

little heard of in the courts of the national legislature, but who, through our perverse determination to do them that which justice says we ought not to do, are almost able to turn the balance for general good. It is of no more importance that Mr. O'Connell should have the elements of a good citizen in his composition, than that the seven millions should be all of them in superfine coats. It is in the injury that the influence lies, and in no other circumstances of the condition. But whatever Mr. O'Connell may be, he certainly has the sense to perceive and appreciate the full advantages of his situation. To resist, as he has done, the blandishments of those whom he considers as the enemies of his country, and to despise the scorn and shame which many have poured upon him, must have required extraordinary firmness—for, however poor may be the appearance of a state office in comparison with the homage of millions, however famous apostasy would clearly be to his historical character, however consoled he may have been in the affections of the multitude for the indignities of the few, we find birthrights so often sold for messes of pottage, that he who has stood firm against such things may well be allowed the praise of a more than usually comprehensive intellect, as well as a more than usually vigorous character. The very expectations which are perpetually expressed in all quarters of the possibility of his taking some courtly or official honour, and thereby destroying his popular influence, show that to do so would be natural. There even appear to be some who would consider the office of a ministerial office as an honour to Mr. O'Connell. Such must be the men who, in political affairs, never look beyond little inconsistencies in the opinions of statesmen, and, filled with anecdotes of what has been said or done by individuals, are unable to take a complete view of any single question. Mr. O'Connell evidently can feel the grandeur of his position, and, feeling it, can estimate all competing temptations at their proper value. He sees day after day how those who once opposed him are won by his steady advocacy of the rights of his country—how, while he stands firm to his principle, all others shake, and veer, and sink by his side—how every movement in affairs only brings him a little nearer to the great object at which he aims, and which must in the long run place him among the greatest of the benefactors of mankind. Considering how rapidly he is approaching this object, he would be impatient indeed if he could not wait till it has been gained.

Such are the remarks which have occurred to us in reference to the posture of affairs produced by the church established in Ireland. We treat the question apart from all other political questions—as one involving a simple and obvious principle of justice and policy. Our views may startle some politicians of almost all classes; but we would just ask if the institution adverted to has not been a rock of destruction alike to its friends and its enemies, and if there be any fair prospect of either Conservative or Liberal conducting the affairs of the country in a satisfactory manner, so long as one large portion of the people is frenzied by so palpable a wrong.

DANGER FROM COMETS.

As the comets traverse the planetary regions in all directions, it is natural to inquire whether there is not a possibility that some of them may approach so near to the earth as greatly to disturb its motion, or by an actual contact to produce the most disastrous effects. Upon this subject there is no reasonable grounds for fear. If it be not absolutely impossible that a comet may come in contact with the earth, the probabilities against such an event happening are millions to one. Among bodies so small in comparison with the immense space in which they move, and moving with all velocities, and in orbits that are inclined in all directions, and are of all dimensions, how small must be the probability that any two shall come in contact. Small, however, as this probability is for any one age, if we take into account a long series of ages, the probability may be greatly increased. If we suppose the earth actually to receive such a shock, it is easy to imagine the calamitous consequences which must follow. The axis and motion of rotation being changed, the waters of the earth would leave their ancient position, and would be precipitated toward the new equator. A great part of the human race and of the lower animals, would be drowned by the universal deluge or destroyed by the violent shock impressed on the terrestrial globe. Whole species of animals might be annihilated. All the monuments of human industry and invention would be overthrown. In such a catastrophe we find, too, a cause adequate to account for the ocean having overflown lofty mountains, in which it has left incontestable evidence of its presence; and to explain how the animals and plants of the south may have existed in the climates of the north, where we find the remains and impressions of them. Lastly, such an event accounts for the recentness of the moral world, the monuments of which go back scarcely

three thousand years. The human race reduced to a small number of individuals, and to the most miserable condition, would for a long time, be mainly occupied in providing for their preservation amidst the wreck which surrounded them, and would lose all remembrance of arts and sciences; and when, by the progress of civilization, they at length become sensible of the want of these, they would find it necessary to re-commence, as if man had been newly placed on the earth. It seems impossible to contemplate the picture of calamity here drawn, without being forcibly struck with the singular coincidence—that if we suppose the period of the approach of the comet of 1650 (which in that year made a considerable near approach to the earth's orbit) to be 577 1/2 years, and count back from the year 1650, seven revolutions, or a period of 4028 years, we reach the year 2349 before Christ—the year of the deluge as fixed by chronologists.—*Athe neum.*

AGRICULTURAL.

(FOR THE BEE.)

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN NOVA SCOTIA, AND THE MEANS OF ITS IMPROVEMENT. NO. 5.

NEW LAND FARMING.

