

ing from his dove-cote, happened to observe it with some others upon the street. He immediately got hold of a pretty sizeable stone about which he fastened the end of a piece of small cord, three yards long, and to the other end a common horse-bean. He went as near to the pigeons as he could with his apparatus without making them fly off, laid it down on the street, and scattering some mouldy crumbs of bread around the bean, retired. The pigeons were immediately at the crumbs, and one of them, and it happened to be the boy's, observing the bean, made a gobble at it and swallowed it. The boy made a rush; his favourite essayed to fly, but he was as safe as a trout on a hook. The bean though down, would not come up, and not being able to carry off the stone, the prisoner was soon secured by the boy, who cut the cord close to the bill, and carried him off in triumph.

**ECONOMY OF VEGETABLE DIET.**—Dr. Lyon Playfair has recognised the economy of vegetarianism. At the late agricultural meeting at Drayton Manor, he said:—"At London prices, a man can lay a pound of flesh on his body with milk at 3s.; with turnips at 2s. 9d.; with potatoes, carrots, and butchers's meat, free from bone and fat, at 2s.; with oatmeal at 1s. 10d.; with bread, flour, and barleymeal, at 1s. 2d.; and with beans less than 6d. These considerations are far from trivial, because when we consider that an equal amount of nutritious matter can be obtained from one food at less than one-fourth the cost of another, this is only saying that in time of distress, with an intelligent application of money, we can feed four people where formerly we could only feed one."

**THE ADVANTAGE OF SCIENCE.**—To "A Farmer of the Good Old School."—No reflecting person can long despise science as being the mere speculation of theorists; it must soon be considered by every class of men in its true point of view—as the refinement of common sense, guided by experience, gradually substituting sound and rational principles for vulgar prejudices. Industry is never so efficacious as when directed by science: it is like to a person journeying in the night, who, however full may have been the directions for his way, feels more certain of his path if he carry a lamp to guide him through the darkness.

**IRRIGATION.**—To "A Hampshire Improver."—We cannot do better, in reply to your why and your wherefore, than give an extract from a little work called "Productive Farming," by J. A. Smith, wherein he remarks: "If river water contains gypsum (sulphate of lime), which it certainly does if the water is hard, it must, under ordinary circumstances, on this account alone be highly fertilizing to meadows since the grasses contain this salt in very sensible proportions. Calculating that one part of sulphate of lime is contained in every two thousand parts of the river water, and that every square yard of dry meadow soil absorbs only eight gallons of water, then it will be found that by every flooding more than *one hundred weight and a-half of gypsum per acre* is diffused through the soil in the water; a quantity equal to that generally adopted by those who spread gypsum on their clover, lucern, and sainfoin crops, as a manure, either in a state of powder or as it exists in peat-ashes. And if we apply the same calculation to the organic substances ever more or less contained in flood-waters, and if we allow only twenty-five parts of animal and vegetable remains to be present in a thousand parts of river-water, then we shall find, taking the same data that every soaking with such water, will add to the meadow nearly two tons per acre animal and vegetable matters; which allowing in the case of water-meadows five floodings per annum, is equal to a yearly application of ten tons of organic matter. The quantity of foreign substances present in river-water, although commonly less, yet very often exceeds the proportion we have calculated to exist."

**BISHOP'S TAWTON.**—*Ploughing at midnight!*—Not many weeks ago a farmer of this parish purchased one of Comin's improved ploughs, which his ploughman, the day after it was brought into the farm yard, was anxious to try, but the weather was wet, and the ground not in order, so the farmer forbade it, and Giles proceeded to another job. Night came, and he went to bed, but such was his anxiety to "try the *zoul*" that he dreamt of nothing else, and after a short nap got up before midnight, harnessed his team to the plough, hastened to the field, took advantage of the moonlight, ploughed three quarters of an acre, and returned home to the farm house long before the rest of the family were out of roost: The farmer got up at the accustomed hour, and called his man, but he answered not: on getting down stairs, he was surprised to see Giles seated comfortably before the fire, and told him that he had better go and look after his horses, but re-