

ness, whereat to deposit the rich productions of her thousand hills and dales, flocks and herds, for sale and distribution. No nation can long exist and sustain an importance, unless it has a great agricultural interest to throw itself back upon. Commerce may cease, and yet man may survive; but let agriculture cease to yield its support, and man dies. It is the true policy of every Government to encourage its agricultural interest; for that is the great stimulus that puts in circulation all its other resources.

We see that all the old and strong Governments on the Eastern continent, look most carefully after their agricultural interest. See what England has done to improve the agriculture of her island and its dependencies. She has called into her aid the mighty intellect of her men of science; her philosophers, chemists, geologists, and botanists, and by honors and rewards worthy of the object to be attained, she has enlisted their warmest interest in the subject. They have labored hard and successfully; and by the aid of their experiments and analyses they have opened the secrets of nature, and made examinations into her most abstruse parts. Agriculture, by their efforts, has become reduced to a science. By the aid of that class of men we have been shown the basis of vegetables, and the necessary constituents in soils, to produce those vegetables. By experience we have been taught the value of barn-manure in the rearing of vegetables. But Sir Humphrey Davy taught us what there was in manure that aided vegetation; and how we could form composts, possessing all the valuable principles of the barn-manure, in any quantity, and at trifling expense. These men by taking vegetables and separating and decomposing them, have ascertained of what kinds of earth and material the vegetable is composed. By passing soils through the same process, they have ascertained what soils is the best adapted to the rearing of particular vegetables. By examining and carrying through this process, exhausted and worn-out soils, they have detected at once the part defective, and what is necessary to be applied to restore the soil to its native excellence.

England has found it necessary to increase every portion of her soil to the highest degree of fertility, to give support to her immense population; and every effort has been resorted to, to learn how to produce the greatest crop with the least expense. She has also considered it for her interest, and as her duty, to improve all the several breeds of animals that can be made useful to the support and convenience of man; and the whole energies of the Government have been brought in aid of this noble object. Her navy and foreign commerce; her ambassadors and all her foreign agents have been charged with the great purpose of searching out every thing rare and valuable that will prove the agricultural wealth of her island. The best of all kinds of animals and vegetables, are collected and sent home to be examined and experimented upon. By this course, of every thing that can be made advantageous, they at once seize upon the benefit. By cross-breeding different species, they have succeeded in carrying to the highest degree of perfection the different races of animals in use. All our best blood-cattle, horses, sheep, swine, and poultry, have been imported from that country. Nothing is left undone; no exertion unemployed that will go to benefit her agriculture. She even employs many of her vessels in transporting home the materials to form manures. The isles of the ocean are dug away to furnish her with the Guano, a very popular manure, that has recently come into notice and use. And the *relics and bones* that could be collected on her famous battle ground, Waterloo, were long since transported there, and ground up to mix with and enrich the soil of England.

Throughout the whole of Europe, this same feeling, to a greater or less extent prevails. To renew, stimulate, and vivify the soil, is the object of first importance among that people. The consequence is, that by such attention, the northerly portions of that country, which we should have supposed condemned by nature to eternal sterility, from its latitude, and the coldness of the climate, are made very fruitful in the produce of food. Experience has

shown us that the effect of acclimation, and the application of science and art to vegetables in hastening them to maturity is most wonderful; and it is now a well accredited fact, that agriculture, aided by the modern discoveries of chemistry, can be profitably pursued in high frosty latitudes. A day in Iceland, during the summer, is almost equal to a week at the equator, for the purpose of hastening vegetation.

China is also a wonderful nation. She is original and peculiar to all things. She is one of the oldest and most populous nations of the globe, and has to show the accumulated improvements and wealth of untold centuries. Her vast population, which is supported mostly from the productions of her own soil, numbers about 300 millions. The territory she improves, from which to support her vast number is but little more than half the present size of the United States. But every portion of that territory is made a garden, in the neatness and care of its cultivation. No spot, however rocky or sterile by nature, is permitted to lay idle. The whole is tilled to the very hill top. Every square and rod of land is made to support its man. This is effected by the untiring labor of her population.— Every particle of earth is removed, and re-removed, and exposed to the sun's rays of light and heat, and to the atmospheric changes. Every stone and pebble is removed; nothing but pulverized soil is brought in contact with the vegetable. Every thing in the animal, vegetable, or mineral kingdom, that can be converted into manure is returned back to the soil to enable it to sustain so prolific a production of vegetables. By agriculture, China has made herself, in addition to supporting her great population, the most wealthy nation in the world. She sells annually to the United States and Great Britain the vast quantity of 60 million lbs. of Tea, besides large quantities to other nations. She sells chiefly for cash, and nothing is called cash with her, but the pure metals, gold and silver.

LETTER FROM FRANCE ON AGRICULTURE, &c.

Paris, Dec. 25, 1845.

Agriculture is very differently treated in this country to what it is in England. There is a minister expressly charged with the management of the business arising from it. The Chambers protect it, and assist it as far as they possibly can, without injury to the general weal; and when any particular measure affecting its interests is to be considered, some of the most eminent and enlightened agriculturists of the kingdom are called together, and their advice and opinions demanded. At this very moment, for example, a council, consisting of such persons, is assembled to deliberate on questions relating to irrigation, pasturage, agricultural credit, and other subjects of great importance to agriculturists. Besides this, committees are permanently established in every department, for the encouragement of agriculture, for improving the breed of cattle, and for rewarding meritorious persons: schools are opened for the diffusion of agricultural knowledge; roads are established in all directions where they are likely to be useful to farmers; in a word, agriculture is felt to be the great interest of the country, and is cared for and nurtured accordingly.

I had designed to notice in detail the various questions on agricultural matters submitted by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce to the Councils-general now sitting, as well as to lay before you a brief abstract of the various documents prepared by the minister to assist the councils in arriving at a sound decision; but on reflection, I think it will be better to postpone doing so until the debate of the councils, with the results they arrive at, shall be published; that they will be of very great interest to your readers cannot be doubted.

The most important question of all which the minister has desired advice upon is relating to irrigation. A law was passed in the last session to provide for the watering of dry lands, by enabling the possessors of them to bring water on certain conditions across the lands of other people. The minister, not thinking the law so perfect as it