

HURON SIGNAL

TEN SHILLINGS IN ADVANCE.

"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

TWELVE AND SIX PENCE AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

VOLUME III.

GODERICH, COUNTY OF HURON, (C. W.) THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1850.

NUMBER XIV.

Poetry.

WHAT IS LIFE?

BY JANE TAYLOR.

Life is a path that leads
From time and earth away;
At first, through flowery meads,
With prospects green, and gay,
Then climbing many a rugged height
Over steeple hills, it goes from sight.
Life is a little flower,
Put forth in early spring,
Within the sheltering bower
In heavy blossoming,
Ere long some blight across it dies,
Or, in the winter storm, it lies.
Life is a sparkling stream,
Through pleasant pastures led;
But when the mountain's beam
Falls holy on its bed,
Perchance, before it gains the sea,
It dries away quite suddenly.
Life is a slender thread,
Like filmy gossamer,
That floats overhead,
The slightest breath may stir.
The waving bough—the autumn wind—
But moves—and who the thread shall find?
Life is a race to run,
And heaven the distant prize;
By few the crown is won,
For few are truly wise.
The things of this short life they choose:
The endless life of heaven—refuse!

AGRICULTURE.

WORK TO BE DONE.

We propose to offer a few practical suggestions to our Agricultural readers in addition to those contained in the last number.

The season, contrary to general expectation a few weeks since, promises to be a late one. At the time we are writing (April 18) scarcely any of the characteristics of spring are visible; vegetation has not awakened from its wintry slumber, and the severe frosts which we have experienced for some time past, with the frozen drifts of snow in the more backward and elevated situations, have prevented the all important operations of the plough. The sudden freshet experienced in the beginning of this month throughout this Province has not only done immense damage to bridges, roads and other public and private works; but in many cases it must have been greatly injurious to farmers, who will have their energies taxed to their utmost when the season for active operations fully arrives.

Before this sheet reaches our readers we hope to experience a more genial temperature, and that the man operations of the farm, such as ploughing and sowing will have fairly commenced. In such a season as the present, when the ordinary horse-power on most farms, is very inadequate to immediate and pressing wants,—every thing relative to the preparation of the soil and sowing the seed, having to be done in so short a time, what an advantage would it be to farmers, of any considerable extent to possess that invaluable and economical implement, the *Cultivator*. By this we do not mean that the convenient implement usually termed a horse-hoe, which is so admirably adapted for the cultivation of growing crops planted in rows, but something approaching the large and heavy implement known in the old country as grubbers or cultivators, requiring the draft of three or four horses. Such an implement would thoroughly pulverize even the heaviest clays, to the depth of ten or twelve inches, and still deeper if desired, and several acres could be gone over in a single day. Thus a deep land bed might be readily obtained, which is an important object in this climate for all kinds of crops, and one that we might say is essential to the success of root culture. Heavy soils ploughed in the fall, and so drained or furrowed as not to allow of the stagnation of water, are immensely benefited by exposure and frost, and a good cultivator will easily bring them into a fine and deep till for spring crops, without an additional ploughing. Light sandy soils are in general but little benefited by fall ploughing, an operation that may be deferred, without any serious disadvantage till Spring.

What that is this and weakly soil receive as soon as vegetation becomes active, a top-dressing of manure; wood ashes and soot, with a portion of gypsum are recommended. Potash, soda (Nitrates) and Guano are used in the old countries with great advantage; but the price of these articles precludes their general use, at least for the present, in this country. We are of opinion, however, that an occasional application of artificial manures for special purposes,—as when a crop is immediately want of one or two ingredients essential to its growth will even in Canada, frequently pay expense and bear a profit.

In the selection and application of these kind of manures, however, both experience and some degree even of scientific knowledge are necessary. When a top-dressing is given to wheat, and clover is sown, a slight harrowing is much to be recommended, finished by the application of the roller. Harrowing wheat when done with judgment

and care is a beneficial practice, whether seeds or manure are sown or not.

The preparation of the land for Potatoes and other root crops must be proceeded with without delay, as it is of importance that most kinds of vegetables should be sown in good season. Although the potatoes is yet far from being restored to its former healthy condition, and the cause of its disease continues wrapped in obscurity, still extended observation and scientific investigation, have suggested several valuable and practical hints to the cultivator of this important vegetable. In all countries, and with all varieties, early planting has been found beneficial; the late crops having suffered the most from the ravages of disease. We should consider it hazardous to recommend our readers to enter upon an extensive cultivation of this very uncertain plant; yet by the prudential observance of a few simple conditions upon a comparative small scale, a tolerable degree of success may be, in most instances, realized. Select healthy tubers, plant early in a soil that is dry and well cultivated, and moderately rich in organic substances.—Strong animal manures should not be applied, at least but very sparingly; lime or wood ashes, would be far preferable.

The ground for Barley requires to be of good natural fertility, or well manured, and should receive the best cultivation. Drilling the seed, or ribbing, will be found advantageous with this as with most other kinds of grain. From two and a half to three bushels of seed to the acre, provided it be clean and good, will be sufficient, and should be sown as early as possible, but not exposed to the risk of frost.

