SUMMARY OF NEWS.

BY ALLAN STEAMER.

From Liverpool, May 17th.

THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURER.

A conference of agricultural labourers and others was held on May 16th in Birmingham in support of Mr. Trevelyan's bill for the equalisation of the county with the burgh franchise. Mr. John Bright presided, and made a lengthened and energetic speech, in which he advanced all the well-known arguments in favour of granting household suffrage to the counties. Resolutions which were supported by Mr. Trevelyan, Mr. Hugessen, Mr. Fawcett, and others, were adopted by acclamation. A meeting was also held in the evening on the same subject.

THE BURIALS BILL.

Earl Granville has given notice to move a new clause after clause 77 in the Burials and Consolidation Bill to the effect that when the persons having the charge of the burial of a deceased person shall, by notice in writing, request that the burial may take place in the churchyard without the performance of the burial service of the Church of England, the burial shall be permitted to take place therein at the ordinary time and in the ordinary manner without the performance of such service, and that such shall be held to be a sufficient justification to the minister for not performing such service.

PRAYER DURING THE WAR.

The clergy in Convocation requested the Upper House to put forth a form of prayer to be used at the present time, and the Upper House, having agreed that the preparation of such forms should be left to the discretion of the Bishops in their respective dioceses, the Bishop of Lincoln has suggested the following form for use in his diocese:—"Lord of Hosts and God of Battles, Who ruleest all things in heaven and earth, look down with pity on the nations now striving in war. Take from them all anger and wrath, hatred and revenge. Have compassion on our suffering fellow-Christians; deliver them from oppression and wrong; restore the Churches of the East to primitive purity and truth, and let them dwell therein in the bonds of faith and love. Have mercy on all Turks and infidels; take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of Thy Word, and so fetch them home, blessed Lord, to Thy flock, that they may be saved among the remnant of the true Israelites; and may all be made one fold under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Continue to us the blessings of peace; let no violence be heard in our gates, nor waasting and destruction in our borders. Restrain the fierceness of men, and make it turn to Thy praise; for Thou, O God, Who makest wars to cease in all the world, pour down upon us, and upon all Christian princes and people, Thy Spirit of peace; that we, being guided by the gospel of peace; and finally bring us to the heavenly peace, the Eternal Peace, in Jerusalem, there to praise Thee. Everlastingly, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

VIVISECTION.

Messrs. Yarrow & Co. write to the *Times* from Poplar:—"Referring to the important remarks made in your leader on the subject of torpedo boats, it may be interesting to know that other Governments in addition to those you name are fully alive to the importance of providing themselves with vessels of this class; our firm have been supplied or are at the present moment building them for the Russian, French, Dutch, Greek, Brazilian, and Argentine Governments. These boats have speeds varying from sixteen to twenty miles an hour, and are mostly provided with poles projecting from the bow, in some cases working in and out by steam power, so as to enable the pole to be used of greatly increased size and strength, in order to penetrate any net hitherto adopted as a protective against torpedoes."

"SAUNDERS' NEWS LETTER."

The copyright and plant of Saunders' *News Letter* have been purchased in the Dublin Bankruptcy Court by Mr. Burnside for £600.

GREAT FIRE IN DUBLIN.

A fire has occurred at Power's Distillery, Dublin. The still-house was entirely destroyed, as well as two other buildings, valued at £8,000, and other vats may also be injured. The total damage is about £30,000.

TIPPERARY ELECTION.

Mr. Gray, Home Ruler, has been elected for Tipperary, by a majority of 1,000 votes, against 1,344 recorded for Mr. Casey, the Nationalist candidate. After the declaration of the poll, Mr. Gray addressed a vote of thanks to the Sheriff, and in doing so expressed regret at having had Mr. Casey for an opponent. Mr. Casey said he would forget what had occurred. The successful and defeated candidates then shook hands.

LONDON COACHING CLUB.

One of the great events of the London season—the first meet of the London Coach Club took place on the 16th inst. in Hyde Park. There was a brilliant turn-out, more than twenty-six coaches sporting the rendezvous. The Prince of Wales and Prince Teck occupied seats in the leading coaches.

DEATH OF THE COUNTESS OF HOME.

The Countess of Home has died at The Hirsel, Coldstream, the family seat of the Home family. The deceased lady, Lucy Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Henry James, last Baron Montagu, was married to Lord Home in 1832. Five sons and three daughters born of the marriage are living.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

At the annual general meeting of the National Rifle Association, the Duke of Cambridge, who presided, announced that the year there will be no review, but instead athletic sports in which the cream of the Canadian team, he added, will attend the meeting.

