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.

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AGRICULTURE.

SUB-SOIL PLOUGHING.

Much has been said in favor of deep ploughing and sub-soiling the earth, the subject has hardly begun to excite that general attention among farmers which it ought to command. There is scarcely one acre in a thousand on which a deep, mellow, and productive soil can be found, without breaking the *pan*, or compact mass that lies just below the surface of the ground. So far as the warm atmosphere can freely penetrate, with its oxygen, carbonic acid, ammonia, and vapors, chemical action will be extended, roots will grow and rot, and a fertile soil be gradually developed. The benefits of deep tillage do not all accrue immediately after the operation is executed. The formation of a deep mellow, and rich soil, by the most skilful use of natural elements and agencies, is the work of many years. To attain this result, one needs not only mineral and organic matter in due proportions in the surface of the earth, but both minerals and mold of particular kind, and in a particular condition of solubility and combination.

After a man has deliberately made up his mind that it is better to own and cultivate good land than poor land, and that there is such a thing as improving the natural fertility of the earth, his first thoughts should be directed to the point, whether any field, or part of a field, needs draining. Stagnant water within three feet of the surface will rise by capillary attraction to a degree fatal to that warmth and fraibility of the soil, without which its highest productives can never be reached. All under-draining should be into ditches at least three feet deep. But there are millions of acres of tilled land that need no artificial drainage, which will be greatly improved by deep, or sub-soil plowing. The advantages of this mode of cultuge are the more speedy and decisive, as the manuring, liming, and ashing of the land accompany the breaking up of the inert mass of clay or gravel below the surface soil. It is not pretended that this dead earth will instantly become fertile. Admitting that the comminuted clay really contains salts of lime, potash, soda, magnesia, and soluble silica, it takes time to prepare these fertilizers for the nutrition of cereal plants. Salts of iron and alumina, such as copperas and alum, are apt to exist in excess, and require a little caustic lime to decompose them and form gypsum, or sulphate of lime. Plants that contain considerable nitrogen, such as peas and clover, and of course yield a liberal per centage of the alkali called ammonia, when they decay, are exceedingly favorable to the deepening of a thin soil, in connection with deep plowing. Every farmer should understand the difference in the economical value of vegetable mold. Suppose one has 100 lbs. of cabbage, exclusive of water, in one, heap, and a like weight of pine saw-dust in another. Which will form 50 lbs. of the better mold? The solid organized matter is alike in each mass; and why should there be any difference in the economical value of 100 lbs. of cabbage or 100 lbs. of saw-dust, either for feeding cows and children, or feeding wheat and corn plants?

In principle, there is no difference in feeding animals, from man down to a coral or sponge, and feeding plants. All living beings need food adapted to their peculiar natural wants. Hence, place a baby oyster in saline water that contains not a particle of lime, and its stony covering must cease to grow. Nature is incapable of creating the first atom of lime, or of any other element consumed to form any plant or animal. A deep, fertile soil, is one that abounds in the raw material for making bread, milk, and meat, in an available form, to the depth of twelve or twenty-four inches, as the case may be. Is there anything unreasonable in saying that such a soil possesses a very great intrinsic value? A cubic foot of such land in the valley of the Genesee contains, on an average, over a pound of common lime. This gives over 43,000 pounds of this mineral to an acre, within twelve inches of the surface of the ground. The writer is credibly informed by one of the best farmers in the State of Delaware, that a million bushels of burnt lime are now annually used for improving the soil in that small State. One farmer pays a $1000 a year for guano.

In the last number of the working farmer we find statements in regard to sub-soiling, from which we extract the following.—James Carnaham, President of the Princetown College, states the results of an "unintentional" experiment he made in 1848, in sub-soiling.

"I wished," said he, "to sub-soil a lot in soil with a hard pan, and as I had only one team, I hired another to turn over the sod preceding the sub-soil plow. He came and worked one day, but did not return the next. As the time for planting was approaching, I directed my farmer to go on and plow in the common way as deep as he could. He did so. The following day the other plowman returned, worked a day (sub-soiling) and then was absent.

