

## Arts and Manufactures.

[Under this heading we propose to give occasional notices of manufactures and inventions adapted to the country, and shall be glad to receive such communications.]

### CHAIR-MAKING IN ENGLAND.

Chipping Wycombe, known as high Wycombe, is in the very heart of the Buckinghamshire woods. Beech, the sacred tree of the Romans, out of which the sacrificial cup was made, had come to be called the "Buckinghamshire weed." In old Fuller's time, Beech was held to be of value for timber, when no oak was to be had. As long as the Oak lasted the Beech was safe from the woodman's axe for all purposes of house-building. It was still safe when the Pine, "hewn on Norwegian hills," came to us in ship-loads; and still more safe when our North American colonies sent us their deals by millions of feet. In a happy hour the people dwelling amidst the Beech woods of the Chilterns took to chair-making, and so vigorously pursued the occupation that the Buckinghamshire weed is becoming scarce, as the Oak was becoming scarce in the 17th century. It is remarkable how suddenly manufactures are localised under favourable circumstances. Chairs were, no doubt, always made in these districts. The Windsor chair has a fame of some antiquity; but the Wycombe chair-making trade was scarcely known as something remarkable 20 or 30 years ago. The demand for these chairs has grown with the enormous increase of general population; the facilities of communication with the metropolis; the rapidly extending demand of our colonies. "When I began the trade," said a large manufacturer to me, "I loaded a cart and travelled to Luton. All there was prosperous. There was a scramble for my chairs; and when I came home I laid my receipts on my table, and said to my wife, 'You never saw so much money before.'" This manufacturer now sends his chairs to London, Liverpool, and Manchester; to Australia, New Zealand, and Constantinople. He made 8000 chairs for the Crystal Palace; and, being a person of true English humour, rejoices to tell how he took his family to a Crystal Palace musical festival, and asked the attendants where they got so many chairs of one pattern, which seemed to him one of the greatest wonders of the place. But it is not the large contract which makes the great chair-trade of Wycombe and the neighbourhood. Let us bear in mind the immense improvement in the social habits of the British people, marking the universal progress of refinement, and consider the consequent number of houses with rentals varying

from 70*l.* to 50*l.*, whose tenants require useful furniture at once cheap, lasting, and ornamental. We need not then be surprised that Wycombe boasts of making a chair a minute all the year round—chairs which would not be unsightly in the handsomest sitting-room, and which can be sold at 5*s.* each. More costly chairs are here produced, as well as the commonest rush-bottom chair of the old cottage pattern. But the light caned chair, stained to imitate Rosewood, or of the bright natural colour of the Birch, and highly polished, finds a demand throughout the kingdom—a demand which might appear fabulous to those who have not reflected upon the extent to which a thriving industrious people create a national wealth which gives an impulse to every occupation, and fills every dwelling with comforts and elegances of which our forefathers never dreamt. The wondrous cheapness of the Wycombe chair is produced by the division of labor in every manufactory; and by the competition amongst the manufacturers, in a trade where a small capital and careful organization will soon reward the humblest enterprise. "I can turn out 30 dozen chairs a day," said the worthy man who occasionally carried a few dozen in a cart to Luton market when he started in business. —*Knights British Almanac.*

## Miscellaneous.

### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

**THE GARDENER'S MONTHLY.** Devoted to Horticulture, Agriculture, Botany, and Rural Affairs. Edited by Thomas Meachan. March, 1865.

Many Gardening Journals are published in the United States, but this is perhaps the most carefully edited one. The March number contains quite a variety of original articles on Garden Culture, Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Garden Apparatus, notices of publications, and descriptions of new Garden Plants. We knew Mr. Mechan as a writer in the English scientific periodicals many years ago, before he removed to America, or assumed the proprietorship of the Germantown Nurseries, and we can cordially recommend his "Monthly" as a periodical well suited to supply the wants of all who have gardens and who wish seasonable hints as to the best ways and means of cultivating them. The annual subscription is eight shillings, and Mr Thos. Leahy is agent in Halifax for the publication. The opening remarks of the present number will indicate the genial style of Mr. Mechan's writing:—

"When the first warm March day comes, who is there that does not want to do a little gardening? The most delicate woman, who

for eleven months in the year is the slave of frivolity or fashion,—the child just emerging into the dignities of 'bib and tucker,'—the hard-worked clerk, or care-worn merchant,—all, whether the tenant of a small back door yard, or with the privilege of many acres, during this month feel impelled to offer some sort of homage to the spirit of gardening. Nature will not entirely let man forget that the great business of life was originally designed to be in a garden, to dress and to keep it. To us every spring seems like the beginning of a new world,—a new creation. But still the same laws prevail,—the same rules demand attention. With the world's first birth, gardening came with it; and with its annual rejuvenation, crops out the same love of gardening that marked the most primitive times. But, alas! man is but a poor weak mortal. The natural instincts of childhood suggest right things to him; but as he advances in life, one temptation or another leads him astray, until one by one each falls away from the bountiful joys prepared for him, and attempts to feast on mere husks of swine.—How few of those who now feel the exhilarating joyousness of trowelling, digging, or raking up the soil; sowing seeds, setting flowers, planting fruits, shrubs and trees; will hold on to this true faith in nature till the serene and yellow leaf shall come again? We fear but few comparatively of those who follow these lines with us now will be with us to the last. But it shall not be our fault if they do fall away. We shall try to make our hints as instructive as we can. The prophet of gardening, it shall be ours to exhort, encourage, warn and direct our people; promising full rewards to all those who with us prove steadfast to the end."

**THE CANADA FARMER.** Published Monthly; Toronto.

One of the most effectual means of promoting agriculture in a country is the circulation of agricultural publications suited to its climate and requirements. In Canada it was early found that the English agricultural periodicals were ill adapted to the wants of the farmers, and that even the numerous American ones were in some respects wanting in suitability to the climate and circumstances of Upper Canada. For many years the "*Canadian Agriculturist*" was published by the Board of Agriculture, under the able editorship of Professor Buckland of Toronto, and was productive of much benefit. But the growing importance of the agricultural interest led to a more ambitious attempt, which we see as the result of private enterprise, in the publication now noticed. Mr. Brown, distinguished not only as an able statesman, but endowed likewise with a rare amount of business sagacity, perceived that the time had arrived when the agriculturists of Canada, could and would support a first class monthly journal, devoted to the advancement of agriculture. The "*Canada Farmer*" was organized, an able staff of contributors selected, and a superior class of wood engravings provided. It is very gratifying to know that the experi-