ARTISTIC DISCOVERY.

Considerable sensation has been caused in the artistic world by the discovery of a marble arm and hand holding a sceptre, which made among the remains of ancient Mitylene by the students of the French School of Archæology. The fragments belong to a perfect under piece of beauty, and is declared upon good authority to be a portion of the celebrated Venus of Milo now in the Louvre.

REVISION OF THE AUTHORIZED VERSION.

The revisers of the Authorized Version of the New Testament met on the 15th inst. at the Deanery, Westminster, for their seventieth session, and sat for seven hours. There were present the Bishops of Gloucester and Bristol, who presided, the Bishop of Salisbury, the Dean of Westminster, Lincoln, and Lichfield, the Master of the Temple, Archdeacon Lee, Canons Lightfoot and Westcott, Professors Newth, Milligan, Moulton, Newth, and Roberts; Dr. Angus and Hort, Prebendaries Humphry and Scrivener—eighteen in all—and Mr. Troutbeck, the secretary. The company was engaged in considering the suggestions of the American revisers on the revised version of the Gospel of St. John.

THE ESTIMATE OF CONVICTS.

A deputation from the Chatham, Rochester, and Strood Trades' Council, accompanied by Mr. W. Martin, Mr. Johnson, Goldsmid, and Mr. Gorst, and the leading representatives of the workingmen, has had an interview with the Home Secretary with reference to the employment of convict labour in the erection of Government buildings, forts, magazines, docks, etc., in that neighbourhood. Mr. George Potter said in the United Kingdom there were 1,257,000 paupers, 200,000 of whom were able-bodied men. We had nearly 1,000,000 prisoners, who were set to work to manufacture articles, the sale of which entered into competition with honest labour. The Poor-rate was £15,455,000. He approved of the suggestion to employ convicts on waste lands, as this would not enter into competition with skilled labour, and it would also bring many acres under cultivation. The Home Secretary, in reply, said that the whole matter of prison labour was now under the consideration of the Government, and he could assure the deputation that the branch of the question with which they were concerned should have his best consideration.

THE WATCHMAN AGAINST SPIRITUALISM.

In defence of Lord Penzance's inhibition, the Rev. Arthur Tooth has signalled his return to England after his prolonged absence from Hatcham by the immediate resumption of his position as vicar of St. James', Hatcham. On Sunday last he celebrated the Communion. There was a very large attendance, and nearly 200 persons received communion at his hands. Great excitement was caused when, just before the absolution was pronounced, Mr. Fry, the recently elected Protestant churchwarden, accompanied by two policemen, made his appearance. They proceeded at once down the nave to the chapel gates, evidently with the intention of removing Mr. Tooth. Observing this, Mr. Tooth's friends rose en masse. Mr. Fry in loud tones then ordered the discontinuance of the service, and called upon the police to arrest Mr. Tooth. This the police refused to do, they having been assured by Mr. Webb, the vicar's churchwarden, that he endorsed the vicar's action, and sanctioned the service. The police then withdrew. The celebration was then concluded without further interruption. Mr. Tooth wore a richly embroidered chasuble with coloured orphreys. The two lights were lit, the "sanctus" bell rung, and all the usual accessories common at the celebration of Holy Communion at Ritualistic churches were used. It is at present unknown what course of action Mr. Tooth will pursue for the future, nor has it yet been decided what course the various parties affected by Mr. Tooth's conduct will take. The complainants, Mr. Hudson and others, have the same remedies they had before, they can go before Lord Penzance with an affidavit showing Mr. Tooth's contempt of Civil Law. Mr. Tooth is liable to imprisonment or before having been inhibited from officiating for three years. It is probable the Bishop of Rochester will not take any steps in the matter.

"H. R. H." AND BUTTON REFORM.

A London correspondent writes:—"The Prince of Wales evidently aspires to the proud position of regenerator of masculine costume. It must be remembered that some years ago he made an effort to do away with the present monstrous forms of men's evening dress, and he attempted to substitute a loose black velvet coat for the hideous tailcoat to which men cling with a pertinacity worthy a better cause. He was unsuccessful, however; the black velvet was discarded, and to this day it is not always seen to distinguish the gaiety of the waiters. Now I see the Prince is opening a new campaign. The attempt of which I have heard has from time immemorial been partially tried by three buttons or studs, was in the Regency, the other night, rendered with only one stud. Think of that, mothers, and sisters, and wives—only one shirt button to look after in the space of three, only well button-holes to test and consolidate where there have been three. If the Prince could go still further and generously bring a garment that shall have no shirt buttons and button-holes at all, the gratitude of the whole of English womankind would follow him. How many peaceful homes there might be if that shirt-button question could be avoided! and how gladly would feminine England award Albert Edward a proud position, far above that of Albert the Good, could he but save them from the ever-recurring trials to which the present popularity of shirt-buttons gives rise! Albert the Good looked after Fine Arts, it would be said; but Albert Edward, his son, looked after the tempers of the people, and prevented thousands of quarrels in thousands of homes by his Anti-Shirt-button Crusade. Whether such a blessed state of things, Mr. Hugessen, Mr. Fawcett, and others, were adopted by acclamation. A meeting was also held in the evening on the same subject.