"The result was, the lot was plowed alternately with the common plow and the sub-soil. The whole lot manured and worked in the same way, except the sub-soiling of some parts and some not. The month of August was dry; the corn in the sub-soiled suffered very little; and that on the part not sub-soiled suffered very much.

"When the corn was gathered we could distinguish the very row where the sub-soiling was commenced and ended—*the ears were more numerous and of a larger size.* I did not measure the corn nor the ground, but the difference was so obvious to the sight, that no one could doubt the superiority of the corn on the ground sub-soiled.

"This year the whole of my corn ground was sub-soiled, and the yield was very satisfactory. The month of July was dry and hot, and the leaves of my corn did not shrivel, while those in the adjacent fields rolled up."

Every farmer knows that a deep, friable soil will take up more rain water without detriment to the growing crop, than will a shallow, compact soil. For a similar reason, moisture from below will more readily ascend in dry weather and supply the roots of need plants with their liquid aliment.—But, do not forget that a soil sixteen inches deep requires twice as much mold as one only eight inches in depth. Now, the richest mold is that formed from the carcass of a dead horse or sheep: but as such organic matter is attainable only in homœpathic doses, the farmer should test his skill in producing mold from clover, peas, corn, grass, and other vegetables, to mix with his sub-soil. Beware of the folly of spreading farm labor over too large an area for the highest permanent profit. Fifty acres of good land are more valuable than 200 of poor land.—*Genesee Farmer.*

AGRICTLTURAL EDUCATION.

To the Editor of the Can. Agriculturist.

DEAR SIR,—I make no apology for soliciting a corner of your journal for this communication, aware as I am that the subject has long engaged your attention, and however inadequate my attempt may be when compared with the importance of the subject, it may serve perhaps to attract the attention of your readers.

The establishment of Agricultural Colleges and Schools has prevailed for many years both in Europe and in the United States, as you are well aware, with a varied measure of success. Such institutions however, have so often proved failures, that I candidly avow in times past a considerable portion of hesitation on my part in recommending their adoption in Canada. Of late, it has become known to me that opinions much at variance with my own, are entertained by various individuals, for whose judgement I feel the highest respect, and I therefore most willingly sacrifice my doubts to their more cheering anticipations. I think there can be no doubt upon this that if an enlightened system of education shall fall to the lot of the Agricultural class, in any part of the world, no men are either more likely to profit by and to appreciate the blessing than Canadian Yeomen, or are better entitled to enjoy every possible means, of qualifying them to fill respectably, the position which they are destined to occupy in his land. It may perhaps be said that it comes too late for the present generation; be it so, but sure I am, that the present generation, will for that very reason, estimate more highly the boon for their children. The independence and happiness of rural life, (as it may readily be found, *if honestly sought for*) by all who adopt it in this noble Province has been an assertion often enough sneered at, or denied: but I am free to declare that after years of experience and enjiquiry, my conviction remains unaltered and undiminished, that in no portion of this world has a kind Providence offered more substantial materials of rational enjoyment, than in cultivating and improving the forest reclaimed fields of Canada. That numbers undoubtedly have failed to realize such views, detracts little from their soundness and truth; for who that has given but a slight portion of attention to human nature can remain blind to the wanton abuse of God's choicest gifts to His thankless creatures. I shall not, however, indulge in diffusion enconiums upon the lot of Canadian farmers, lest it suffice to press upon them the remembrance, that whether they may use or abuse it, a most abundant portion of human happiness has been placed within their reach. *Let them be sober, industrious and above all religious,* and they may rest assured that the cares of life will lie comparatively light upon their homes.

But now; alas, comes a doleful whine.—Canadian farmers are ruined and undone.—Protection is at an end. This is neither time nor place for discussing the merrits or demerits of Free Trade or of Free Navigation. For would much be gained by such discussion. Whether palpable or the reverse we may rest tolerably assured, that these have become *fixed points*, and there is little doubt that each revolving year will more and more develope their wisdom and advantage.

