

and inaugurating such extensions of our marine observations. Indeed, Europe is waiting for America to make the move in this matter. We may be permitted to make an extract bearing on the subject from a letter received by the writer, no longer ago than the beginning of the winter, from M. QUETELET—the Astronomer Royal of Belgium, the preceptor of Prince-Albert, and one of the most accomplished scientific men of the age.—QUETELET has done more for vegetable meteorology, perhaps, than any other man living; and, owing in no small degree to the scientific aid which he has rendered, and the skill which he has done so much to develop, Belgium is, perhaps, in a higher state of cultivation and agricultural improvement, than any other country in the world.

This letter is dated 10th Dec., 1856, and says:

“Happily, you are not of a character to hesitate, and you will do very wrong to abandon the enterprise of extending your meteorological system of research from sea to land, to England, to France, and to Russia. It is plainly necessary that it should proceed. This grand undertaking is entirely honorable, and your country should not lose the honor of having been the first to suggest it. There is a certain boldness and zeal necessary, which is better suited to a young country than to our old climates—nevertheless, we are not altogether to be disdained, and in many respects we may, by following, gain the palm. But real merit is in every age the same in individuals as in nations. In your proposition America has found a great idea, which should be altogether her own property, and should not be abandoned, because our continents wish to march in the same route but should be accomplished in a firm manner by herself. Our Europe is too contracted, and her governments too jealous of their respective influences, to allow one of the principal nations to take peace of the other. They all will aid voluntarily, when the appeal comes from without, and each can give an equal part without chance that any rival can attain an advantage over the other. Hold, then, firmly to your propositions—endeavour to overcome hesitancy in America, and thus she shall render an immense service to science, and nobly accomplish a career which she commenced. I say nothing, my dear friend, of yourself, because I know well that you regard always the general welfare and not your own. But listen to me; strive to obtain this last conquest. No one shall applaud more sincerely your success than myself, and I am also ready to second you with all the resources which I have. Age advances, difficulties augment, but we have as yet no cause to recede. Every year lost is a considerable loss. It was necessary to give way to the Russian war, but at present there are no such motives to excuse inaction.—It is necessary to make another effort, and fortune will reward us.”

We shall continue this subject in our next article. We shall show its importance to the Army and Navy, that the Government and Legislators may, with a clear conscience, do their part towards the great object we have in view; and then we shall show the plan of observations and satisfy our readers that it is neither elaborate, complex or difficult. On the contrary the observations at the commencement are few and simple, and neither do they require any very great skill or amount of labor to make them. It should be begun in a very simple and plain way, and then, as its usefulness and importance are developed, it may be extended.—*R. New Yorker.*

Poultry need warm and comfortable quarters these cold nights, and you will find that there will be a saving of corn or a proportionate increase of fat, if they, chickens, turkeys and all, are made to come off from the apple trees, and roost in the poultry house.

TRAPPING MICE.—The number of mice may be very materially reduced by trapping them. The little wooden traps, with a spring yoke rising over a round hole in the side, can be bought very cheaply. They are retailed for about three cents each, when having but one hole, and for six cents with two holes. Two or three dollars will purchase a hundred of single hole traps. These baited with a bit of cheese, or cheese rind, and distributed around an orchard, will thin out the mice very rapidly. We have a lot of them about the dwelling, garden, &c., and find them more effectual, and less annoying, (especially of nights,) than cats.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

DUTIES OF CATTLE JUDGES.—A correspondent of the Ohio Farmer says:—Their duty to the Society and the public requires that they should accurately note down, and specify in their reports, the individual merits and demerits of the competing animals, and clearly point out the points in which the preferred animal excels. You thus systemise and establish permanent rules governing your awards, which must give more general satisfaction to the public and breeders of fine stock.