

CANADIAN VESPER BELLS.

It is vesper hour; and a stillness deep
Doth fall with the evening dew;
And the sunset gleam, with its golden beam,
Is tingling the mountains blue;
And the mild moon's ray, o'er the dying day,
On the river cloudlet dwells—
She cometh again, with her starry train,
To 'list to the vesper bells.

O'er the heathery slope and the blue sea-bay
The homely sweetly ring—
To the downy mead and the forest fair
A mystical music it brings,
And the moss-grown cask and the birch-thrill,
While the liquid measure tells
The holy calm and the freshening balm
Of Canada's vesper bells.

They ring far away o'er the cavern cliffs,
And on the Atlantic fall,
And fishermen bold, while they ply for gold,
A wait for the vesper call.
O'er rapids and lake, through valley and brake—
Through all the Laurentian range,
Where the Saguenay sweeps, and the Ottawa
Are heard our Canadian bells.

O'er Red River's pass, Saskatchewan's vale,
They blend on the evening air,
And Assiniboine hears, with straining ears,
The voice of their chiming rare;
And, sweeping along the torrents strong,
Through the Cascades granite cells,
They die on the breast of Pacific blue—
Our rhythmic vesper bells.

JAMES JOSEPH GAHAN.

AGRICULTURE.

The Best Breeds.

Under the above heading, *The Prairie Farmer* gives a very suggestive article from which we extract such parts as will prove useful here, as well as in the West. We are afraid that several of our own breeders still think that they can have a single breed which will excel in both production—excellent beef and plenty of rich milk. This is not possible, as the perfect adaptability to one necessarily precludes the other. This is self-evident to any one who compares attentively the shape and form of the better animals in either class.

It would therefore appear to us more rational to keep two distinct breeds on the farm, wherever the production of the best beef as well as of rich milk, in quantity, are aimed at. It is very true that some strains of Short-horns will produce both meat and milk—in pretty large quantities too; but the question is whether they can produce either as economically as would special breeds.

It must not be forgotten that the whole of the efforts of the best breeders, for a century and more, have tended to bring out the meat-producing points in meat animals, and the milk-producing in dairy cattle. In order to unite these points again in the same animal the work of a century of careful experimenting must be undone, and then the result must necessarily be a retrograde movement.

THE BEST BREEDS.—Who knows what they are? Not those who believe that an animal may combine perfect qualities with great flow of milk, producing large quantities of both cheese and butter, and when unit for milking, turn out a maximum quality of first class beef, especially in the prime joints. That is a vain hope, the round, and the roasting pieces. The beef animal is entirely different in its make up from those adapted to the dairy purposes: several distinct breeds have entirely distinct characteristics. Thus Jerseys are noted for the richness of their milk, well adapted to butter-making. The Holstein for the large flow of good milk adapted to cheese-making. The first is a small breed, the other a large one, and it must be confessed that the latter come nearer to making a good weight of fair beef than any other dairy breed. The Ayrshires are medium in size, and give a good flow of fairly rich milk. The Jerseys will do well on rich hill pastures, so will the Ayrshires. The Holsteins do best on flush pastures. Hence their rising popularity in the West.

Of beef breeds many families of Short-horns, among them notably some of the "seventeens,"—that is, descendants of the American importation of 1817—are deep milkers, are also excellent and heavy beef animals, but do not mature quite so quickly as some of the more fashionable modern families. Among the Duchesses are good milkers, but the Short-horn as a class, are not milking animals, nor can they be made so except at a loss of essential beef points. Whether the Short-horns be wanted for milk, beef, or both, they require flush pastures, and plenty of it, and good shelter in winter.

The Herefords are essentially beef cattle. They do not mature so early as the Short-horns, but so far as we have seen, open better. That is they are very superior for the butcher's block. Heavy muscular cattle, with plenty of meat in the prime parts. The Devons are the best butcher's cattle so far as quality of beef is concerned, of any of the improved breeds. First class butchers will pay a higher price, for a ripe, well fattened Devon steer than for any other of our first class breeds. In England only one class of cattle bring more in the Smithfield market; that is the Scotch or West Highland cattle—or rather "Scotch polled, and West Highland cattle."

About Turkeys.

Fanny Field, writing in the *Prairie Farmer*, gives the following interesting advice and experience in the raising of turkeys:

The cold rains during the month of May and fore part of June wrought sad havoc among the young turkeys. I know of several flocks of forty or more that have dwindled down to less than a dozen. I have been very fortunate with mine, and of course I feel like crowing over my success. From seventy-two eggs I had sixty-seven young turkeys; a thievish cat gobbled two of them, but I have lost none from exposure to cold and damp. One day I was caught napping, and my turkeys were caught in the rain. I didn't wait for the rain to cease, but I donned my waterproof and rubber boots, and, assisted by the hired man, drove the mother hens to the shelter of their respective coops. Part of the young turkeys were well feathered up, and consequently were out of harm's way, so I did not trouble myself about them further than to give them a good warm feed with a sprinkling of red pepper in it; but seventeen of the youngest were pretty thoroughly soaked. "Past all hope of resurrection," said the hired man as he carried the chilled turkeys into the kitchen, and life did seem to be almost extinct in most of them; but I resolved to experiment on them. I put a piece of comfort on the bottom of the stove oven, laid my turkeys on it, covered them with a piece of an old wool blanket, partly closed the oven door, stirred up the fire and waited. In a short time there was a commotion under the blanket; I lifted it and three little turkeys hopped out on the floor apparently as well as ever; the rest were kicking and gasping as if they were getting their moribund agents to extort from their wretched tenantry. For signs to the country as they are, they are in no dread of Irish public opinion, for how can they be reached by the public opinion of Ireland?