As regards the farmer, there can be no reasonable cause of alarm. Beside many indirect advantages, he will positively become a richer and more independent man in the receipt of one half, or two-thirds of the price, which he used to reckon upon receiving for his wheat, *provided* we can put him in the way of doubling his produce per acre without any hazardous outlay, or extravagant expenditure.

A well regulated intellectual Agricultural Education will go far in effecting this, and the present product of wheat in Canada considerable as is, will prove a mere trifle, compared with the capabilities of her climate and soil.

Next comes the grave question, how are such advantages to be secured, granting their acquisition to be desirable? Fortunately Canada enjoys peculiar facilities for their attainment. In the great Provincial University about to open, a Chair of Agriculture will assuredly form a part, and will probably be more or less blended with the kindred studies of Botany, Agricultural Chemistry, Natural history, Mathematics, &c. It is believed that a convenient area of ground may be easily attached for illustrative and experimental purposes and would prove a valuable accessory in education. A library and museum devoted to Agricultural and kindred objects would soon lend their aid, and a Veterinary School, framed upon the admirable model of that founded by the Highland Society of Scotland, some of whose Licentiates are already established amongst us, would soon diffuse intelligent and educated men of their profession throughout our land.

Neither is this all. Government possesses a portion of Excellent land, almost within the city of kingston, forming part of that lot, upon which stands the Provincial Penitentiary. This land, with a splendid perenial spring, is at present lying utterly neglected and unproductive. It would not be difficult to engraft upon this, one of those Agicultural Schools, where the sons of farmers or others, might acquire practical instruction in the most approved system of husbandry, while at the same time the ordinary branches of education would be duly attended to and a sound foundation would be laid, if parties should so incline, for prosecuting their studies at the Provincial University. It is not to be overlooked either, in such an Institution, that the personal labour of the pupils would very materially diminish the expense of board and education. A ready market for produce would be always found in supplying the Penitentiary, whence also a copious supply of valuable manure would be readily obtained.

Something, however, seems still required to put machinery in motion. I would suggest that a Board of a few practical men, should be established in Toronto, acting of course gratuitously. To this Board I would give sufficient powers to organize and arrange all needful measures, connected with Agricultural improvement and advancement. It is impossible for a moment to doubt the hearty approbation and patronage of the noble Representative of our Gracious Queen, when we remember the steady friendship which that individual has shown for the farmer's welfare, since he assumed the Government of Canada. Lord Elgin knows the farmers' value, and he will never overlook their interests. It would be premature to enter upon the varied duties of such a Board, and it is more than time for me to apologize for so long a communication. There can be no doubt that the Board if properly constructed, is calculated to do great good. One palpable and most valuable result would be the annual collection and publication of the Agricultural Statistics of Canada, in an authentic and extended form. I will only add, that if the suggestion should be favourably entertained, the less time that is lost the better.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours truly,
ADAM FERGUSON.

THE NEW IRISH COLLEGES.—We learn that Agriculture, both in its theory and practice, will form a prominent feature of these institutions. It is to be hoped that religious bigotry and political hate will not be allowed to interfere with the working of so wise and beneficial a measure. The Lord Lieutenant has signified that £1400 are to be expended in the erection of farm buildings annexed to the Professorship of Agriculture established by Her Majesty in the College at Cork.

CATASTROPHE OF THE PRINCESS SCHWARTZENBERG.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF PECHSTEIN.

The following thrilling description of this appalling scene, derives much additional interest from being put into the mouth of an eye-witness. It will probably be new to most of our readers, though it excited universal sympathy at the time of its occurrence.

"So brilliant a winter as that of 1809–10, Paris had never witnessed. While the day-star of the declining year was hastening to its winter solstice, the sun of Napoleon's fortune was culminating at its zenith, shining far and wide, and seeming to blind the eyes of the potentates and people of the rest of Europe with its scorching brightness. As the insolent conquerors of the ancient world hesitated not to parade captured kings before their triumphal cars, so the new victor collected around him his vanquished kings and those whom he had created, in order to enhance the brilliancy of his throne. Five kings, with numerous princes of inferior rank, illustrated by their presence the fifth anniversary of the imperial coronation. A noble female heart was almost broken, and compelled to undergo the mortification of rejection, because the monarch craved a male heir.

