who takes a comprehensive view of this business, will throw no labor away.

For these reasons it is that I have endeavoured to give a general view of my plans, as to the business of the year, that the concerns of the several plantations may go on without application daily for orders, unless it be in particular cases, or where these directions are not clearly understood.

THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE IN CALABRIA, IN 1783.

The boding terrors exhibited before the earthquake by the animal world were remarkable. Man alone seemed to be exempt from all fore knowledge of the approaching calamity, and causes which excited evident distress and panic in the whole brute creation, produced in him neither physical nor moral change. The effect upon animals was infinitely diversified. In some the apprehension was evinced earlier, and with vehement and rapidly succeeding emotions; while in others it was later, slower, and less demonstrative. A short time before the first shock, and during the whole period of the great shocks, the fishes along the coast of Calabria Ultra, appeared on the surface in a state of stupor, and were caught in unusual quantities. Wild birds flew screaming and in obvious alarm through the air and were caught in traps and nets with increased facility; wild geese, pigeons, and all other domestic fowls, exhibited the same degree of terror. Dogs and asses betrayed an earlier and stronger consciousness than any other quadrupeds. They chased about in wild and staring terror, and the air rang with their horrid howlings and brayings. Horses, oxen and mules, neighed, roared, and shook in every limb; pointed their ears forward, and their eyes rolled and glared around with terror and suspicion. When the terrible first shock was felt, they braced every limb, and endeavored to support themselves by spreading their legs widely asunder; but many were nevertheless thrown down. Some of them took to flight immediately before the shock, but, soon as they felt the earth heaving under them, paused and stood motionless and bewildered. Pigs appeared less conscious than other animals of approaching danger. Cats, although not so early sensible of it as dogs and asses, were more demonstrative. Their backs rose and their fur bristled up in terror. Their eyes became blood-shot and watery, and they set up a horrible and doleful screaming. Thus foretold by the brute creation, the first shock was more immediately preceded by a sultry shower—the wind howled and the sea rolled fearfully—a subterraneous noise was heard, like the rolling of violent thunder; and then the earth rocked, and immense districts were convulsed to their foundations; and lakes and rivers suddenly appeared amidst rocks and dry places; and towns and villages were overthrown, and the falling ruins crushed the unfortunate inhabitants, of whom throughout Calabria, 40,000 were destroyed, and 20,000 more died of the immediately ensuing epidemics.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

Inundation in Egypt.—The following letter from Marseilles, dated 5th December, to the Editors of the New-York Journal of Commerce, gives a more particular account of the late inundation in Egypt than the publisher in this paper of Wednesday:—

"The news from Egypt, to which we allude in our last, has been confirmed, and indeed the destruction is much greater than was first reported. According to this morning's paper, the inundation has been excessive, exclusive of the immense loss of life cut down at thirty thousand souls, that sustained cattle, indigo, 'Commestibles,' and every description of property,

appears to be incalculable. Cotton, the crop of which was most promising, and appeared to offer 150,000 bales (of 200 lbs. each) for exportation, is estimated with no allow of beyond 2,000,000 bales. Their will be no exports in Pulse of any kind. That which has escaped destruction, being hardly sufficient for consumption and sowing. Instead of a supply of 4 to 15,000 bales of Cotton at Alexandria, as last year at same period, the stock does not exceed 14,000; and that which may yet come from the interior, is expected to be very slow in its progress. Thus for the coming year, the Cotton of that country can present no prejudicial competition in this market against America." The letter mentions a more favourable state of the Coffee market.

WORMS.—A popular doctrine, which prevails to a very great extent is, that nearly all the diseases during a particular period of childhood, owe their origin to worms. The moment, therefore, the pallid and suffering countenance of an infant, its restlessness and moans of anguish, indicate it to be the subject of disease, it is forced to swallow, in succession almost every prescription of reputed virtue in the destruction of those insects. If a worm or two be expelled, and the child recover, the doctrine is confirmed; but even, on the contrary, should none be detected or death itself take place, suspicion is not for a moment excited that the opinion of the case may have been erroneous, and the remedies administered improper or even pernicious.

The public have yet to learn that worms are by no means such pernicious inmates of the bowels as is generally supposed; that in a majority of cases they are rather the concomitant than the cause of disease. Often the symptoms which are ascribed to their presence, indicate rather the commencement of serious disease of the stomach itself, constant in its progress, and in not a few instances, sooner or later extending to the brain and producing dropsy of this organ. The remedies popularly prescribed for destruction of worms are, under such circumstances, not merely useless, but in the highest degree improper. They augment the existing mischief, and not infrequently hurry on to a fatal termination, a disease, which, under proper professional care might have been speedily cured.

