

Who would have thought it possible, a few years ago, that gas-works would yield a powerful manure? We now know on what the exhaustion of our soils depends: it is, the most precious ingredients of the soil which we remove in the crops, and thus impoverish our fields. By analysing the ashes of plants, we learn what we must replace in order to restore the original fertility of the soil.

Africa and Peru supply us with the mineral elements of bread and flesh, in guano; and chemical works now produce the other mineral substances which are indispensable to turnips and potatoes (Cheers) It is evident to all that the present age has entered upon a new path; we have now to do with the real, not with the imaginary value of manure. (Applause.) As we have now learned how to measure the value of an acid or an alkali, so we can now ascertain the true value of a manure. This, therefore, is precisely what we must expend on the soil, in order to obtain a profit; for the capital of the farmer consists of his labour and his manure. Much, certainly, remains to be done. The mineral food of the plants of all countries must be ascertained by the analysis of their ashes; we must determine which substances are essential, which accidental; we must endeavour to find out in which plant one ingredient or another may be replaced, as lime by magnesia, or potash by soda."

We beg to differ from Mr. Waterton as regards his expression of pity for "poor old John Bull, with a weight of eight hundred millions of pounds round his galled neck." We take upon us to say that this weight is no more galling to the neck of honest John Bull than the mill-stone appears to be to the growth and fruit-bearing of the nut-tree, described above. In proof of this, we can refer to England at the present moment in all her glory of wealth and improvements; and most of those vast improvements have been made since this vast debt was incurred. London has more than doubled her extent and population during this period. We can say the same of Manchester, Liverpool, and many other great towns;—about one hundred millions have been expended on rail-roads, &c. The country and its beautiful mansions have been very much improved, and a vast amount of capital has been expended in manufacturing machinery,—and sent to foreign countries. It may be truly said that, John Bull, like the tree described, is more than equal to all his burdens, and is at this moment the most flourishing, improving, and powerful country on earth,—sending population and capital to the most distant parts of our globe. There is an evil, however, of great magnitude, a want of full employment for the people, and this we attribute to the introduction of machinery for every thing. This must have the effect of accumulating wealth in a

few hands, and greatly increasing the number of the unemployed and poor. The "National Debt" if paid to day, would not cure this evil, but we believe, would greatly unsettle the British Empire, and be productive of numerous evils that we dream not of.

VEGETATION TRIUMPHANT.—At Walton Hall there stood a mill to convert corn into meal. Time, the great annihilator of all human inventions, (saving taxation and the national debt,) laid this fabric low in ruins some sixty years ago, and nothing now remains to show the place where it once stood, except a massive mill-stone, full 17 feet in circumference. The ground where the mill stood having been converted into a meadow, this stone lay there unnoticed and unknown, (save by the hay-maker,) from the period of the mill's desolation to the autumn of 1813, when one of our nut-eating wild animals deposited a few nuts under its protecting cover. In the course of the following summer, a single nut having escaped the teeth of the destroyer, sent up its verdant shoot through the hole in the centre of the procumbent mill-stone. One day I pointed out this rising tree to a gentleman who was standing by, and said, "If this young plant escape destruction, some time or other it will support the mill-stone and raise it from the ground." He seemed to doubt this. In order, however, that the plant might have a fair chance of success, I directed that it might be defended from accident and harm, by means of a wooden paling. Year after year it increased in size and beauty; and when its expansion had entirely filled the hole in the centre of the mill-stone, it gradually began to raise up the stone itself from the ground. This huge stone is now eight inches above the ground, and is entirely supported by the stem of the tree, which has risen to the height of twenty-five feet, and bears excellent fruit.

Strangers often inspect this original curiosity. When I meet a visitor whose mild physiognomy informs me that his soul is proof against the souring influence of politics, which now a days is so generally prevalent, I venture at a small attempt at pleasantry, and say, "that I never pass this tree and mill-stone without thinking of poor old Mr John Bull, with a weight of eight hundred millions of pounds round his galled neck."

#### REPORT.

"The Council have again the satisfaction of reporting to the members, at the present general meeting, the effective state of the Society in every branch of its operations, and the continued influx of new members from all parts of the kingdom. The communications of practical results in farming, furnished by correspondents from the various localities of the country, and again disseminated among the members by means of the journal; the increasing extent and importance of the annual county meetings, at which not only the agricultural community have the immediate advantages of personal communication and direct interchange of experience on farming topics of common interest to