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The Manchester *Guardian* announces the decease of Lord Erskine as having happened on Thursday last, the 10th inst., at Hill-side, Alderley-edge, Cheshire, at the aged seventy-five. His Lordship was Thomas Americus Erskine, eldest son of David, second Lord Erskine, of Restormel Castle, Cornwall, by his marriage with Frances, daughter of General John Cadwallader, of Philadelphia, United States of America. He was consequently grandson of Thomas, first Lord Erskine, the celebrated advocate, who eventually became Lord High Chancellor. His Lordship was born on the 3rd of May, 1802, and was educated at Harrow and the University of Edinburgh. He was for several years in the Diplomatic Service, and succeeded to the Peerage on his father's death in 1855. He married, in 1830, Louisa, daughter of Mr. George Newman, of Newtyle place, Sussex, and widow of Mr. Thomas Legh, of Adlington, Cheshire, but by her he had no issue. The title consequently devolves on his next brother, the Hon. John Cadwallader Erskine, late of the Hon. East India Company's Civil Service, and some time a Judge and Superintendent of Police in the Cis-Sutlej States. He was born in 1805, and has been twice married—firstly, in 1829, to Margaret, daughter of the late Mr. John Murray, of Tyrona, and, secondly to Mary Louisa Campbell, eldest daughter of the late Colonel Alexander, C.B., by the former of whom he has a family.

MONTGOMERY ELECTION.

The Hon. F. Hanbury-Tracy, the Liberal candidate for the Montgomery Boroughs, has been elected by a majority of 67 over the Conservative, who had come forward in the Conservative interest.

MEAT AND STOCK IMPORTS.

The Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons to consider the subject of the cattle plague and the importation of live cattle from Russia, Denmark, Sweden, and Danmarkjold, of Samsoe, Denmark, who represented the Agriculture Department of the Danish Government, in relation to the exportation of dead meat, he said that Denmark would never be able to compete with Russia in that matter, because of the small margin of profit which would be left to the Danish agriculturists. They could not feed their stock for packing, and they would lose considerably by the sale, which was very valuable in Denmark as in England. Ameriica had a much better pasturage, therefore she could be fattened and sent over whole for a much cheaper rate than from Denmark. At present Denmark exports about 5,800 head of cattle to England every year.

Professor Gamgee writes to the *Times*:—"It is important fact has come to my knowledge. The great success attending the transport of fresh meat from America to this country has induced a movement for its supply to Hamburg and Antwerp. The price of meat is greater on the European Continent than in the United States and Canada. If arrangements be made to ship meat carcasses, after it has cooled, in chambers of possible objection can there be to continental meat shipments being made from our ports, when the business forty stock imports across the German Ocean? Advocating this has been regarded by some as a slight in favour of the agricultural interest. With me it has been rather in behalf of the towns. Stockyards have, it is true, been urged that the proposals made by me years since are not adopted. Their immediate, or even conversion has been slow, though well-nigh universal. The acceptance of the truth has been delayed to that period when the sense of trade has actually affected its ample and convincing demonstration. Sooner, however, that all our energies be directed to the restoration and permanent health of our herds and flocks. Meanwhile producers cannot exist with meat at 5d and 6d per lb., as we shall assuredly have it, if they must submit, as they do, to a depth of competition caused by the international cattle trade. We are pursuing a most dangerous caution, the synonym of ignorance on this question, but the common sense of the country must soon be encouraged to demand permanent, costly and vexatious home trade restrictions, forming part of that vicious system the death-knell of which has sounded at last."

SINGULAR CHRISTENING SCENE.

Recently a girl who allege to be the rector of All Saints' Church, West Bromwich, is the father of her illegitimate child, took her offspring to the font for baptism. In answer to the question being asked, What name do you give this child? the father of the young woman replied, "Frederick Willett White," the two first names, Frederick Willett, being the Vicar's name. Mr. Willett protested against the proposed name, but it was decided that the child should be baptized by that name, having been inhibited from officiating for three years. It is probable the Bishop of Rochester will not take any steps in the matter.

