

AGRICULTURAL.

THE ROLLER.

This valuable but too often neglected instrument, is of very simple construction. The chief requisite is a large wooden cylinder, to serve as the Roller, of such size and weight as to be drawn by a yoke of oxen. Rollers are sometimes made of stone, but generally of the heaviest wood; but they are far better when made of the lightest wood which can be obtained. For in this case they may be made of greater diameter when of the same length and weight, which gives them the decided advantage of being much more easily drawn, as they mount obstructions with ease, while one of less diameter is greatly impeded or nearly stopped by them. A length of six feet and a diameter, when made of light wood, of from thirty-two to thirty-six inch's are proper dimensions of a roller for ordinary purposes, when drawn by one yoke of oxen: where, however, it is desired to do the work thoroughly it must be of less length and greater diameter. Into the centre of each end are driven two gudgeons of iron about an inch in diameter. The frame consists of two pieces before the roller and one behind, connected at their ends to one on each side in which the gudgeons turn. A tongue is secured to the two forward pieces of the frame, with bracing chains to prevent strain in turning. No iron is necessary in the construction of this instrument except the chain, and gudgeons.

There are modes of constructing rollers which are in some respects more convenient, but much more complex and expensive.

A box for giving it additional weight or for gathering stones may be placed over the roller, thus making it serve at once as a cart and roller.

This instrument is very useful in smoothing the surface of land laid down in grass for hay, causing the grass at the same time to stool and grow thicker, by pressing the latter shoots into the earth; in rolling young clover late in Autumn to prevent its being thrown out by frost; in pressing the roots of wheat again into the soil after it has been thrown out; in rendering light and spongy soils more compact after seed is sown; in breaking and mashing down large clods where stiff soils have been ploughed in a dry season, and which harrows cannot break; and it is eminently useful in flattening and pressing down recently ploughed green sward, previously to the application of the harrow, rendering the sod far less liable to be turned up to the surface, and more completely burying the grass.—*Genesee Farmer.*

PARMESAN CHEESE.—The country between Cremona and Lodi, comprises the richest part of Milanese. The irrigation too is brought to the highest state of perfection. The grass is cut four times a year as fodder for the cows, from whose milk is made the well known cheese called Parmesan. The cows, which are kept in the stall nearly all the year round, are fed during summer on two of these crops of grass or clover, which are cut green, and in the winter on the two which are hayed. The milk of at least fifty cows is required for the manufacture of a Parmesan cheese. Hence as one farm rarely affords pasture for such a number, it is usual for the farmers or members of a district to club together. The milk of 50, 60, or even 100 cows, is brought twice to the farm where the dairy is fixed; the person on whom devolves the task of making cheese, keeps an account of the milk received, and the cheese is afterwards apportioned. In this fertile plain a farm of sixty acres is considered as a large one. These farms are subdivided into fields of three or four acres, for the convenience of irrigation: a practice which in the course of

a few years, impairs the quality of the grass to such a degree, that it becomes necessary to discontinue it. In this case the sluices of the Gorn are shut, the ground ploughed in autumn, and in the following spring sown with hemp, which shoots up to a great height; when this is pulled, the ground is sown with leguminous plants. In the next spring it is sown with oats, which grow to the height of six or seven feet. The richness of the soil being thus sufficiently subdued, it is next cropped with wheat. Maize is then sown in the following spring; a second crop of wheat succeeds, and finishes the course of cropping. The ground is then left to itself, and is immediately covered with herbage. During the winter it is manured, and the new meadow is then subjected again to the process of irrigation, which is usually continued for fifteen years. Thus the rotation in the Milanese extends to twenty years; five years for the growth of hemp, pulse and grain, and fifteen for the growth of grass. Rice is also grown in some parts of the Milanese; but as it partakes of the nature of an aquatic plant, for the rice grounds are kept under water during nearly the whole period of its growth, its cultivation has been placed under considerable restriction by the government, owing to the malaria, which it engenders.—*Evan's Italy.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

DEATH OF WILLIAM COBBETT, ESQ. M. P.

To the readers of the Register.

Clifford's Inn, Friday, June 19.