Some of the prescriptions most commonly employed in domestic practice, in these cases, are garlic or tansy steeped in spirits, a strong solution of common salt, pink-root tea, &c. If parents would only reflect that most of these will redden and inflame the skin when applied to it, and that the inner surface of the stomach is far more delicate than the exterior covering of the body, they would certainly pause before they introduced into the former, articles of so irritating a nature; articles which cannot be administered, even to an adult in a state of health, without producing more or less disturbance, and which, when the stomach is already the seat of disease can be viewed only in the light of active poisons.

We do not pretend to say that worms are never productive of injurious effects: all we desire is to point out to parents and nurses, the impropriety and even danger, of administering, with the view of destroying these animals, active remedies of the real effects of which they know but little, and during the existence of symptoms on whose actual cause they are still less informed.

In Moscow, in 1828 (says the author of an article in the New Monthly Magazine) I visited the prison. It is a large and circular building, enclosing a space sufficient for the exercise of the prisoners, and has a bath, to which, on every Thursday and Monday, a certain number of the prisoners are allowed to resort. The interior arrangement was not what I anticipated, for whoever has visited the public establishments in Russia, will readily admit that more regularity exist, than in any other country in the world; but in this prison I never remember to have seen more filth, or to have perceived worse perfumes in my life.—The interior of each ward has two long planks, one on each side of the room, and running the whole length of it, on which the prisoners sleep, enveloped in a sheep skin, and huddled close together. I remember being astonished at the numbers enclosed in one ward, where no distinction was made between the felon and the culprit for minor offences. It was in the largest and best filled ward, that we were asking the cause of detention of some young vagabonds, a man past eighty years of age prostrated himself before the governor,

and kissed the hem of his *shube*. His hair was white as snow, his eyes dimmed nearly to blindness which, assisted by the palsy, marked him a rapidly approaching his end. "Surely," said I, "this man can hardly be worth confining, for death will soon rid the empire of the hoary sinner! pray, what may be the crime for which he is detained?" "This man," said the governor (with particular emphasis) "this man has lost his passport!" I have often heard that no greater reproach could be used by one man to another than to say "you are a fellow without a passport!" But little did I think that the want of one subjected a man to long confinement with half the felons in the country. This poor man had been confined two months, and had every prospect of remaining two months more; he being old and useless, his master made no inquiries concerning his absence, and in all probability the poor old unfortunate man will die in the prison? We were led from ward to ward until, ascending a flight of stairs, we came to some small narrow rooms, destined for the prisoners kept in solitary confinement. On opening one door, a tall thin figure, with a long white beard, rose with some difficulty from his resting place. He had been in solitary confinement more than six months, he had never been brought to trial; and the governor himself said, "it is probable this man may not be tried for a year; he is suspected of coining, but I do not think there is sufficient evidence to convict him." The governor asked the poor fellow if he had any complaint to make, which was answered, by a shake of the head, in the negative.

A dreadful explosion of gas took place at Manchester, in the house of Mr. Parry, occasioned by an escape of gas into the cellar of the house, from pipes which the workmen were repairing. The gas coming in contact with a fire under a boiler in the cellar, it exploded. So great was the effect of the shock, that the floors of the rooms in the first story were blown up, and nearly demolished, the whole of the windows with their frames entirely shattered to pieces, and the fragments driven to some distance; the partition walls of the cellar and ground floor were bulged in; the walls of many of the upper rooms were also much shaken, and the door-frames so damaged, the doors could not be shut. The furniture in the lower story was thrown up to the ceiling and broken to pieces, and the benches round the news room torn away from the walls and scattered about the room. At the time of the accident there were seven persons in the house; and considering the extent of the damage to the premises, it appears astonishing that any of them escaped with their lives; but the injury which they sustained was comparatively slight. At the time of the explosion, Mrs. Parry, with her daughter, were standing in the bar, the floor of which, on being blown up, presented a chasm through which the younger female fell into the cellar, and Mrs. Parry was only prevented from falling by clinging to some part which had not given way; they were soon, however, rescued from their perilous situation by some person coming to their assistance. Mrs. Parry and her daughter were both much scorched, but did not otherwise receive any injury. Two or three of the other persons in the house received some slight contusions.

The Irish fisheries employed 63,421 men in the year 1829. The number of men employed has doubled in the last seven years.

State of the Country.—We state distinctly, that Ireland is improving—that notwithstanding the depression which still continues to prevail in all agricultural produce, there is in the country, generally, a tendency to advance. We have had, in the course of the last week, conversations with gentlemen from almost every part of Ireland—and though upon all hands deep regret and anxiety seem to prevail in consequence of the great and sudden decline—for it has been, comparatively speaking, very rapid, in the value of agricultural produce, there appears, as far as we have been able to collect, an assurance in every quarter, that we have seen the worst of the season. Some advance is certainly taking place. Pork has got up from 11s. to 20s. in some of the country markets, and there is more life than there has been for months back in Smithfield. Beasts and sheep are certainly fetching higher prices—not much higher indeed, but it has been observed, that when a tendency of this kind is manifested, the return to better times may be safely predicted.—*Dublin Mer. Adr.*