I received a salary in the orchestra as the first player on the clarionet; skilful musicians were at this time an article in high demand for the festivals. I played at many a brilliant court ball; at the modest distance of my orchestra, I saw displayed the utmost magnificence, and I beheld a long train of personages, distinguished in the history of the world and famous through Europe for the highest political or scientific reputation, though alas! it was impossible for one, in my situation, or with my degree of culture, to derive any mental benefit from this outward show. It was of no consequence to those majestic world moving men, or those lovely ladies sparkling with diamonds, whether a musician in the orchestra contemplated them with interest or otherwise.

I was one of the players at the wedding festival of Maria Louisa, when five queens held up her train, while Cardinal Fesch exchanged the rings and gave the blessing.

A report arose in Paris, that the Austrian ambassador was about to give an entertainment to the emperor and empress, which would surpass in brilliancy and splendor all which had gone before it, and for which the most amazing preparations were already in forwardness. For so magnificent a ball, more than one musical choir was, in the first place, needful; the orchestras of several of the opera-houses were put in requisition, and these were strengthened by additional performers, in consequence of which I joined myself to the orchestra of the ball-music, attracted more by a desire to see the show, than by the emolument.

The hotel of the embassy stood in the Rue Mont-Blanc, and, together with an adjoining hotel which had been hired for the occasion, was transformed into a genuine enchanted palace. There being no apartment in either of the two houses, notwithstanding their great size, sufficiently spacious for so large a dancing hall as the intended festival required, one was erected in the garden, and so connected with the two houses as to seem to form with them a grand and beautiful whole. This hall was covered in upon the outside with oil-cloth which also formed the ceiling, so as to render it impervious to any inclemency of the most splendid manner. The eye could scarcely be satiated with gazing on this festive apartment, called out of nothing by the magic power of gold, and filled with glittering mirrors, dazzling chandeliers, gorgeous tapestry and gay garlands of never withering artificial flowers, which were beautifully twined among the festoons of thin drapery pendant along the cornice beneath the ceiling. All seemed light, ethereal, fairy-like. The heavy chrystal lustres appeared waving on delicate flowery chains. No where could the eye discern any gap or deficiency, all was exquisitely arranged, and combined into a perfect harmony of fantastic beauty.

The immense decorated portal of the hall, opening abroad into the garden, exhibited in transparency a German inscription, designed to flatter the august pair who were to make their entrance throught it: and at the same elevation in the farther end, appeared a rostrum covered with a magnificent carpet, on which stood a throne for the imperial couple. The orchestra was upon one side of the hall, about half way between the floor and the ceiling, and we mounted to it by a stair-case on the outside; opposite to the orchestra, there was another passage from the hall into a gallery similarly decorated, which led to the show-rooms of the hotels.

An unexpected pleasure was privately prepared for the imperial pair, more particularly for the empress; and as the first part of the entertainment was to commence in the garden, several of the musical choirs were therefore ordered to take their places in its neighborhood, in order that even the path of their imperial highnesses through the garden might be strown as it were with the flowers of gay melodies, while another division of them remained in doors, to greet the entering potentates with a full flourish of trumpets and kettle-drums.

The first of July was appointed for the celebration of this feast; all the dignitaries of the court and city were invited. Incredible exertions had been made that every thing should be in readiness and nothing wanting. All was arranged beforehand—when and how each part should be brought forward, was maturely planned and deliberated. Bountifully furnished cup-boards, groaning under their burden, were distributed in the places most convenient, for the guests, for the assistants summoned from the ballet corps of the grand opera, for the musicians, for the guard on duty, and even for a numerous company of firemen, who were required to be present in case of accidents. The liveried servants were hurrying hither and thither by hundreds; the major domo and marshals of the feast who had the general oversight, satisfied themselves that all was right—nothing had been omitted, nothing forgotton, and bre thing now at ease, they hailed the hour when the entertainment, like a magnificent opera, was gradually to develope its scenes according to the order which had been prescribed.

Man proposes, but God disposes—this truth was to be revealed in scorching brightness—to be made manifest in agony and horror.