The agrarian policy of the Irish party is also that of the bishops, the priests, the municipal bodies of Ireland. Protestants as well as Catholics join in the demand for a reform. The manufacturers of Ireland were long ago destroyed by the commercial jealousy of England. Agriculture is left the sole resource of the Irish people. At the same time most of the landed proprietors are strangers to the country, the heirs of the spoliation of times of persecution and confiscation. They squander in Ireland the rents which they get their mercenary agents to extort from their wretched tenantry. Foreigners to the country as they are, they are in no dread of Irish public opinion, for how can they be reached by the public opinion of Ireland?

These evils can no longer be endured. After having for three-quarters of a century seen the country stripped of its annual revenues without any return, after frequent famines, and in the continual presence of the misery of the agricultural population, we find ourselves obliged to demand, by every con-

stitutional means, the termination of this frightful condition of things. The tenantry of Ireland must be defended against the three forms of arbitrary wrong which compose the monstrous wrong of the Irish agrarian situation.

1. We must have an end put to the arbitrary eviction of the cultivator at the caprice of landlord or agent.

2. We must have an end put to the arbitrary increase of rent beyond the just means of the cultivator.

3. We must have an end put to the arbitrary confiscation of the result of the skill and industry of the cultivator.

We demand that the law shall allow the tenants to become proprietors.

In order to prevent every approach of injustice, we demand the establishment of legal tribunals of arbitration to decide the disputes that may arise.

This is our programme, and here again the Irish party pursues a strictly conservative policy. For it is clear to all who have studied social questions that in seeking to confer upon the Irish agriculturist a fixed and staple interest in the soil we tend to deliver him from that system of chance and security which is the natural parent of discontent and revolution.

Of course, sir, there may happen, as in every popular movement, incidents from time to time capable of being misinterpreted by malevolence and of being misunderstood by the honest and well disposed. We do not desire, however, to enter now upon the discussion of controversial matters in your impartial journal. We are confident that upon every debated point the verdict of public opinion and of the legal tribunals will decisively dispose of the calumnies circulated against the Irish party. Meantime, we expect with confidence that the French nation, our ally in religion and race, will watch—we do not ask with favor, but with calm justice—the efforts of a people which still remembers with pride to-day that between the years 1690 and 1789 five hundred thousand of its sons have fallen upon the field of honor in the Irish Brigade of old France.

Signed on behalf of the Irish deputations.

FRANK HUGH O'DONNELL,
Irish Member of Parliament.

R. J. JENNEY DE LAVER SHER, Barrister-at-law.

THE IRISH RELIEF FUND.

How the Funds are Distributed—Party and Religious Spirit—The Work of the National or Central Relief Committee.

DUBLIN, Jan. 10, 1880

The papers in all parts of the country are full of paragraphs referring to the distress experienced in several Western districts. The *Freeman's Journal* of this morning has four columns full of those short paragraphs, reporting the state of different localities and the efforts which are being locally made to meet the pressure. In many of the distressed districts local committees have been formed, rather to direct the distribution of relief funds which may be received from other quarters than with the expectation of being able to raise any local funds themselves. The formation of these committees, and the relation which they will bear to the two Dublin organizations—the Duchess of Marlborough's committee and the National Relief Committee presided over by Lord Mayor Gray—illustrate in an unhappy manner the sectional jealousies which distract unfortunate Ireland. Wherever a committee is formed at a local public meeting we find the priest, the mayor and the chief townspeople among the members. But where the local committee has been nominated by the friends and associates of the Duchess of Marlborough it is small in numbers, is composed of magistrates, landowners and other members of "the better classes," and the clergyman of the neighborhood. Seeing that almost all, if not quite all, the really distressed people are Roman Catholics, it is essential that the priest shall have a chief share in the distribution of any relief funds. He knows the destitute far more surely than any one else; he is the most likely man to be impartial, and, on the other hand, the poor people will have greater confidence in him than in any one else. He is in his right place at the head of a local committee. But he will hardly feel at home, or even in a position to effect much good on a committee mainly composed of Connaught magistrates and their friends. The antagonism between the priests and the bulk of the landlord class in Connaught is too deep and of too long standing to admit of an easy amalgamation of the two elements.

EACH FOR HIMSELF.