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FARM AND OTHER NOTES.

MAKING A HOME OF THE FARM.

The farm as a home will have its garden and its orchard, for beauty as well as profit; and the farmer will have his library and his leisure hours, as well as other men. The eye of the owner will be seeking rather through the garden, and through which sun and shade may play. If he clears away the stumps and stones, he will spare a copse here and a thicket there, for his very cattle will thank him for their shelter, and no passer-by will fail to admire the taste and forethought which, with the meadow or the ploughed field, retains the glory of maple or birch, or hemlock, or gnarled beech.

Such things are coming even among us to have a value even in dollars and cents. With better roads, which are the crying need of our rural districts, a drive of four or five miles, or twice as much, is not always an evil. The purer air, the restful quiet, the opportunity for study, counterbalance some of the conveniences of the village. The homestead with trees for a lawn, decorated with a stream which grows and changes with the season; with groves that are for perfumed air, and which grow and changes with the seasons; with groves that are for the shelter and joy of the forest; with something new always in the fields ripening for the harvest, and in the orchard or vineyard, and in the farmer's fashions as any Fifth avenue belle; with flowers that are for the eye and the sense of fragrance, and which are grateful for your care—must be something more than a dream of the future. Some farmers have had too much land, they have not learned yet, that the Lord has given them enough to have done, to count their trees and inventory their watercourses, and make the most of every hill and valley, every shade and variety of scenery. Instead of degrading the farm into a mere machine, still of compulsory labour, we need more and more to decorate it with the attractions of home, to make it the centre of culture, to bring out the best features of its landscape, the special beauties of grove or stream, or hill-side, which nature has adorned it. The most careless observers have noticed how, gradually, some farm will designate an entire district; how a well-cultivated garden wins admiration; how the very soil and the very air, if it be free from taint of taste and brains for the master. He has made his home there; he has treated the land as a friend in a generous way. He has not gone at his farm as if it were a slave, to be flogged and starved, with the one purpose of giving it the least possible, while extorting the most from it. Even as a question of profit, the wise rule is to make the farm a home.—*George E. Waring, in Scribner's Monthly.*

GRAPES IN CANADA.

The exceptionally cold weather of 1873-74 and 1874-75 has strengthened the impression that grapes in the greater side of Lake Ontario in regard to Canadian winters, and has given opportunity to interested persons opposed to emigration to describe the rigour of our climate, in a manner well calculated to create alarm among those who may have business to seek a home upon our shores. Fortunately, by, the last two years have proved that we are not liable to such extreme temperatures and in spite of the low range of the thermometer referred to in the witness above referred to, no harm has been done to vegetation. As a proof of the average mildness of our climate, reference may now be made to the experiment of growing and ripening, many of the exotic grapes heretofore only cultivated under glass. In Jerry Pelham, of Niagara, has in his garden several varieties, and among them a vine of Black Hamburgh, which has been in full bearing for about five years, and produces yearly a heavy crop. At the Philadelphia Exhibition, Mr. Pallock secured a bronze medal for a specimen of these grapes. The bunch weighed 16½ ounces, yet had been injured by being exhibited and tasted at the exhibition in Toronto, whence it was sent to Philadelphia. A far better specimen could have been cut from the vine. The protection of the vine consists simply in laying down the vine and covering it with a little garden mould, and the slight protection of a board. Grapes are bearing as full as any of the harder kinds, while the shape, size, colour, and flavor of the clusters are all that could be desired. Besides the cherry trees, the caterpillars attack apple trees, which they denude of their leaves and blossoms. From this time onward every insect pest that depredates on fruit trees should be looked for and destroyed, and that a tree that continually wounded must be injured thereby. Mr. Campbell would not give much for maple trees and from an old sap bush.—*Central New York Farmers' Club.*

One needs to know the percentage of grains to distinct the value of the ore for better, and as the price of butter is influenced by its colour and flavor (some believe colour determines the flavor), the test should give both quality and quantity of cream. This is easily and cheaply done by filling a glass tumbler with the milk of each cow, and setting these tumblers in a current warm, the sun shine, the pear cling, and the soft-bodied "worms" that feed on foliage may be attacked by whale-oil soap, dissolved in water, and applied with a sprinkler. We have found so great an advantage from the use of this remedy, applied by means of a hand force-pump with a fine rose nozzle, that we strongly recommend it.

Matching newly-planted trees and shrubs should by no means be neglected. The small and vigorous shoots that would otherwise be lost. Sick-looking trees and shrubs that have not taken kindly to their new situation should be will cut back, if this has not been done at the time of transplanting. There is no better regimen for a sickly tree than severe pruning. Evergreens need this sort of discipline as well as the deciduous trees.