Such varieties of Indian Corn as are suited to the northern climate might be more extensively cultivated with advantage both for grain and fodder. The land for this crop should be dry, warm and rich; and the cultivation liberal. It is useless to attempt to grow maize on cold backward soils; but much of our rich, wet land abounding in organic matter might be thoroughly drained, be profitably brought under the culture of this crop. It is an excellent plan as soon as the corn has made their appearance to sprinkle a little stimulating manure over the hill, such as gypsum, ashes, &c., with a view to push forward the young plants at this early stage beyond the depredations of insects, and thereby also, ensuring an earlier harvest; which is an object in our climate of the very greatest importance.

As to Turnips, Mangold Wurzel, Carrots, &c. all that we can now say is, that no prudential farmer ought to be without them. In these matters we recommend a thorough and liberal cultivation on a small scale, as much safer and more profitable, than an imperfect and slovenly treatment of a large breadth. One acre in root crops well managed, will yield a larger produce than twelve that extend, under the treatment that is commonly practiced.

As the season is now far advanced, those of our readers who are anxious to secure a liberal store of food, both in hay and roots for carrying their stock through the next winter, must not lose a single moment in completing the necessary preparations.—Meadows left in good condition by liberal seeding and manuring, and suitable soil selected for root crops subjected to a system of efficient management, will generally enable the persevering farmer, notwithstanding the length and usual severity of our Canadian winters, to make ample provision for sustaining his live stock, in a comfortable and improving condition.—*Canadian Agriculturist.*

INTERESTING FROM CALIFORNIA.

Arrival of the Steamship Cherokee.—Revolution in Ecuador.—Arrival of the Steamship Tennessee at Panama.—Charges in ruins.—Extraordinary quick passage of the Cherokee, &c.

The steamship Cherokee, Captain Windle, has just arrived from Chagres after a very quick passage. She brings one month later news from all parts of the Pacific.

The advices from San Francisco are to the 1st of March.

The news is highly interesting.

The intelligence from California, was brought to Panama by the steamship Tennessee, Captain Patterson. She sailed from San Francisco on the evening of the 1st of March.

She brought to Panama 252 passengers and \$1,342,602 on freight, principally in Gold Dust, and at least \$1,000,000 in possession of the passengers.

The mails from California of the 1st March, received at Panama by the steamship Tennessee together with the Gold, were brought in charge of Mr. W. A. Bayley, who also brings despatches from Mr. Van Allen, Charge des Affaires at Ecuador, to our Secretary of State, announcing a revolution in that country.

On the night of the 23rd March, a very destructive fire occurred at Chagres, by which more than one half of the whole town was burned to the ground, and a large amount of property lost. It was supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

One of the passengers by the Tennessee brought down with him a lump of gold for which he was offered \$1,000. The fortunate finder of this lump had toiled without success for several months, when he was thus amply rewarded for his exertions.

The quantity of Gold Dust in the hands of the miners is large; and they were taking advantage of the improvement in the weather, to bring it down to San Francisco. The succeeding steamers, it is expected, will bring larger amounts than have yet been sent to the U. S.

It was quite healthy at San Francisco and Sacramento City, and as the mud was fast drying up, things were assuming a very active appearance.

The Steamers on the Rivers were doing a very profitable business, the Senator's passage and freight list, to and from Sacramento City, amounting at times to \$15,000 and occupying but two days. Coal was worth about \$30 per ton. Price of passage \$25; distance, 150 miles.

Lumber of all kinds was arriving in large quantities, and prices had materially declined in consequence.

Good lumber could be procured at \$85 per M, and forced sales have been made still lower.

UNITED STATES.

Congress is now five months in session, and a settlement of the great question that is now convulsing the country seems as far from settlement as ever. Slavery is destined to give the republic a severe shock—a shock that will rend it in twain. Some time back we expressed an opinion that either slavery must be erased from the statute book of the nation, or the nation itself be divided. Events that have since transpired, and are daily transpiring, strengthen that opinion. It was supposed at one time that the great contending parties would exhaust themselves, and so come to some amicable arrangement, but the wages forced and obstinately in the capitol. Neither party will yield one jot of its position. Slavery or dissolution is the watchword of the north. Freedom and national virtue. The South for national degradation and national immorality. Between parties holding such opposite views, and contending for such opposite principles, there can scarcely be any peace. Proposals for a compromise have been proposed and refused, but without producing any good result. No compromise will be listened to by the South that will deprive it of sending slaves to California. The gold country is looked upon by the southern as a rich field for slave labor. What untold wealth would accumulate for them had they the protection and sanction of law in introducing herds of slaves to work the mines. What a wide and extended field for the operation of slave institutions. But slavery is frowned upon by the Californians. They have declared that it shall not exist amongst them. They found the country free, and its soil, rich in the treasures of earth, unpolled by the tread of the slave, and as they found so they intend to preserve it. In this intention the freedom of the North determine to uphold them. The union is sacred sufficiently with having slavery within its borders, without extending it to a rich field for slave labor. 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