

the heat and wind. In a short time the water will disappear, leaving the salt crystalized upon the dish. In the same manner, the great mass of water, which falls in the form of rain, hail and snow, is raised from the briny ocean, to fall purified and refreshing; not only to water the thirsty earth, but to form a wholesome drink for man. Wonderful are the works and ways of the God of nature. Hard waters are those which contain earthy matters, in a state of solution; usually Phosphate, or Bicarbonate of lime dissolved by the passage of the water through the earth. Springs of soft water are, therefore, seldom found in lime-stone districts. Hard water is easily detected, by its curdling when mixed with soap, instead of forming a suds. This is also a chemical process. Soap is a chemical composition of oil and water, through the neutralizing influence of an alkali; which unites with both. Now waters called hard, in addition to a neutral salt, contain a quantity of surplus acid, by which the salt is held in solution, and the alkali of the soap having a stronger affinity for the acid than the oil and water, deserts its old union, to form a new one with the acid, leaving the oil to rise to the surface. When hard water is boiled, the surplus acid is expelled, causing a deposition of the carbonate of lime, (which is insoluble in water,) in scales on the kettle. Soft water is by many, considered insipid; but that this depends upon an artificial taste, created by stimulating foods and drinks, is proved by the fact, that animals prefer drinking from turbid pools of soft; rather than the most transparent hard water. All water which contains any important admixture of substances, not adapted to nourish the body; whether the much vaunted mineral waters, or the miasma-breathing marsh, is injurious; and their common use as a beverage, is the cause of many chronic and epidemic diseases; such as dysenteries, which are often caused by Phosphate of lime—Intermittent, and Remittent fevers—calcareous concretions in the intestines, &c., &c.

But here, as in every thing else, FASHION reigns omnipotent. Waters mingled with impurities of every description; *Iron—earthy salts—deadly Iodine and Bromine*; and last, and worst, that most disgusting and fatal of all gases, *sulphuretted Hydrogen*; a few bubbles of which, when evolved by decaying animal remains, condensed breeds pestilence and death, are transmitted by this most potent magician, to unfailing panaceas for all complaints, from the gouty eye of the *gourmande* to the overtaxed brain of the student; while the pure fluid, which God distils from Heaven, like holy manna of old, is cast aside, as fit only to cleanse the impurities of the external man; *for which purpose their favorite beverages answer very poorly*. Did it ever occur to such people, that the internal source of the body; which is but a continuation of the external, might need cleansing too, *and that hard water is no more efficacious in one case than the other!*

Brooklin, April 1st, 1854.

TO CORRESPONDENTS AND READERS,

A number of interesting articles and original communications are unavoidably crowded out of this number, owing to the length of the Prize List and Rules and Regulations for the Provincial Exhibition.

AGRICULTURAL REPORTS.

Reports have been received at the office of the Board of Agriculture, to the present date, from the following County Societies:—Addington, Bruce, Carleton, Dundas, Du ham, Elgin, Essex, Frontenac, Glengarry, Grey, Haldimand, Hutton, Hastings, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Leeds and Grenville, Lennox, Lincoln, Middlesex, Norfolk, Northumberland, Ontario, Oxford, Peel, Perth, Peterboro', Prescott, Prince Edward, Russell, Simcoe, Stormont, Victoria, Waterloo, Welland, Wellington, Wentworth.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the Schedule of Premiums, to be Awarded at the Exhibitions of the Brockville Horticultural Society, the first show to take place on the 29th of June, and the second or Annual Show, on the 14th of September. There are liberal prizes offered for Flowers, Fruits, Vegetables, Seeds, and Poultry. Also £2 10s. for the best Cultivated Garden; £1 10s. for the best design of a Green-house, and £1 5s. for the best specimen of Rustic Work.

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BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE
QUEBEC, May 8th, 1854.

THE following Gentlemen are re-appointed members of the Board of Agriculture for Upper Canada, for the current year, viz:—

- R. L. DENISON, of Toronto,
- E. W. THOMPSON, do.
- HENRY RUTTEN, of Cobourg.
- JOHN HARLAND, of Guelph.

JOHN ROLPH,
Minister of Agriculture.