

mould, ferns, leaves, weeds (before their seeds are ripened), and such cold substances, may be advantageously intermixed with the fiery horse dung, to promote their fermentation, retard its own, and absorb the nutritious ingredients which may be formed, and this is not of trifling importance.

But it is more economical to plough dung into the soil (just before the crop is sown), especially if it be cold and cohesive, for the purposes of producing decay in the vegetable matter previously existing in it, and so helping to raise its temperature. By this method of using dung there is the least loss of its bulk and fertilizing elements. The nutritive powers of manures arise in the first place from their capability of generating heat, and in the second, from the readiness with which they part with their elements to the plants around them. Now, if manure, when applied to the soil, be in the commencement of putrefaction—that is, in the state in which it is beginning to part with its volatile elements—and if seeds or plants be so circumstanced as to seize upon these as they are given out, they are in the best position to attain perfection, with the least loss of manure to the farmer, because they have their food gradually and steadily afforded to them as they require it; and in order that this gradual supply may be so yielded, the state of the manure ought to be modified accordingly; that is, the putrefactive process must be quickened in some and retarded in others. As long as the process of putrefaction continues, so long will the supply of nourishment continue to be afforded by the manure.

But this process should be slowly performed; for if there were too quick a generation of the nutritive elements in the manure, the plants might be overpowered by them, and certainly there would be a loss of whatever portions the plants could not consume.

MARTIN DOYLE.

News.

A numerous meeting of clergymen and gentlemen was held at the Mutual Insurance Company Office, to consider what steps it is expedient to take in order to establish a House of Industry in this city.

The Roman Catholic Priest of Bytown, has sent the sum of £63 to a gentleman in this city, for the purpose of being transmitted to Ireland.

Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., have advanced the sum of £800,000 to the Bank of France.

The United Service Club has elected Prince Louis Napoleon a member, although the honour was unsolicited on his part.

Several successful surgical operations have been performed lately in Guy's Hospital, under the new process of inhalation of ether. The patients did not feel the least pain.

The Young Ireland party had a great demonstration in the Rotunda, on Wednesday night, when some two thousand persons were present. Mr. Smith O'Brien, Mr. Meagher, Mr. Mitchell, and other ardent politicians, spoke. The meeting appointed a numerous committee, styled "Council of the Irish Confederation." The new association is to go on, for the present, without asking for money from its supporters.

A resolution has been adopted by upwards of eighty ministers of different denominations in Glasgow, with a view to the discouraging of the serving of wine at funerals. The Town Council of Glasgow have unanimously agreed to lend their influence in favour of the measure. A similar movement is taking place in the north.

An "Irish landed proprietor," who is believed to be the Duke of Bedford, has forwarded to the general relief committee a subscription of one thousand pounds for that ill-fated locality, Skibbereen.

In at least three of the Irish counties at this moment the expenditure in providing employment for the poor is proceeding at a rate far exceeding the rental of all the county. In Clare, for instance, the expenditure is at the rate of £700,000 per annum, while the annual value of the whole property of the county is but £292,000.

The inmates of Morningside Asylum have recently formed an artificial pond in the grounds, and instituted a curling club among themselves. By the kindness of the Duddingston and Merchiston clubs, who have presented them with a number of curling stones, these unfortunates are now occasionally enjoying the pleasures of this exhilarating and ancient game.

The Directors of the Bank of England, at the weekly meeting on Thursday, resolved to advance the minimum rate of interest to 3½ per cent. for bills not having more than 95 days to run.

The number of Irish paupers now daily in receipt of food and soup at the parish-office, at Liverpool, is nearly 4000. This time last year there were about twenty-five recipients of the same class.

Out of 104 newspapers published in London, fifty seven, more than one half, are "Sunday" papers, many of them constantly pouring sedition and infidelity into the manufacturing districts.

Last week, Mr. Thomas Buttle got his release from Lancaster Castle, after having been confined there, as a debtor, fifteen years and two months. When he came out, he saw a railway train for the first time in his life.

From one of the tombs found among the ruins of the ancient Halicarnassus, lately, by the officers and crew of her Majesty's surveying vessel Bonetta, a coffin was extracted, containing two eggs, which, as far as external appearance goes, might easily be confounded with "newly laid" ones, though nearly 2000 years have elapsed since their interment.

The great scarcity of food is becoming every day more severely felt on the continent. In the markets of Odessa, Constantinople, and Alexandria, the English and French merchants are vying with each other, and the price of grain has become exorbitant. Two hundred millions of francs, it is calculated, will be required to supply France during the winter.

Information has just been received of a Circassian victory over the Russians, on the coast of Abassia. The engagement is said to have taken place at Karatoprek, on or about December 17, and cost the Russians 700 men. There has been severe fighting in Daghestan, on the other side of the Caucasus, and it is said the Russians have had 3000 men at once hors de combat.

In Portugal, the weakness of both parties is manifested. Das Antas cannot take the field; Saldanha can ill improve his victories; Donna Maria is said to be cross, peevish and startled at the arrival of every courier; the Junta of Oporto is making the best preparations it can for resisting the royal forces.

The Queen of Spain has conferred the order of Isabella the Catholic, founded in honour of the expulsion of the Moors and Jews from Spain, on a wealthy Hebrew, Baron Rothschild of Frankfort.

DOMINICA.—Our little town has, during the week, been thrown quite into a state of excitement by the immigration here from Maderia of 164 emigrants of the labouring class who were landed from the ships *Ealing*, *Grove* and *Regina*. This is the first experiment of the kind, and has been undertaken by several of the absentee proprietors of sugar estates here. They have been or to be located, we have understood, on the Canefield, Mac-coucherie, Point Round, and Castle Bruce estates.—*Dominican*, Dec. 23.

Dr. Lovell, a physician of London, and Mrs. Betts, a respectable inhabitant of Enfield, have been found guilty, by a Coroner's Jury, of manslaughter, for causing the death of Martha Hobbs, the woman's niece, by subjecting her to a course of hydropathic treatment.

The *Journal de la Haye* reports a volcanic eruption which took place on the Rhine, opposite Unkel, on the night of the 19th December. There was a subterranean noise, and then a mountain of fragments was upheaved to a height of nearly two hundred feet. By this phenomenon a large plain has been desolated, and a road has been elevated one hundred feet.

ARRIVAL OF EMANCIPATED AFRICANS.—The British ship *Indus*, Captain Cox, in thirty-four days from St. Helena, arrived at Port Royal on Tuesday last, with 340 Africans, captured from a slaver by her Majesty's brig *Water Witch*, eight guns, Commander Birch, on the coast of Africa, and sent to St. Helena, where the vessel was condemned, and the Africans were shipped on board the *Indus*, and sent to this island for the purpose of assisting in agriculture.—*Jamaica Morning Journal*, Nov. 19.

TRINIDAD.—IMMIGRATION.—We have pleasure in announcing a renewal of immigration from a most desirable quarter, but from whence we have recently derived little success. The *Arundel*, of London, arrived here yesterday, 27 days from St. Helena, with 100 captured Africans, all in good health.

That "it never rains but it pours," is a proverb almost peculiar to Trinidad. This morning the *City of Poona* made her appearance with 281 immigrants from Madras, passage 86 days.—*Port of Spain Gazette*.