It is my mournful duty to state, that the forebodings above are realized, and that the hand which has guided this work for thirty-three years has ceased to move. The readers of the Register will, of course, look to this number for some particulars of the close of my poor father's life; but they will, I am sure be forgiven, if they find them shortly stated. A great inclination to inflammation of the throat had caused him annoyance from time to time for several years; and as he got older, it enfeebled him more. He was suffering from one of these attacks during the late spring; and it will be recollected that when the Marquis of Chandos brought on his motion for a repeal of the malt tax, my father attempted to speak, but could not make his voice audible beyond the few members who sat around him. He remained to vote on that motion, and increased his ailment; but on the voting of supplies on the nights of Friday the 15th, and Monday, the 18th of May, he exerted himself so much, and sat so late, that he laid himself up. He determined, nevertheless, to attend the house again on the evening of the Marquis of Chandos's motion on agricultural distress on the 25th May, and the exertion of speaking and remaining last to vote on that occasion were too much for one already severely unwell. He went down to his farm early on the morning after this last debate, and had resolved to rest himself thoroughly, and get rid of his hoarseness and inflammation. On Thursday night last he felt unusually well, and imprudently drank tea in the open air; but he went to bed apparently in better health. In the early part of the night he was taken violently ill, and on Friday and Saturday was considered in a dangerous state by his medical attendant. On Sunday he revived again, and on Monday gave us hope that he would yet be well. He talked feebly, but in the most collected and sprightly manner, upon politics, and farming; wished for 'four days' rain' for the Cobbet corn and the root crops; and on Wednesday, he could remain no longer shut up from the fields, but desired to be carried round the farm; which being done, he criticised the work that

had been going on in his absence, and detected some little deviation from his orders with all the quickness that was so remarkable in him. On Wednesday night he grew more and more feeble, and was evidently sinking; but he continued to answer with perfect clearness every question that was put to him. In the last half hour his eyes became dim; and at ten minutes after one p. m. he closed them as if to sleep, and died without a gasp. He was 73 years old; but, as he never appeared to us to be certain of his own age, we had some time ago procured an extract from the register of Farnham parish, in which it appears that the four sons of my grandfather, George, Thomas, William, and Anthony, were christened on the 1st of April, 1763, and, as Anthony was the youngest son and William was the third, we infer that he was born one year before he was christened, that is, on the 9th of March, 1762. He might, therefore, have been older, but not much.

JOHN M. COBBETT.

Cobbett died on the morning of the 18th. The particulars of his illness will be found in his Son's letter, which we publish. He was buried in Farnham Church yard, beside his parents. His remains were followed by about 8000 people. His eldest son has declared his intention to conduct the *Register*; but if he is to be judged by his prefatory article, his father's mantle has not fallen on his shoulders. We copy a few of the opinions of the leading British Journals, which the death of this extraordinary man has elicited, with reference to his character and writings:—(*Novascotian.*)

The *Standard* says of Cobbett:—We but repeat upon his death, what we have again and again confessed during his life time, that Mr. Cobbett was by far the first political writer of his age. No man has written so much upon public affairs, and we think no man has written so well. In the attributes of a severely correct and unaffected, a clear and a vigorous style, Mr. Cobbett was wholly without a rival, we venture to affirm since the days of Swift; nor did this necessary staple of good writing want the ornaments of copious and striking illustration, or strong and well connected arguments. From the immense magazine of Mr. Cobbett's voluminous compositions may, without difficulty, be collected samples of the highest eloquence to be found in our language; while it would be nearly impossible for the most malignant jealousy to winnow from the mass a single dull or feeble article.

The *Times* thinks that 'take this self-taught peasant for all in all, he was, perhaps, a more extraordinary Englishman than any other of his time.'

The *Morning Chronicle* says, 'It would be vain to deny that William Cobbett was one of the most powerful writers that England ever produced. His Rural Rides contain perhaps the very best descriptions of English scenery that ever were written.'

The *Morning Post*—His death creates a chasm in the politics and literature of Great Britain, which will not soon be filled up. We are proud of the name of Cobbett, as that of a writer and a man whom it is impossible that any other country than England could have produced.'

The *Dublin Morning Register* bears this testimony of his social character.—'This at least, must be said of him, that he was most regarded by those who best knew him, and that, as a head of a family, he was an object of unaffected love and veneration never surpassed. There are ten thousand acts of benevolence and disinterested friendship, to be told of him.'

The *Glasgow Chronicle* believes that he was undoubtedly the plainest, the clearest, the most effective writer that ever lived. 'The composi-