The music was punctually in its place.—As I approached the hotel in company with some of my fellow performers, it was with difficulty even then, that we could work our way through the masses of the populace, which in dense throngs surrounded the palace in order to see the show.

Although the sun had scarcely sunk beneath the bosom of the distant horizon, hundreds of workmen were already lighting the colored lamps which were to illuminate the two hotels; the divisions of the imperial guard of honor ordered to be on duty, were moving with measured step and dividing themselves into numerous watchposts, at the entrance of all the avenues, portals, antichambers and halls, as well as in the garden on every side, so as to prevent a pressure and to aid in maintaining order, while they rendered military honors to the expected dignities.

On rolled coach after coach; for who would linger, who would be last, on such an occasion? We hurried to take possession of our places, at which each one found his name and his instrument, in order here also to prevent any crowding, or confusion, or deranging of the musicians, as often happens in German orchestras after the audience has assembled. Not the rustling of a leaf in our music books was to be heard; it will be understood of course, that there was no preliminary tuning of violins, no trying of flutes, oboes, bassoons, horns or clarionets, so often clumsily practised by musicians to the annoyance of the hearers previous to operas and concerts, and endlessly prolonged.

Nothing could be more interesting than to look down from our quiet seat in the lofty orchestra, picturesquely decorated with pillars draped in muslin and twined with wreaths of flowers, surrounded with an ocean of light, and forming itself as it were, an eastern fairy-palace, on the ball-guests, as they collected in the hall beneath and ceremoniously saluted one another. Already all had been respectfully welcomed by the brilliant suite of the Austrian embassy, and each lady presented with a fragrant bouquet. One beauty surpassed another; one dress outshone another. Very soon, a wondrous uninterrupted circle of most exquisite lovely blossoms, was moving round the walls of the hall; it gradually thickened until every seat was occupied, while the gentlemen drew together in the centre, and formed a nucleus which glistened with the stars of innumerable orders and the glitter of all kinds of uniforms and court dresses. Many greeted one another and conversed together in a friendly way, while others stood starched and reserved, in awe of the things and persons to be seen. Some approached the ladies and entered into agreeable conversation with them, while others again were gazing with interest and admiration upon the splendor displayed in the tapestry and decorations. The hall filled up more and more, there was no cessation to the dull, distant rolling of the coming carriages. Princes and princesses, kings and queens continued entering, and all as yet was solemn stillness; not a sound of music was heard in the hall—only the rustling of the state dresses, only a murmuring whisper reached our seats.

We sat however in suspense, our instruments trembling on our hands, in half despondent, half-joyful expectation: our director fixedly gazing towards one spot. We listened and looked down almost breathless. 'Hark! the word of command! The clank of arms! Drums, trumpets, the full Turkish band in the distance—a bustle in the hall, room made in the centre—all the ladies rise; a dread pause! Now is seen at the entrance of the gallery, an official bedizened with gold; he waves his white handkerchief; our director looks to the right and left, nods his head and drops his time-stick; drums roll like distant thunder.—Napoleon and Maria Louisa enter the hall, and we welcome the august pair with a flourish, rising higher and higher till it swells into a glorious pæan of victory. A train of gentlemen and ladies of high rank, at the head of which are the Prince and Princess von Schwartzenberg and Prince Metternich, follow the imperial pair, succeeded again by hundreds of the invited guests, who have been lingering in the anti-chambers or gallery, watching for the arrival of the emperor.

The emperor surveyed the hall in his usual stiff attitude; his eagle eye glanced over it in a twinkling, scrutinizing the arrangements and the assembly, while for a brief space he conversed with those nearest to him. Having learned that the entertainment was to commence in the garden, he very soon again offered his arm to the empress, to proceed thither; she in the meanwhile had been courteously addressing some of the princesses, and followed her noble host, who conducted the imperial pair to the pleasures provided for them in the open air.

All crowded thither to obtain their share in the beauty of the scene, and the dancing was not to commence for some hours; a division of the musicians, among whom I gladly found myself, was ordered to take post in the garden, whither an officer conducted us by a private way, and we saw there again a full orchestra in readiness.—An ocean of light streamed over the garden, as well as the hall and the concord of sweet sounds, joined to the fragrance of flowers, was wafted on the mild breezes of a July night.

