

the compliments of Wm. H. Douglas, Esq., marked 'Old Otard.'

"James Adams & Co., sent with their compliments a box of excellent cigars.

"The Platt Fruit and Oyster Co., furnished a basket of fruit.

"Messrs. D. & H. Edwards kindly presented a basket of crackers, cheese, fruit and wines.

"Messrs. W. J. Mills and Co., furnished a box of cigars.

"Messrs. Hadley & Nichols, very generously put up one of their excellent coal stoves for the warming of the room.

"The Urbana Wine Co., deposited in the press headquarters, a case of Imperial wine.

"The press room is indebted to Hoyt, Plagg & Co., Louisville, Ky., for a case of their Sunnyside Chewing Tobacco; and to some unknown person for a package of cigars.

"For all these evidences of friendship the press makes due acknowledgement, and will make proper return."

### Communications.

#### BONES.

The effects of manure depend so much upon climate—upon the consequent interval between seed time and harvest—upon the consequent tendency to succulent and leafy or to hard woody growth—upon the opportunities afforded for a more or less easy solution and distribution through the soil, that the experience of one locality is by no means necessarily an index or guide to that of another. For several years I witnessed a number of trials of various combinations of guano, superphosphate, bones, sulphate of ammonia, &c., which may be interesting to the farmers of this country. Every farmer should be aware of the value of crushed bones as a manure for the turnip, with the aid of superphosphate (bones dissolved with sulphuric acid in order to reduce them so as they may become soluble in water, which is an immediate food for plants) to give early vitality to the plant, relying on the more substantial bones for a supply of food in the later stages of growth, and for the subsequent benefit of the land. It is in connection with the use of bones that I may suggest something useful. What I recommend is, that whenever a supply of crushed bones is procured, (which lying in a heap will immediately heat and so far exhaust themselves) small charcoal in a very dry state be added to the bones in proportion—two parts charcoal and one part bones. The effect will be, the charcoal will absorb and retain all the valuable gaseous matter which bones alone will give off, their entire substance will be preserved and given out to the turnip gradually and as

wanted, and all waste of the virtue of the bones will be prevented. The charcoal will have a beneficial effect in the soil in many ways, even after the vegetation shall have extracted all the manurial value from the bones. On the same principle I would suggest that charcoal be added to the manure heap, so as to arrest and fix the smoking vapours which are often seen to ascend from it, and which are nothing less than the absolute essence of the dung heap. But it will be asked where and how are these "bones" and "charcoal" to be obtained? At the last meeting of the agricultural committee, which, through your kindness, I was invited to attend, Mr. Stanford informed us that his Bone Crushing Mill would soon be in operation, and that the farmers might depend upon an unlimited supply of bones of all sorts and sizes. As for the charcoal it is at your doors, and may be made by any labouring man at a very small cost and in a very simple manner. The loppings of trees, which are too small for any other use, are the suitable material for such charcoal, and will convert those otherwise useless materials into a most useful manure. In order to make it all that is required, is to set fire to a large heap of such refuse, and while the combustion is going on to apply water, which, if carefully used, arrests the burning of the wood at the point of charring and before ash is produced. In this way large heaps of charcoal might be made, by a little careful manipulation, from materials otherwise useless. Charcoal is light and therefore bulky, probably twice the bulk of bones; and the drier it is the better (in its use it is most important it should be dry). In a wet state it is of comparatively no value, but under cover there is no difficulty in drying it however wet it may be in making, or may have become from exposure to rain. Bones used in this way, 30 to 35 bushels per acre, will preserve their fertilizing powers on pastures from 15 to 20 years, but if constantly mown 8 to 10 years will exhaust their strength; 20 bushels per acre would be sufficient for a turnip crop. Bones on pastures should always be rolled in, and always harrowed in with other crops. Bones, after boiling and extracting the grease, are equally as good as when applied in a raw state, and in some instances answer better. Oyster shells and egg shells are composed of nearly the same qualities as bones of fish and animals. Bones and sheep dung mixed, two parts sheep's dung and one part bones, is a very valuable manure,—25 to 30 bushels per acre is sufficient for a root crop. Bones are much more durable than guano, oil or fish.

Trusting these few hints on bones and charcoal may be useful to some of your subscribers, with your permission I will give your readers my experience with a

few other artificial manures; and if by so doing I can arouse a few of the farmers to try what I am sure cannot but be remunerative to them, I shall be amply repaid. I should be wanting if I did not take this opportunity of thanking you for your many kindnesses extended towards me since my arrival in this country.

Yours, &c.,

ALFRED SAUNDERS, *Seedsman*,  
168 Argyle Street, Halifax.

P. S.—I shall be glad to supply the Agricultural Societies with seeds at London catalogue prices, (with addition of freight and expenses) for all orders received before and on the 1st February, 1868.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.  
HORTICULTURE.

Edinburgh, Dec., 1867.

MR. EDITOR.—I was much pleased, in looking over the schedule for the intended Provincial Exhibition, to see that such ample provision had been made for the Horticultural Department. And I hope the lovers of horticulture will unite, and make a display that will be a credit to the province, so that it may be the means of inducing all classes to take an interest in such matters. For I am certain that if some of our wealthy and influential citizens would take the matter in hand, an annual horticultural show would become a fixed fact. The perfection to which horticulture is carried on this side of the Atlantic is in a great measure owing to the countenance and support given by all to such exhibitions; and thus the cultivator is stimulated to make greater exertions to bring forward some new or improved varieties of flowers, fruit or vegetables. Therefore we ought to have such shows frequently, as it would tend to advance the art of horticulture; for although much has been done by the horticultural and other societies we are still far behind. I hope these societies and all interested will use all the means at their disposal to make an annual horticultural exhibition a permanent institution.

Yours, &c.,  
HALIGONIAN.

#### A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE CROPS.

Hebron, Yarmouth, 11th Dec., 1867.

The past season has been most unfavorable for the maturing and harvesting of most kinds of crops. Hay was a large crop, but owing to heavy rains and protracted fogs, a large portion of it was much damaged in the making. Wheat but little sown. Oats and Barley much damaged by wet and the severe gale of August, consequently a short crop. Potatoes may be said to be an entire failure