

Maitland obtained forty-five bushels of the Fife wheat, imported from Canada last year, by the Board of Agriculture; the Society reports: "we are happy to say that it produced an abundant crop."—Beware of the Yankee orange quince swindle.—Two bears and two wild cats have been shot at Ellershouse since the Fall. The sheep there will have rest now until another batch come round.—We read in the *Halifax Reporter* that Lyons, Michigan, has a hundred acres of peppermint under cultivation, and has made this year one thousand pounds of pure oil, and is still at it. The oil is worth \$8 a pound. Nova Scotia ought to be a good climate for the cultivation of the peppermint plant.—Unlucky mines can beat any other village in the province for pigs.—Trappers have been very successful this season; they say, however, that the fur of many animals is thin, as usual in mild winters.—The trains on the Windsor line have been strictly punctual in arrival this winter,—a great improvement upon the easy practice of the "good old times."—Mr. Downs, the Halifax Zoologist, since his return to the city, has been making proposals for a public park and zoological garden.—Cat skins are purchased by the Halifax furriers at a quarter dollar a piece.—Coal is now used instead of wood at our Railway Stations, and it is said will soon replace the latter on locomotives.—The exposure of the grass fields without snow during the severe weather of January, may lessen the hay crop next summer.—Hot water is now very generally employed in quartz mills.—Dr. Lyon Playfair has been elected member of Parliament for the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrew's, and has resigned his chair of chemistry in the former, so as to give up all his time to parliamentary duties. He is likely to be succeeded by Dr. Anderson of Glasgow, the famous agricultural chemist.—Ice evaporates as well as water and thus the roads become bare.—Foxes came in about the farms much earlier than usual this winter; one large fellow with a fine brush was caught in the poultry yard at Lucyfield early in December.—In France it is being found that copper saucepans are being lined with an alloy containing 50 per cent of lead, not to speak of antimony and other metals, more poisonous than copper itself.—The thermometer indicated 3 degrees below zero at the Unlucky mines on 1st January.—The teams of several lumbermen and others have fallen through the ice this season.—Early in January flocks of grosbeaks and other birds appeared.—The conflagration of Mr. Lindsay's workshop on Star street, on the morning of 10th January, was vividly seen in Sackville, 15 miles north of the city.—Mr. Crookes, the celebrated English chemist, having perpetrated a joke in reference to the danger of wearing stockings colored by the new and fashionable poisonous dyes, a writer on popular science gravely writes:—Mr. Crookes has recently ascertained that woollen stockings dyed with picrate of potash are liable to explode on the feet of those who sit too near the fire!—Of the Fife wheat imported from Ontario by the Board of Agriculture in 1868, the Maxwellton Society of the county of Pictou, sowed twenty bushels, and report that "the yield is superior both in quality and quantity to any other kind of wheat sown by members of the society."—Through the kindness of W. J. Stairs, Esq., the Board has secured forty bushels of best Russian wheat, to arrive in the month of April.

AGRICULTURAL ODE.

BY JOHN O. H. WHITTIER.

This day two hundred years ago,  
The wild grapes by the river's side,  
And tasteless ground nut trailing low,  
The table of the woods supplied.

Unknown the apple's red and gold,  
The blushing tint of peach and pear,  
The mirror of the Power told  
No tale of orchards ripe and rare.

Wild as the fruits he scorned to till,  
These vales the idle Indian trod;  
Nor knew the glad creative skill,  
The joy of him who toils with God.

O Painter of the fruits and flowers!  
We thank Thee for Thy wise design  
Whereby these human hands of ours  
In Nature's garden work with Thine—

And thanks that from our daily need  
The joy of simple faith is born;  
That he who smites the Summer weed,  
May trust Thee for the Autumn corn.

Give fools their gold and knaves their power,  
Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall;  
Who sows a field, or trains a flower,  
Or plants a tree, is more than all.

For he who blesses most is blest;  
And God and man shall own his worth  
Who toils to leave us his bequest—  
An added beauty to the earth.

And, soon or late, to all that sow,  
The time of harvest shall be given;  
The flower shall bloom, the fruit shall grow,  
If not on earth, at least in heaven!

AN EXCELLENT OINTMENT for chapped lips and hands, for dry sores, for burns, for sore nose, for softening corns on the feet, for piles, in short for any diseased surface where a soft protecting coating is required, is what is called glycerine ointment. This can be readily prepared by simply rubbing into what is termed "cold cream" a little glycerine, just enough to give it a soft, hard-like consistency. More glycerine can be added in winter than in summer. A drop or two of the oil of roses stirred in gives it an agreeable perfume. It should be well corked and made fresh.

VARNISH FOR SHOES.—It is a bad plan to grease the upper leather of shoes for the purpose of keeping them soft. It rots the leather and admits dampness more readily. It is better to make a varnish thus: Put a half a pound of gum shellac broken up in small pieces in a quart bottle or jug cover it with alcohol, cork it tight, and put it on a shelf in a warm place, shake it well several times a day, then add a piece of camphor as big as a hen's egg, shake it well, and in a few hours shake it again and add one ounce of lampblack. If the alcohol is good it will be all dissolved in three days, then shake and use. If it gets too thick, add alcohol, pour out two or three teaspoonsful in a saucer, and apply it with a small paint brush. If the materials are all good, it will dry in about five minutes, and will be removed only by

wearing it off, giving a gloss almost equal to patent leather. The advantage of this preparation over others is, it does not strike into the leather and make it hard, but remains on the surface, and yet excludes the water almost perfectly. This same preparation is admirable for harness, and does not soil when touched, as lampblack preparations do.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

MONSIEUR WOE'S RECEIPT FOR CURING HAMS. (said to be superior to Westphalia).—Take the hams as soon as the hog is cold enough to cut up, rub them well with common salt, and leave them for three days to drain, throw away the brine, and for two hams of 15 or 18 lbs. each, mix two ounces of saltpetre, a pound of brown sugar, and a pound of common salt. Rub the hams with these, lay them in a deep pickling dish with the rind downwards, and keep them for three days well covered with the salt and sugar, then pour over them a bottle of good vinegar and turn them in the brine and baste daily for a month. Then hang them up to dry, and after they are perfectly dry, smoke.—*Cor. Germantown Telegraph.*

STONE AXE FROM EDEN.—We have before us a relic of the stone age, in the shape of an implement picked up near the Garden of Eden Lake. It consists of a sandy slate fashioned into a wide chisel, and was probably used by the Aborigines as an axe or chisel. These stone implements are frequently found in New Brunswick, where they appear to be more numerous than in this province.—*Colonial Standard.*

COAL.—Through the kindness of Jas. Hudson, Esq., Albion Mines, we are enabled to furnish our readers with the following statement of the coal transactions of the General Mining Association for the past season, including, besides shipments from Pictou, the quantity sold for home consumption:—

	Tons large.	Tons small.
United States.....	71,496	711
Neighbouring Colonies..	7,257	6,942
Home consumption.....	13,739	5,491
Totals.....	92,492	13,144

—*Eastern Chronicle.*

SAD CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.—About the last of August a daughter of Mr. Edward Gordon, River Philip, eighteen years of age, was bitten on the hand by a dog while she was endeavouring to stop a fight in which the animal was engaged. In a short time the wound was supposed to be healed, and the young lady enjoyed her usual health until a few days ago, when she was seized with violent fits, such as to leave no doubt that they resulted from the bite. It is feared she cannot live. The dog, which, in the meantime, had shown no signs of madness, has been killed.—*Amherst Gazette.*