Had a prophet now come forward, and publicly announced what was to be the political situation of France and Europe ten years and twice ten years from that time, how would he have been derided! For the glory of the imperial throne seemed to rest on granite pillars: Napoleon's proud hope stayed itself upon a diamond anchor—sealed and determined in the book of Fate seemed the certainty, that the sun of a long prosperity was to shine unclouded over that throne, and never to be eclipsed.

Along the alleys illuminated with variegated lights, emblems, devices and all sorts of allegorical decorations, had been arranged, so as to attract the eye and cause the wandering crowds to linger here and there, until their imperial highnesses should reach a smooth shaven turf, where a number of state chairs stood in readiness. After the empress had taken her place, she looked up, and her wondering eye was riveted by seeing, at a little distance, the Castle of Laxenburg, her own Lorettohome, borne hither as it were, spirit-hands; more still, the arbors were all alive, troops of people were thronging round in foreign costume, ah! in the loved dress of the Tyrolese and Styrians, and were taking their places for the joyous dances of their country. These were the dancers of the grand opera, who here came forward in the Austrian national costume, and by their graceful movements and life-like pantomime refreshed old recollections, and allegorically rendered homage.

Soon a peacock tail rose high towards the night sky which was now beginning to be overclouded; soaring rockets announced the commencement of most magnificent and expensive fireworks, surpassing in splendor any which I had ever seen, and exceeding my ability to describe; as none of the fine arts obtain so brief an endurance in the memory, as that of the pyrotechnist. But it was not in my power to witness the conclusion of this brilliant show, it being time for me to resume my place in the orchestra of the ball room, whither the whole company was about to return. Those of us therefore, who had been in the garden, were shortly seated again at our posts, waiting for a signal when the emperor should enter the hall, that we might salute him with a new flourish of trumpets, which this time changed into lively ball music, as soon as the emperor and empress reclined upon their throne.

The festive dance was commenced by the Queen of Naples and Prince Esterhazy.—Other noble couples followed; refreshments were presented, joy hovered on rosy wreaths, and pleasure's lightning flashes sparkled in millions of diamond rays. Who knows how much hidden pain also twinged and gnawed, and was concealed in many a breast?—such I must believe to have been the fact. There too, clanked the gold-tipped end of that iron chain which shamefully girdled my German father land.

Quadrilles were agreeably varied with different contra dances, while the emperor and empress again quitted their seats, and after looking for a while at the dancing, began to converse in an obliging manner with individuals; he on one side and she on the other, threading the close-standing rows of those who were not dancing, and courteously accepting introductions to some of the stranger princes or their connexions.