MR. DAWSON,

Sir,—As there is yet so much forest land to cultivate, I conceive it may be useful to those engaged in, or about to enter upon that arduous undertaking, to state some facts connected therewith.

While some seem to be buoyed up with hopes, that if they had a piece of woodland they would have little to do but look at the trees tumbling, and gather in luxuriant crops; others seem to be deterred from attempting to clear land, by a supposition that it is the next thing to impossible to make a living by clearing the forest; none of these is the case. Any hearty industrious man, with as much in hand as will set him down upon his land clear of debt, build a house and barn, and keep himself and family for one year, with a stock of clothes to do them two, and what will purchase a cow, an axe and hoe, may with good management, at the end of five or six years, find himself in comfortable circumstances. I do not think it would answer any good purpose to take up much of your excellent paper, by entering very minutely into the particulars of what the new land farmer has to do, a lesson from a successful neighbour settler may do more than all that could be said; I shall merely advert to those things that are most apt to be overlooked, but which are at the same time essentially necessary to be attended to. The means of the settler should determine, as to whether it is hard or soft wood land he is to settle upon. I think £20 will go as far in making a beginning upon hard, as £40 upon soft wood land, although after a while he may do as well upon the latter as the former; the great consideration ought to be to have it good. When the situation is fixed upon beside a stream of water, or a spring, he ought to chop at least two acres, and have it cleared up before he begins to build; the house should be set in the north-east angle of the clear field, as there is the least danger of fire; the clearing should be extended upon the north and east sides as far as may be, as the crops will run the less risk of being burned; the part of the new field intended for grain ought to be rolled up the fall before, as if left to the spring it may be too late in putting in the grain, if there is no team to harrow, a rake about fifteen inches long, with six good stout iron teeth is preferable to the hoe, it will do the work better, and double the quantity; in clearing up the land the part intended for a hay field should be completely rid of small stumps, rotten wood, and every encumbrance of that kind, and care should be taken not to allow the sprouts to grow about the stumps; there is no need for spending time in being so particular with what is intended for pasture, as an old log lying will do little harm, and the cattle will destroy the sprouts. More than one green crop should not be taken before laying

out to grass, and the greatest care should be taken to provide the best clover and timothy seed to sow along with it.

It is a good plan to have what is called a year's chopping before hand: I cannot say that I ever found much difference as to the time the wood is cut; it is well to be chopping a tree whenever it can be got at.

A kitchen garden is deserving of early attention, a great many things may be raised there with little trouble that will afford comfort in the family. In it there may likewise be a few apple-trees planted, and bushes bearing different kinds of fruit, but be sure and have a good fence about it or it will be more plague than pleasure.

The dung should be taken particular care of; if put in a low wet place where it will not ferment, it may be kept for eight or ten years without losing much of its strength, whereas if laid in a high dry place, it will be nearly useless in two or three years, but it would be well to apply part of it to the poorest parts of the hay-field from time to time, as a top-dressing. It would likewise be a benefit to change the order of the hay and pasture fields after the third or fourth year, there would be a greater quantity of hay and the quality improved.

Yours truly,

OLD RUSTICUS.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.—Every agriculturist in this province, who possesses a farm that he wishes or expects to render profitable, should subscribe for the New England Farmer, newspaper. It is cheap, instructive and excellent in every respect. It has been conducted for a long period by an individual of great merit, Mr. Fessenden—and it is the only thing of the kind accessible here.—*Halifax Recorder.*

NOVA-SCOTIA.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

[From the Novascotian.]

Union of the Colleges.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17. Mr Young moved the order of the day, that the House should resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the message of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, concerning the proposed union of King's and Dalhousie Colleges, and the Colonial despatches and documents connected therewith.

He took a general view of the system of education pursued in Scotland, after which the college in Halifax was intended, by Lord Dalhousie, its founder, to be modeled. He adverted to the available funds for its support, which he stated to be as follows:

There is lodged in the three per cent Annuities the sum of £2,296 which yield yearly	£248 sterling,	£310 cur'cy.
The rent of the lower part of the building, about	80	"
The provision for the Pictou Academy might spare	250	"
	£640.	

On this last sum I may remark, that I have no direct authority from the Trustees of that Institution to make such a surrender in behalf of the New College, yet I have my reasons for drawing such a conclusion. As chairman of a Committee, I have read the petitions from the Trustees, and congregation connected with that Academy, and they bewail the total ruin of all their prospects as to its usefulness, under present arrangements; so that no doubt is left in my mind that it has proved, by the union of the two parties there, a complete failure.—It has almost no students, and it is sinking into debt. Its principal, Dr. McCulloch, by petition also, addresses the House, as if willing to resign, and prays that, as he has no means and no desire to be idle, the House will not over-