

Editors' Notices, &c.

PROFESSOR JOHNSTON.—We are indebted to the courtesy of Professor Johnston for a copy of his address delivered at Syracuse, to a portion of which, we have the pleasure of directing the attention of our readers, in the present number, and hope to find room for the remainder in our next.

A FRIEND TO CANADA is informed, that the matter to which he refers has for a considerable time engaged our attention. That agriculture is, and must for a long time continue, the staple interest of Canada, is a self-evident truth. We shall be happy to receive his co-operation, and will instance, for the present, one mode in which he, and others, may serve their country, by referring to the interesting and instructive reports from the Ottawa District, which appeared in our last number, and are completed in the present. We hope to receive many such from different districts, and feel sure that the directors of the Provincial Association will do everything in their power to disseminate the information through the province. We hope that, as political excitement subsides, the newspapers will do more in promoting this great object, and thus aid us in meeting the wishes of "a friend to Canada."

HORTICULTURE.—In reply to the expressed wishes of several subscribers, we beg to say that we have the promise of assistance from some practical gardeners; and that we shall be able to make our paper the medium of such plain instructions in this department, as are adapted to the wants of this country. We shall always be happy to receive hints or information bearing on the interesting pursuits of the horticulturist. We shall have some original articles on these subjects, before the season commences for practical operations.

W. F.—Guano, when pure, is a powerful fertiliser, but varies very much in its composition; it sometimes contains a large quantity of silica, or sand. We doubt whether it could be procured in this country at a price which would enable our farmers to use it profitably. For horticultural purposes, or limited applications, it may answer a good purpose. The seeds you mention have not, to our knowledge, been tried in Canada, but they would probably succeed well. These are matters which cannot be decided but by carefully conducted experiments; and our agricultural societies could not do better than to aid the progress of such trials and investigations.

AGRICOLA.—From your description, we think your soil must be deficient in lime. Your cultivation is too shallow, and you have not sufficiently varied your crops. Plough two or three inches deeper, and apply 100 bushels of quick lime per acre. The lime will not need repeating for several years.

H. K., Stamford.—The names sent by you are no doubt those of "good" persons, as you state, but we have adopted the principle and must rigidly adhere to it, of advance payments. We have lost so much already by the opposite system, that we have determined not to open any books, except with societies. If you make up the number to twelve, and remit us 3s. 9d. each, we will forward them at once.

D. K., W. Gwillumbury.—Your remarks on the use of lime are very good, but the theory of its operation has been often explained in our pages. If you have any facts to illustrate your theory we would willingly insert them. The other matter to which you refer is, we fear, some distance in the future. You say you are not a subscriber; why not become one? If you wish to encourage improvement, that will be one way of showing it.

MARKETS, &c.

There was a little more firmness in the British Corn Markets at the date of our last advices (Jan. 11th), but the stocks of foreign grain on hand were excessively large. Wheat and Flour, equivalent to 12 millions of quarters, it is said, was imported during the past year. The average price of Wheat in Mark-lane market, December 22nd, was only 38s. 9d. per quarter. Barley 25s. 9d. Oats 15s. 9d. Rye 22s. 9d. Beans 27s. 5d. Peas 28s. 11d. The autumn had been unusually favorable for wheat sowing, and a very large extent of ground has been cropped with the first necessary of life.

New York and Montreal markets are heavy for wheat and flour, as well as for provisions.

In Toronto but little business has been transacted. Wheat 3s. 9d. a 4s. 3d. per bushel of 60 lbs. Spring Wheat 2s. 6d. a 3s. 6d. Rye 2s. Barley 1s. 8d. a 1s. 10½d. Peas 1s. 6d. a 1s. 9d. Oats 1s. 2d. a 1s. 3d. Flour 18s. a 20s. per barrel.

The winter hitherto has been remarkably open and mild, with but little snow. The season for sowing wheat having been favorable last fall, the plant attained a vigorous growth, and we have not as yet heard of its suffering to any extent from exposure. The most critical time, however, has not yet arrived. Snow has fallen for some days past, and the weather is much colder, and sleighing good to the north of this city—February 7th.

IMPRESSIONS OF METALS.—A very easy and elegant way of taking the impression of medals and coins, not very generally known, is thus described by Dr. Shaw: Melt a littleisinglass glue with brandy, and pour it thinly over the medal, so as to cover the whole surface; let it remain on a day or two, till it is thoroughly dry and hardened, and, then taking it off, it will be fine, clear, and as hard as a piece of Muscovy glass, and will have a very elegant impression of the coin. It will also resist the effects of damp air which occasions all other kinds of glue to soften and bend, if not prepared in this manner.

THE SALE OF ARSENIC UNNECESSARY.—There exists no earthly reason why a law should not go forth to-morrow, forbidding at once and for ever the retail sale of arsenic in this country. Arsenic is asked for to kill rats, mice, bugs, and other vermin; to form a solution for steeping wheat in before sowing; for dressing scabbed sheep; and for preparing the skins of birds for stuffing. The destruction of rats and mice, says Dr. Ure, is more effectually accomplished with the German poison, made of phosphorus and lard, with this great advantage, that upon eating it the animals immediately go in quest of water, and die away from the olfactories of the family. The same gentleman stated that arsenic will not kill bugs, and that camphire will. Dr. Ure and Dr. Tunstall agree that, for steeping wheat, arsenic is far inferior to the sulphate of copper, which is used extensively on the Continent, and that its continued employment for that purpose is as barbarous in science as in practice it is unsafe. Medical jurisprudence, said Dr. Tunstall, has demonstrated that arsenic, applied to an abraded or ulcerated surface, is absorbed, and finds its way to the stomach as certainly as if it entered by the mouth, while agricultural experience reveals that death from unknown causes is a very common occurrence among sheep to which arsenical dressings have been applied, and it is prudent to suspect the presence of the poison in the animals slaughtered for human food, which have undergone this treatment. The skins of birds may be dressed with corrosive sublimate. In resuming his opinions, Dr. Ure said, "I am quite sure that arsenic is not of any use for the purposes for which it is commonly sold by chemists and druggists."—*Scottish Agricultural Journal.*