

receiving no new addition, and being subjected to the influence of air and moisture, they pass into putrefaction, and their injurious influence ceases. The plants now find those substances which formerly prevented their growth removed, and in their place meet with humus, that is, vegetable matter in the act of decay.

We can scarcely suppose a better means of producing humus than by the growth of plants, the leaves of which are food for animals, for they prepare the soil for plants of every other kind, but particularly for those to which, as to rape and flax, the presence of humus is the most essential condition of growth.

The reasons why this interchange of crops is so advantageous—the principles which regulate this part of agriculture, are, therefore, the artificial production of humus, and the cultivation of different kinds of plants upon the same field, in such an order of succession, that each shall extract only certain components of the soil, whilst it leaves behind or restores those which a second or third species of plant may require for its growth and perfect development.

Now, although the quantity of humus in a soil may be increased to a certain degree by an artificial cultivation, still, in spite of this there cannot be the smallest doubt that a soil must gradually lose those of its constituents which are removed in the seeds, roots, and leaves of the plants raised upon it. The fertility of a soil cannot remain unimpaired, unless we replace in it all those substances of which it has been thus deprived.

Now this is effected by manure.—Liebig.

NEWS.

Sir Charles Metcalfe has been created a Peer, by the title of Baron Metcalfe, of Fern-hill, Berks.

The subscription for the formation of public walks and parks in Manchester, amounts to £29,701.

THE SUGAR DUTIES.—The offer of our Government to renew negotiations for a commercial treaty with Brazil, may be regarded as a tolerably positive proof of two things; first, that it is about to make further alterations in the sugar duties; and, second, it is prepared to admit Brazilian sugars. The conditions on which it will agree to admit sugars, the produce of slave labour, are not yet known.

On Wednesday week, Sir George Larpent, Chairman of the London Mercantile Committee on Postage, handed to Mr. Rowland Hill the sum of £10,000, as "part of the amount raised" towards the national testimonial.

AGGREGATE MEETING OF THE IRISH CATHOLICS.—We understand that preparations are being made by the leading Catholics of Ireland, to hold an aggregate meeting at an early period, to take into consideration the danger with which the liberty of their clergy and the independence of their church are threatened, by the recent legislation of the Government, and the attempts made by its agents to influence and overawe the court of Rome, by fabrications, and threats, and promises.

GUANO.—This celebrated manure which has done so much within these few years to increase the fruits of the earth in Britain, is said to be nearly exhausted at the Islands where it is found. The price is of course rapidly rising in Britain.

An express locomotive for the London Herald, over the Paris and Rouen Railroad, performed the distance (eighty-two miles) in ninety minutes!—the most extraordinary instance of rapidity, we believe, on record.

The Pope is said to be dangerously ill. His Holiness is the Nestor of European sovereigns, being 79 years and 4 months old.

Another bloody and despicable instance of dueling, a practise contrived to exhibit the last stages of human insanity, has occurred at Memphis. On the 25th ult. two shoemakers, who should have struck to their lasts, fought a duel with pistols and bowie knives. One of the parties has died of his wounds—the other is almost dead.

There is great excitement in Switzerland on account of a recent measure adopted by the Canton of Lucerne, namely, to place the tuition of youth in the hands of the Jesuits. Civil war had broken out in two instances, but was suppressed.

CHEAP POSTAGE.—Since the British Parliament had magnanimity to abolish their *franking privilege*, (which was very similar as a political engine, and as a heavy, dead weight upon the mails to that claimed for themselves by our *Republican Congress*), and to fix their own letter postage as well as that of the people, at the

uniform rate of one penny, and to carry newspapers throughout the realm for *nothing*, there has been as might be expected, a vast increase in the number of letters. And as the result, for several years past, the Post Office has cleared to the Government, over all expenses, from *three to four millions of dollars annually*. By the late arrival we learn, that the additional increase of revenue from this source, the past year, has been \$368,000. At this ratio of annual increase, it may yet become one of the largest sources of national revenue.—*Journal Commerce.*

THE NORTHWEST.—The amount of public lands, not included in the present districts or surveys, lying in the Northwestern Territory, east of the Rocky Mountains, and exclusive of the ceded lands in Iowa, is nearly 500,000,000 acres. To 54th degree 40 minutes, 323,177,320 acres. The Oregon Territory to 49th degree of north latitude, contains 218,689,310 acre. The British government claim to 49th degree, while the United States claim to 54th degree 40 minutes. This statement shows that the country in dispute on the Oregon boundary, embrace 101,640,000 acres—a territory about twice as large as the State of New-York.

We learn that the issues of Bibles and Testaments by the American Bible Society since May last have averaged 1000 to 1200 copies per day. Both the issues and receipts of the Society have been greater than during the same period of any former year.

A most enthusiastic meeting was held at Portland on Tuesday evening week, of the friends of the proposed railroad from that city to Montreal. Judge Preble, John Neal and others addressed the meeting. The prospect for taking the stock is said to be excellent. Mr. Anderson stated that \$500,000 might be taken in Portland, and Judge Preble said that \$100,000, he thought, would be taken in the village of North Yarmouth alone.

There are now three missing New York Packet Ships, viz:—1st—The *United States* sailed from Liverpool, Nov. 26th, with a crew of 23 men and 48 passengers. 2nd—The *England* sailed from Liverpool, Dec. 1st, with 21 men and 68 passengers. 3rd—The *Normandie* sailed from New York, Dec. 10th, with a crew of 24 men. All with valuable cargoes.

The Judiciary Committee of the Senate have been diligently considering the subject of the Naturalization Laws; and at their suggestion a commission to obtain authentic information on the subject of the introduction of foreign paupers, criminals, &c. into this country, with other matters of inquiry, pertinent to the subject has been appointed.

Governor Porter, of Pennsylvania, on going out of office, has granted an immense number of pardons. Criminals of every grade, and many of them of the worst character, have been let loose upon the community. Among them are James Sherry and Terrence Mullen, who were convicted some time since of being engaged in the Kensington riots.

The New-York Commercial Advertiser, states that the last steamer from England brought despatches to Mr. Packenham, the British Minister, instructing him to demand an explanation or—"apology" for, the report says—the extraordinary offensive language used by our Secretary of State, Mr. Calhoun, in his dispatch to Mr. King, our Ambassador at Paris, which our Government has seen fit to publish to the world. It is thought not to be improbable. The Tribune remarks:

Mr. Calhoun saw fit to write, and Mr. Tyler to publish, in an official communication to be shown to a foreign Court linked in the strictest bonds of amity with Great Britain, that the policy of the latter was systematically hypocritical, hollow, and dictated by a spirit of hostility to the true interests of France, and of this country. To write such a letter was a gross infraction of the relations subsisting between our Government, and that so assailed, but to blazon it to the world, without provocation or necessity, can be regarded in no other light than that of studied insult. If Great Britain should take no notice of this, it would seem to be a tacit admission of its justice. There is not an instance on record in which our Government has ever submitted in silence to such imputations as those it has needlessly heaped upon Great Britain.

Santa Anna, who has for many years been the most prominent leader in Mexico, has, after a sanguinary war, been taken prisoner by the party opposed to him, and will, it is said, according to Spanish custom in such cases, be shot.

CANADA.

RAILWAY TO PORTLAND.—Great interest has been excited by the project of a Railway from Montreal to Portland, Main, a distance of about 200 miles, and the nearest point of access to the Ocean. If carried through—our intercourse with Britain, and in fact with the world generally, would be incalculably facilitated.