We were playing a Scotch dance, when suddenly a brightness like that of lightning flashed through the brilliantly illuminated hall and vanished as quick. As our eyes were confined to our notes, scarcely any of us had perceived that a piece of gauze, loosened probably from its fastenings, had caught fire from one of the candles, and instantaneously blazing, had been apparently extinguished as soon as it was kindled;—all that I noticed, was a gentleman, throwing a ligated fragment of the tissue upon the floor, and stamping on it. The generality had no opportunity to remark the incident, but, oh horrible! a few sparks from the burning tinder-like material had flown upwards, and alighting upon the more lofty drapery had greedily absorbed the fire-food. In a moment tongues of flame were forking forth, flaring on high, and running like serpents along the cornices. Terror, like an iron hand, chained our mouths; one instrument after another was hushed in trembling discord; the ranks of the dancers below were already shaken, inextricable confusion threatened to assail them—not threatened indeed, it had actually taken place, in its hideous reality. A shower of sparks fell down into the hall, and the blazing curtains followed the sparks. My companions, intent on a rapid flight, opened the door leading down the stair case into the court; already the hangings over us were in a blaze, the flames had spread themselves over the combustible materials which covered our stage. A rush of ice-cold air met us on our retreat, for a storm had been gathering, and now black as night hung over Paris. The blast of wind blew the strifing mischief away from ourselves, but it pressed in upon the roaring conflagration and fanned the flames to a lurid glow of ever increasing fierceness. I strove as long as possible to maintain my stand on the stage, in order to watch the changing aspects of the overwhelming catastrophe. The emperor gravely stood in the hall, supported by his faithful guard, whose drawn swords flashed in the flame-light. Prince Schwartzenberg was speaking with him; now he gave the empress his arm and followed the prince towards the garden door, while troops of the glittering assembly rushed after him with no respect to rank or standing. The three outlets of the hall were all too narrow to release the distressed fugitives fast enough. Dreadful shrieks rose from the women and maidens. Dismay with her bristling hair and wings of flame, strode over the now red hot area. The thin roof, already seized by the flames, was tumbling down in isolated burning fragments; the flowers and garlands were smouldering in colored flames; the ropes of the chandeliers, before gracefully concealed, were beginning to burn, and the weight of the heavy lustres with their melting candles and solid metal frames, rattling and jarring, fell with a crash into the hall, which was not yet evacuated, the thronging thousands who were endeavoring to fly, being pressed back by the throng of those from abroad who were endeavoring to save them. On rushed the engines, streams of water were poured hissing upon the conflagration, but the unchained element of fire mocked at its weaker foe. The beams and rafters were burning, the oil cloth of ceiling and walls of the hall which the heat of a warm day had dried, took fire in an instant, and illuminated affrighted Paris.

How I penetrated through the human masses without being crushed or trampled under foot amid the horror-stricken, despairing, heaven-deafening panic-fury of the multitude, I know not to this day. All were vociferating for rescue, help; thousands of loved names were called on at once, though alas! a welcome answer was returned to but few of these calls. Wives, mothers sank down in swoons, or fell into convulsive spasms—maimed princes and princesses were snatched with difficulty from the flames, the stairs leading to the portal were crushed into a heap. The ball dresses were in flames, and the awful reality presented such an image of hell, as the liveliest imagination of the most fanatical orthodoxy of the olden time would hardly have dared to exhibit. The loveliness which a moment ago had scarcely attained to life's freshest blossom, was now turned into death's pale tint. Imploring arms, yet inaccessible and surrounded with flames, were seen stretched out for succour, and then suddenly sinking down, as if swallowed up in an infernal abyss: for the floor of the large ball stood over a basin in the garden, situated in a hollow. Down it fell with a crash, the sparks flew upwards, the water hissed, a thick vapour ascended and the groans died away. A lady, one of the last who was hurrying from the hall, her dress already in flames, fell senseless into my arms; while tightly clasping I put out the fire, and carried her to an arbour in order to restore her, thanking God that he had been so gracious as to enable me here to be of use.

While the hall was now lying in burning ruins, the gallery still blazing, and the palaces threatened, the imperial guard, with an authority that was irresistible, cleared the garden and the courts of all idle spectators, and the emperor, having unexpectedly returned, was again seen, energetically superintending with his commanding eye, the measures taken for the extinction of the conflagration. Wailing voices filled the air and the whole garden; the wife of Prince Schwartzenberg, brother-in-law to the host, was missing, the unfortunate disconsolate husband was searching the garden in all directions, numerous servants were running about, they inquired, they explored, but all in vain!

Almost all the coaches had disappeared from the front of the house, laden with the rescued, as they had gradually emerged from the chaos of horrors. The lady in my arms revived, and started when she saw a total stranger anxiously busied about her. She gratefully accepted my proposal to conduct her across the garden, to an entrance into a side street; the universal horror suspending all common ceremony. I carried her in my arms without hesitation. With surprise I learned that she bore a very noble name, and I discovered her carriage in the rear, among those which were still anxiously waiting. She found herself in the midst of loving kindred, and I was overwhelmed with ardent thanks offered in all sincerity. The fire reluctantly yielded. A violent rain suddenly poured down, and the red glow of the still towering flames growing pale before the dazzing brightness of the flashing lightning, was finally entirely subdued by the streaming sheets of rain.

On the day following the conflagration, the revelation on all sides of the woe oc-