Here is an illustration of this state of things. The neighborhood of Clifden, in the extreme west of Galway, is always one which suffers deeply in all seasons of privation. When the Duchess of Marlborough's Dublin committee got into working order the parish priest of Clifden, a celebrated man, Dean McManus, wrote asking for help for his people. He received a very stiff official reply from the secretary, referring him to a local personage under whose auspices a local committee was being formed. The Dean was told that if he laid each case before the committee it would be carefully examined and relief granted when judged proper. Now the matter is a very simple one. The Dean is a man of good sense and is competent to judge of true destitution. In Clifden as in Dean MacManus, and in no one would the needy have anything like the same confidence. But Clifden is pre-eminently a place for cross purposes. The missionaries of the society which seeks to turn Irish Papists into Protestants have adopted the Clifden district as a special hunting ground. They are reported to use such unapostolic methods as giving food, raiment, house accommodation and even hard cash as inducements to wavering converts to make up their minds. It is interesting in this business as to find a man's clearness of intuition as to so knotty a point as his own "election" and the firmness of his assurance of salvation to be made dependent on the "condition antecedent" of the weekly allowance of meat for his family and amount of his weekly stipend for appearing on Sundays in the Mission Church. But these things are among the curiosities connected with the "Irish Church missions to Roman Catholics." Any unprejudiced persons will see, however, that missionary enterprise of this kind must be irritating to the Roman Catholic clergy of the district and their more zealous adherents. And, as a matter of fact, Clifden and its neighborhood has always been in hot water from sectarian squabbles. When the priest asking for aid for his destitute people is referred to a committee, some of whom, at least, sympathize with the anti-Popery missionaries, we may be sure that he and his people will feel such a reply as little short of an affront, and will look with deep suspicion on any distribution of funds through such an agency.

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF.

There is yet another point. It is believed that the funds which the Duchess of Marlborough's committee will dispose of will be

applied to the relief of only such distressed persons as are virtuous and well conducted. Refusal to pay rent would be a peremptory disqualification, however pressing otherwise might be the destitution. This may be a groundless surmise. But it is widely entertained. Thus there are two objections in the popular mind against the organization which is being carried out under the name of the Duchess of Marlborough. There is, first, the fear that the benefits of its funds will be confined exclusively to those who pay their rent and are otherwise peaceable and orderly in the sense in which such epithets are understood by the governing class; and, second, the suspicion that partiality will be shown in the distribution, and that the sympathizers with the proselytizing agencies will manage indirectly to divert some of the money into those channels. It is not likely that any genuine foundation for this popular distrust exists. But the bare existence of some of its utility, and is evidence of the singular watchfulness which has to be used in Ireland wherever there may be fear of arousing religious or political susceptibilities. Such watchfulness has certainly been shown hitherto in everything connected with the proceedings of Lord Mayor Gray's relief fund. Men of all parties are on its committees—Catholics, Protestants and those most philanthropic people, the Quakers, are equally associated in all its actions. It remains to be seen how the large funds which, the cable informs us, are coming from America through Mr. Parnell will be administered. There are many very thoughtful persons in Ireland who will presume to doubt that so thoroughly one-sided an organization as the Irish Land League is a suitable body for administering a relief. Can its agents be impartial? Will they not see special merit in the man who had been evicted for non-payment of rent? and will they not look coldly on the misery of the mean spirited creature who satisfied the demands of his landlord? Unhappy Ireland is a country which has scanty experience of impartial dealing, whether at the hands of her own sons or rulers.—*N. Y. Herald.*

British Grain Trade.

The *Mark Lane Express*, in its review of the British grain trade for the past week, says:—The farmers have made up a good portion of their lost time as regards wheat sowing, out since Wednesday the renewal of wintry weather has again caused some check. The quantity and condition of the homegrown wheat offered in Mark Lane and the provincial markets is not improved; consequently millers almost totally neglect samples, and in the very few cases where decent samples were offered, sales were only practicable at a decline of 1s per quarter. The imports of foreign wheat were again moderate, and have mostly gone into granary, as the consumptive demand has been very inanimate, lack of confidence becoming apparent in the trade. Stocks are increasing not only in London but in Marseilles and Bordeaux. While the quantity of wheat afloat still exceeds 2,200,000 quarters, and while a further decline in New York augurs unfavorably for the success of American speculation for a rise, the presence of important stocks in French ports is sufficiently significant, as the action of France was counted upon to relieve Great Britain of a fair proportion of the supply on passage. The rapid and marked decline in maize of 3s in three weeks is owing to a scare as to the shipments America can and may make. According to present appearances, America has quite enough to do to manage its wheat, so that there should be plenty of time to recover the decline in maize, which was brought about principally by timidity. The arrivals at ports of call have been moderate. There was a fair business in wheat cargoes at a decline of 6d to 1s per qr on red winter and spring American, and 1s to 1s 6d per qr on Ghika descriptions. Maize sold steadily at barely last week's prices. There was little demand for wheat for shipment, though sellers were more inclined to meet buyers' views. There was a moderate inquiry for maize and barley at a decline of 6d to 9d per qr. The sales of English wheat last week were 32,871 qrs at 45s 11d, against 52,141 qrs at 38s 11d for the corresponding week of the previous year. The imports into the United Kingdom for the week ending January 10 were 855,287 cwt of wheat and 215,841 cwt of flour.

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