ROGER'S NEW STATUE OF RUTH.

A traveller, who was largely privileged to view this statue in the artist's studio, at Rome, says, nothing can exceed the poetic beauty of the design, which is at once original and appropriate to the subject; and in gracefulness, simplicity, and ease of outline, and general harmony of expression, it is truly worthy of that beautiful passage in the Scripture upon which it is founded. Ruth has been a favorite subject with poets and artists from time immemorial, yet, like Truth itself, she ever sheds a refreshing and purifying influence upon the heart. Mr. Rogers has seized upon a most interesting point in the Scriptural narrative, when she is supposed to be rising from the field in which she has been gleaning in the presence of Boaz, who, attracted by her beauty, has approached the spot. The expression of her countenance is indescribably attractive; modest, yet full of gentle confidence; dignified, yet childlike in its innocence; breathing the saddened spirit of a pure and fervent nature which has suffered yet never repined. The hair falls in long natural masses over a neck and shoulders of exquisite form and delicacy. In one hand rests a few ears of wheat, and the other seems timidly arrested over the scattered stems, as if she had hesitated in the continuance of her task before the great Boaz. One knee is still upon the ground, and the other slanting as if in the act of rising; a loose robe falls over the left shoulder, and the folds of a cincture cover the lower portion of the figure, leaving the outline distinctly and beautifully developed. So light and graceful is the drapery, and so perfectly appropriate and natural, that the wonder seems to be how the artist ever succeeded in throwing such a flowing fabric over it at all; and still more, without concealing in any degree the exquisite beauty of the limbs and soft contour of the form. But it is impossible to convey any idea of the beauties of this fine work in a few hurried lines. It is understood to be already purchased by Mr. Dudley Selden, of New York, from whose well-known taste and liberality the public will no doubt derive the opportunity of seeing the work on its arrival in the United States.

Agriculture.

FLAX CULTURE.

The discoveries which have been recently made and are still improving, in the adaptation of spinning machinery to the manufacture of flax, have brought the consideration of its cultivation before the attention of the farmers generally, and it is not a little satisfactory to know that the subject is taken up with spirit in our own province. Whether flax may ever be brought to compete with cotton manufacture can only be determined by time; but all information that can be given concerning it is of importance to the farmer, who, from the poor return which his wheat crop affords may be induced to divert his energies into a different channel. In Belgium and in the North of France, where great attention is bestowed on the cultivation of flax, preference is given to sound, dry, deep, loam, with a clay subsoil. Light clays and alluvial soils, under proper management, will do well; but light, sandy, or gravelly soils, and strong undrained clays, are to be avoided. In fact, in all cases where a good crop of flax is expected, the land should be thoroughly drained, and subsoiled. It must also be deep as the roots of the flax will penetrate as much as two feet under the surface. The most important point to be attained in the cultivation of flax is the proper preparation of the land, by a thorough pulverization of the soil, eradication of weeds, and complete drainage. Land intended for this crop should be ploughed deep in autumn, as soon as the crop has been removed, allowed to remain in this state all winter, and harrowed well in early spring, when all the weeds which have been brought to the surface should be carefully removed from the field. Flax requires wide rotation, as it has been judged advisable not to grow it on the same ground more than once in eight or ten years, and it should not in any case come after potatoes or other green crops, as the fibres will be course, and the stalks uneven in consequence of the manure not being perfectly incorporated with the soil. Liebig, by an analysis, shows that flax is composed of the following materials:

	Flax as it grows.	Hemp stem.	Leaves.
Carbon	38·72	39·94	40·50
Hydrogen	7·33	6·06	5·98
Nitrogen	0·56	1·71	1·82
Oxygen	48·39	48·72	29·70
Ashes	5·0	4·54	22·0
	100	100	100

When flax is steeped, and evaporated, the extract or residue consists of

	Flax.	Hemp.
Carbon	30·69	28·28
Hydrogen	4·24	4·16
Nitrogen	2·21	3·23
Oxygen	20·83	15·06
Ashes	42·01	49·08
	100	100

DESTROYING TURNIP CATERPILLAR.

