

and rainy weather, we made the Cove of Cork, the most delightful port I ever saw, on the 30th, and reached Liverpool on the morning of Friday, June 1st. It is not a little singular that thirteen years ago this very day I left with my family this port for Canada! In again setting my foot on the shores of dear old England, a crowd of thoughts rushed into the mind; among them, I trust, a deep feeling of gratitude to that Providence, which is over all for good. I think it not right to remark that Captain Greaves is an able and cautious commander, and with his officers, maintains in a quiet and easy manner the most perfect order and discipline. I did not hear a single oath uttered during the whole of the passage. This line of steam ships is a credit, as will no doubt be highly useful to Canada.

After getting clear of the ship, I proceeded to the central meat and vegetable market. Owing to the excessively hard winter and late spring, both meat and vegetables are scarce and dear. Beef and mutton fetch from 9d. to 11d. per lb., and what I saw was not of the best quality. Spring Cabbages very small and dear. New potatoes 3d. per lb.; some of good size from Portugal, but those of English growth were not larger than walnuts. It is expected that with more genial weather the markets will be better supplied and that prices will diminish. Meat is by far the cheapest necessary of life.

As I was examining some Hereford steers and Leicester sheep opposite St. George's Hall, (of which latter I have seen superior in the Toronto markets) a fellow passenger called my attention to a performance that was about to take place at the great organ in this magnificent structure. Accordingly went in, but regret my want of facility and space to convey by words any intelligible idea of what I saw and heard. This noble building contains the Law Courts, Library, and sundry other apartments, and its architecture and decorations are most elaborate and striking. The central hall is nearly two hundred feet long and one hundred wide. The grand organ was constructed under the direction of Dr. Wesley, and is said to be twice the size of the famous organ of Haarlem. It possesses eight thousand pipes, ranging from three-eighths of an inch to thirty-two feet in length, with a compass of ten octaves. It contains, in fact, the organs, the great, the pedal, the solo, the swell, and the choir, and has upwards of a hundred stops. With such an instrument played by

the best performer in England, Mr. Best, the effect produced is indescribable. I felt that I was in quite another world than that in which I had lived and moved during the past fortnight. This being Whitsun-week, the great holiday week of all Lancashire, the Hall was densely crowded with country people of all ages, chiefly, I was glad to see, of the working classes. What a privilege and means of mental and spiritual elevation to hear in such a place, by such a performer, on such an instrument, a selection from the best works of Weber, Bishop, Haydn, and Handel! and all this for three pence each person! How rich in means is England for elevating the masses of her teeming population. Yet I grieve to say that scarcely had I got beyond the hearing of these devotional and soul inspiring tones, than I witnessed a scene that but too frequently disgraces the civilization of our modern cities. What an anomaly is man, that he should disgrace by vile passion the image in which he is created!

Something about agricultural matters, I hope, in my next.

G. B.

[No. 2.]

BENEDEN, KENT, June 12, 1860.

In travelling from Liverpool to Manchester, a distance of 32 miles, in one hour, but little opportunity is afforded for making agricultural observations. I was struck by the backwardness and generally unfavorable appearance of the crops. The land lying on the new red sandstone formation is warmer and drier than the clays resting on the low measures, where in consequence of the unusual amount of wet and cold, all kinds of crops were looking yellow and sickly. On Chatmoss there is a large area yet to be reclaimed, and the general appearance of this densely peopled district indicates that capital is wont to flow more freely into the channels of commerce and manufactures than into agriculture; a circumstance on many accounts to be regretted. It takes a series of years to bring this moss land into a proper state of cultivation. Large open ditches have first to be cut, which carry off an immense amount of water in the course of two or three years, and the moss slowly sinks and consolidates. Afterwards the draining has to be increased and perfected, the surface heavily dressed with marl and quick lime; the former being found in certain parts of the moss at depths varying from a dozen to twenty or more feet. This land when well managed will produce heavy crops of potatoes, turnips, clover, &c.; oats also do well, but for wheat it is indifferent, yielding a large amount