

HOME-MADE BRICKS.

The following is the process of making the bricks which are much used in Norfolk for building cottages, walls, and farm buildings, on account of their cheapness. The first process is to dig the clay or brick-earth as free from stones as possible, and put one load of sand or road scraping to two loads clay; a quantity of water is required in mixing, which is done by treading of horses; some short straw being evenly thrown in during the process of treading, as much as can conveniently be trodden in is required. This prevents the bricks from cracking as they dry. As soon as sufficiently dry to bear turning, they should be set on one edge, and kept frequently turned that they may dry evenly. They may be made any size. They are usually made two feet long, ten or eleven inches wide, and nine inches thick. They are made in a mould the same as common brick in the place they are to remain till dry. The ground they are made on, should be quite even and smooth, and lightly covered over with sand. The mould is placed on the ground and the earth put in to form the brick, after which the mould is taken away and the brick is left to dry. In building with them, brick earth, with a little lime may be used instead of common mortar. The expense of digging, treading, and making, is from seven shillings to eight shillings per hundred, exclusive of carting and horse labour. The width of the brick may vary according to the strength of the wall required. For instance—nine inches wide is sufficient for a cottage—and twelve to fourteen inches wide for a barn. One hundred of these bricks, nine inches thick, ten or twelve wide, and two feet long, are equal to about 1,500 common bricks, and they cost from eight to ten shillings the hundred; the common bricks four shillings the hundred. To insure the buildings great permanency, it would perhaps be best to build a foundation of common bricks or stone, five or six inches out of the ground, and to give the home-made bricks a coating of coal-tar, or other similar substance.—*English paper.*

BRICKMAKING MACHINE.—The foreign papers lately mentioned a mechanical apparatus invented by M. Janquet, for the manufacture of bricks. This machine is finished, and the results are not less important than was calculated. The following explanation will convey but an imperfect idea of them. It is ascertained that according to the usual method, ten men can only manufacture 8000 bricks a day; while the apparatus of M. Janquet, put into operation by merely turning the handle of a machine, and with the help of ten men, can manufacture according to the extent of the ground, from twenty, thirty, to forty thousand bricks in a day of twelve hours length. In addition to this, the bricks possess the advantage of being perfectly even.—*Mark Lane Express.*

In the war with Hyder Ali, Sultan of Mysore, Colonel Wood, who commanded the British forces, found it impossible to bring him to a pitched battle, so great was the rapidity and secrecy of his movements. At length, Colonel Wood wrote him a letter stating—"That it was disgraceful for a great prince, at the head of a large army, to fly before a detachment of infantry and a few pieces of cannon, unsupported by cavalry." Hyder returned the following reply:—"I have received your letter in which you invite me to an action with your army. Give me the same sort of troops that you command, and your wishes shall be accomplished. You will in time come to under-

stand my mode of warfare. Shall I risk my cavalry, which cost a thousand rupees each horse, against your cannon-balls, which cost two pence! No! I will march your troops until their legs shall become the size of their bodies—you shall not have a blade of grass, nor a drop of water. I will hear of you every time your drum beats, but you shall not know where I am a month. I will give your army battle, but it must be when I please; not when you please."

He is a public benefactor who, by the prudent and skilful outlay of his money in bettering its condition, shall make a single field yield permanently a double crop: and he who does this over a square mile, virtually adds a square mile to the national territory—may, he does more, he doubles to this extent the territorial resources of the country, without giving the state any larger actual area to defend. All hail, then, to the improvers of the soil! health and long life be their fortune—may their hearts be light and their purses heavy—may their dreams be few and pleasant, and their sleep the sweet repose of the weary—may they see the fruits of their own labour, and may their sons reap still heavier harvests.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

In a pamphlet, lately published by Prof. Johnston, of the University of Durham, on agricultural improvement, he observes:—

"I would not, on this point, affirm what is not consistent with my own personal knowledge; but I would suggest to the consideration of such of my agricultural readers as know better than I do, the actual condition of their own class, whether the respective grades attached to the art of agriculture as well trained and as specially instructed for their several occupations, as those who are employed in the mechanical and manufacturing arts—whether the foreman or superintendent in each line are equally conversant with their own special branches—whether the land owner has anything like the same knowledge of the art by which he lives, as the master spinner, or manufacturer, or calico printer, who derives an income from his trade—whether he can, with equal skill, direct and regulate the application of his capital, or discover as easily the management of his subordinates."

The further argument of the author is, that were this special instruction more generally given, the application of science would then be more generally and more skilfully made, and the progress of the art of culture in consequence, much accelerated. The author again, after some observations on the lifeless state of most of the Agricultural Societies for the greater part of the year, and the generally exclusive direction of their efforts and funds to the encouragement of stock, gives the following summary of the objects they ought fairly to contemplate, and the same objects should occupy the attention of the Agricultural Societies of British America:—

"Such Societies have much in their power. They can indicate those parts of their district in which improvement is most required; they can show how such improvement may be best and most economically effected; they can use their influence for the introduction of a better rotation, for the abolition of the old universally diffused three-course system which still lingers in thousands of our most improvable acres—they cannot more fully recommend; they can urge

and press upon both landlord and tenant the necessity of draining—they can publish and encourage the best and most economical methods of doing it—they can stimulate to a higher style of general farming, and to the growth of better crops of corn, in hitherto unproductive localities, or of new kinds of crops, or of new varieties better suited to the soil and climate—they can suggest experiments—they can expose deficiencies in the ordinary practice of preparing manures, and illustrate the advantages to be derived from a more judicious or careful management, or from the introduction of new manures altogether. They have many opportunities also of directly diffusing information—they can circulate agricultural tracts—they can encourage farmers clubs—and they can co-operate in endeavouring to secure a better education for all. These, and many other objects are within their reach, as they are within their legitimate province—and all this, without withholding from the encouragement of stock that due share of attention, which its relative importance demands."

Were our Agricultural Societies to act upon these suggestions, there cannot exist a doubt that they would produce the profitable improvement of agriculture in British America. When the efforts and funds of such societies are principally directed to the encouragement of stock, it is only a few of the most wealthy, and favourably circumstanced farmers, who participate in the benefit derived from them, while those who most require instruction and encouragement are altogether neglected. If the land was better drained, and a more judicious system of agriculture, and rotation of crops introduced generally, we would be sure to have an improved stock of cattle and sheep.—Without a good system of husbandry, and good crops and pastures, it is impossible we can have good stock.

CHEAP FOOD.—We tell the people that those who harangue on the facility of plundering the farmer, take the direct opposite of the way to the comfort of the artizan: that plenty consists not in the penury of the grower of food, but in the wealth of the purchaser; and that if the loaf were raised at this moment to five shillings, and the artizan's power of paying for it to ten, the country would be in five times a higher state of prosperity, than with a shilling loaf and a two shilling customer.—*Blackwood.*

THE THISTLE.—The thistle is a biennial plant, and consequently if the seed of every thistle on a farm were to be kept from ripening for two years, the whole race would be eradicated. It would pay well, therefore, in pastures, to employ an old man and boy during the month of June; one to cut off the thistles just below the crown of the root, and the other to place a tablespoonful of common salt on the root, which is thus destroyed at one operation, before the seed has been ripened or scattered abroad. If the same expense were generally incurred in destroying thistles, the mischief of which plant is almost incurable, as in catching moles, which do probably no more mischief than is balanced by their usefulness, thistles would soon be as scarce as moles. To effect this, however, there must be no thistles left in the hedgerows or on roadsides to scatter their baneful seeds over the neighbouring land.