One of the most remarkable of the agricultural incidents of the present season has been the sudden appearance of the turnip caterpillar over the whole Island, and the havoc which it has made on one of our most valuable crops. It is impossible to say how far the general crop may be affected, but it is certain that the loss on particular farms has been very great. It seems that Mr. Bruce, who resides in the south of Ireland, has suffered severely, but can still look forward to a similar visitation with comparative indifference, as he intends to starve the insects out by pulling up the Swedes as soon as they make their appearance, and then sowing Purple-top Yellow in their place; but as he justly observes, this remedy will only be applicable when late sowing can be practised. He relates a curious instance of this devouring scourge eating the Purple-top turnips at the rate of 11 to 12 yards a day across the drills in a field, where they cleared the ground before them as they issued from the side where mangold was growing. In this particular case we think that these voracious devourers might have been met on their own ground by their natural enemies with great effect. For our own part we would rather recommend turnip growers to be prepared next season with an army of very useful and apparently most efficient antagonists, than to deprive the caterpillar of the means of existence, for the first chance of a turnip crop is always the best one. We would advise a trial of the same means which were used by the late Lord Leicester in 1784, to clear his turnip field of the pest. In the second volume of the "Annals of Agriculture," Arthur Young writes, "Mr. Coke having heard that ducks had been used in small patches of turnips in gardens to eat the caterpillar, called the black canker, determined, on a field of thirty acres of turnips being attacked by that pernicious animal, to try how far they might be depended upon on a large scale. He ordered his bailiff to buy all the ducks he could get, who presently collected four hundred. On the 16th of July they were turned into the thirty-three acres, having water at one corner of the field, and in five days they cleared the whole most completely, marching at last through the field on the hunt, erring the leaves on both sides with great care to devour every one they could see, and filling their crops several times a day. The ducks having saved above £60 worth of turnips, were sent to the poultry yards. We should imagine ducks might be allowed fifteen days for doing this work, in which case four hundred ducks would secure one hundred acres. Upon such a proportion twenty or thirty might be employed on a small farm to great effect.—*Agricultural Gazette.*

SALT FOR ANIMALS.

Prof. Simonds Veterinary Inspector of the Royal Agricultural Society, observes; in relation to the action of salt on the animal economy; that it is exceedingly beneficial in moderate quantities, but prejudicial in large ones." He thought horses might take with advantage from an ounce and a half to two ounces of salt, daily, but excess of it would render the animals weak, debilitated, and unfit for exertion. Similar facts were applicable also to oxen, who accumulated flesh faster by the judicious use of salt than without it. He cited Arthur Young and Sir John Sinclair, to show that salt, had a tendency to prevent the rot in sheep. Prof. S. added as his own opinion that salt, by its action on the liver, and the supply of soda it yielded the bile, led to a greater amount of nutriment being derived from the food. The substance, he said, was also well known as a vermifuge, destroying many kinds of worms in the intestines of animals, and conferring a healthy tone of action, which prevented their re-occurrence. Several members of the R. A. Society as Col. Challonar, and Mr. Fisher Hobbs, stated that their experience led them to agree with Prof. Simonds, in regard to the value of salt for animals. In reference to the mode of giving it, the practice of placing large lumps of rock salt in fields or yards, where it was always accessible to the stock, was mentioned with approbation. This practice is now adopted by many farmers in this country, and after several years trial is preferred to the former mode of giving salt periodically. When animals are allowed to have salt once or twice a week, it is sometimes the case that they eat too much at once, but by having it constantly in their reach, they eat such quantities as their systems require and it assists digestion, and promotes health and thrift.—*Cultivator.*

Natural History.

COCHINEAL.

How few comparatively, in the hurried pursuit of the aims of life, pause to reflect how much they are indebted to the tiny insect world for many of the comforts, enjoyments, and luxuries of life. All profess to know that to the bee we are indebted, not less for an example of industry than for that luscious substance, which cannot be too highly prized for its medicinal qualities, and that from the silk-worm we receive material for the richest and most elegant articles of dress. But amongst the many insects that minister to our necessities, perhaps none are less known, and at the same time of more importance in a commercial point of view than the Cochineal. From the appearance which these insects present when thrown together in large quantities, has arisen the popular belief, that it is a vegetable production cultivated in tropical climates, as it has the appearance of small grain. But the Cochineal of commerce consists of the dead bodies of inconceivable numbers of small insects. Cochineal is