In the orchard a severe trimming of the trees is needed. Many wonders with this crop eventually. By removing all imperfect fruit, that which is kept will more than make up in deficiency in number by excess in quality and appearance. Thus, instead of the forest; with something new always in the fields ripening for the harvest, and in the orchard as responsive to the season's influences as any Fifth avenue belle; with flowers that are for the eye and the sense of fragrance, and which are grateful for your care—must be something more than a dream of the future. Some farmers have had too much land, they have not learned yet, that the Lord has given them enough to have done, to count their trees and inventory their watercourses, and make the most of every hill and valley, every shade and variety of scenery. Instead of degrading the farm into a mere machine, still of compulsory labour, we need more and more to decorate it with the attractions of home, to make it the centre of culture, to bring out the best features of its landscape, the special beauties of grove or stream, or hill-side, which nature has adorned it. The most careless observers have noticed how, gradually, some farm will designate an entire district; how a well-cultivated garden wins admiration; how the very soil and the very air, if it be free from taint of taste and brains for the master. He has made his home there; he has treated the land as a friend in a generous way. He has not gone at his farm as if it were a slave, to be flogged and starved, with the one purpose of giving it the least possible, while extorting the most from it. Even as a question of profit, the wise rule is to make the farm a home.—*George E. Waring, in Scribner's Monthly.*

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One needs to know the percentage of grains to distinct the value of the ore for better, and as the price of butter is influenced by its colour and flavor (some believe colour determines the flavor), the test should give both quality and quantity of cream. This is easily and cheaply done by filling a glass tumbler with the milk of each cow, and setting these tumblers in a current warm, the sun shine, the pear cling, and the soft-bodied "worms" that feed on foliage may be attacked by whale-oil soap, dissolved in water, and applied with a sprinkler. We have found so great an advantage from the use of this remedy, applied by means of a hand force-pump with a fine rose nozzle, that we strongly recommend it.

Matching newly-planted trees and shrubs should by no means be neglected. The small and vigorous shoots that would otherwise be lost. Sick-looking trees and shrubs that have not taken kindly to their new situation should be will cut back, if this has not been done at the time of transplanting. There is no better regimen for a sickly tree than severe pruning. Evergreens need this sort of discipline as well as the deciduous trees.

In the orchard a severe trimming of the trees is needed. Many wonders with this crop eventually. By removing all imperfect fruit, that which is kept will more than make up in deficiency in number by excess in quality and appearance. Thus, instead of the forest; with something new always in the fields ripening for the harvest, and in the orchard as responsive to the season's influences as any Fifth avenue belle; with flowers that are for the eye and the sense of fragrance, and which are grateful for your care—must be something more than a dream of the future. Some farmers have had too much land, they have not learned yet, that the Lord has given them enough to have done, to count their trees and inventory their watercourses, and make the most of every hill and valley, every shade and variety of scenery. Instead of degrading the farm into a mere machine, still of compulsory labour, we need more and more to decorate it with the attractions of home, to make it the centre of culture, to bring out the best features of its landscape, the special beauties of grove or stream, or hill-side, which nature has adorned it. The most careless observers have noticed how, gradually, some farm will designate an entire district; how a well-cultivated garden wins admiration; how the very soil and the very air, if it be free from taint of taste and brains for the master. He has made his home there; he has treated the land as a friend in a generous way. He has not gone at his farm as if it were a slave, to be flogged and starved, with the one purpose of giving it the least possible, while extorting the most from it. Even as a question of profit, the wise rule is to make the farm a home.—*George E. Waring, in Scribner's Monthly.*

DIOCESE OF NIAGARA.

Third Synod.

HAMILTON, May 29.—The third Synod of the Diocese of Niagara opened this morning, the morning prayer service being held in Christ church cathedral. The cathedral church of Niagara stands on the site of a former edifice constructed of logs, which was destroyed by conflagration in the year 1835 and was completed in the year 1838. It was enlarged in 1854 by the addition of a stone church, and then it remained until 1875, when it was demolished. In February 1876 the present handsome building was opened as the cathedral of the recently formed Diocese of Niagara. The Rev. J. Gamble Geddes, who had been more than forty years rector of Christ church, was appointed the first Dean of Niagara by his Lordship Bishop Fuller. The Dean was in England during the session of the Synod last year, but to-day he was again at his post, and it was evident he had taken considerable pains to organize the order of proceedings. The service was a very pleasant and inspiring one, though, at the same time, congregational. At 10.30 the clergy, preceded by the surpliced choir, entered the church in procession and took their places: near the chancel,