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Use of Soot as a Manure—When spread early in the winter on meadow lands, the beneficial effects of this substance are frequently observable for three successive seasons, but when mixed with earth and dung its use is attended with even greater success; a sort of soapy earth is formed which is beneficial to almost all kinds of plants, and its use quickens vegetation. The mixture should be formed of two parts of earth, one of soot, and one of dung. A layer of earth should be covered with soot, over which a layer of dung should be placed, and thus alternate layers must be arranged in a bed about 3 or 4 feet high, and 3 wide. Soot mixed with the earth dug from ditches, in the proportion of 1-4th, may in about 6 months afterwards be used with success in dressing meadows. Of this latter mixture about thirty bushels should be used to the acre; spread on wet soils it will destroy the moss, and neutralize the bad qualities of the soil. Cattle are observed to prefer the grass grown on lands dressed with soot, which owes its valuable properties to the quantity of carbonate of ammonia which it contains, and which is a most active vegetable stimulant. On this subject we would remark that soot, like many other articles, is even subject to sophistication by the unprincipled vender, who, mixing with it charred saw-dust, and many other carbonaceous substances, the refuse of many chemical operations, renders it comparatively inert and valueless.

RIVER THUGS.—The practice of Thuggee is not confined to adventurers upon land. The rivers of India are infested by bands of fresh-water pirates, having similar habits to those of the land Thugs, holding the same feelings, and differing from them only in a few trifling particulars. These ruffians go in considerable parties, and have generally several boats at the ghat at the same time. Their murders are always perpetrated in the day time. Those who do the work of the boatmen are dressed like other boatmen; but those who are to take part in the operations are dressed like travellers of great respectability; and there are no boats on the river kept so clean and inviting for travellers. When going up the river they always pretend to be men of some consideration, going on pilgrimage to some sacred place, as Benares, Allahabad, &c.; when going down they pretend to be returning home from such places. They send out their sothas, or inveiglers, well dressed, upon the high roads, who pretend to be going by water to the same places as the travellers on board, as he can afford to do so

cheaper than others, having apparently his boat already engaged by others. He pretends to be pushed for room, and the Thugs pretend to be unwilling to have any more passengers on board. At last he yields to the earnest request of the inveiglers, and the travellers are taken up. They go off into the middle of the river, those above singing and playing and making a great noise, while the travellers are murdered inside, at the signal given by three taps that all is clear, and their bodies thrown into the river. The boat then goes on to some other ghat, having landed the inveiglers again on the road.

New Method of treating Fractures.—Whatever the state of the fracture may be, whether accompanied or not by swelling or wounds, M. Velpeau proceeds immediately to its reduction; this done, he surrounds the part with pads, and a moderately tight bandage, reaching from the insertion of the toes to the upper extremity of the fractured limb. He then wets the bandage with starch, made as if for starching linen: after this, he continues the same bandage downwards, or towards the lower extremity. These fresh layers are starched like the first, to which they adhere, except in the lower part, where they are separated by pads, or stuffing placed on each side of the Tendo Achillis. Four strips of wet pasteboard are then placed behind, before, and on each side of the leg, which are again fastened by bandages at the heel and knee, and these bandages are starched like the rest. The whole will be dry in from two to four days; and when this is effected, the limb and the bandage are exactly adapted to each other, that the bones cannot be displaced. The pressure being moderate and equal, no restraint is felt, and the patient can turn in his bed, and move about as if he had only received a simple contusion.

ARDENT SPIRITS.—Sir Astley Cooper says, 'I never suffer ardent spirits in my house, thinking them evil spirits; and if persons could witness the white livers, the dropsies, and the shattered nervous systems which I have seen, as the consequence of drinking them, they would be aware that spirits and poison are synonymous terms.' Dr. Lettsom declares that 'nearly all the illness of his adult patients, and most of the cases of sudden deaths, were occasioned by the practice of taking a glass of spirits-and-water after dinner;' and Dr. Trotter fully confirms the opinion. Dr. Buchan says, 'malt liquor occasions obstructions, inflammations of the lungs, which are brought on by the glutinous and indigesti-

ble nature of strong ale;' and tells us that 'wine and spirits are still worse, as they inflame the blood, and tear the tender vessels of the lungs to pieces.' Dr. Beddoes tells us that 'vinous liquors are a two-edged sword.' Wine, by its first operation, promotes indigestion; and by its second, even if genuine (which is very far indeed from being always the case), is changed to vinegar on the stomach. A Dublin physician tells us that 'if an end were put to the drinking of port, sherry, punch, &c., physicians and apothecaries would be ruined, and medical halls would be quite unnecessary.' He further adds that 'if ten young men at the age of 21 years drink a glass of ardent spirits or a pint of port or sherry per day, the lives of eight of them would be shortened by ten or fifteen years.' Dr. Bicher (United States) tells us 'that strong beer has no power to allay intemperate habits, but that it will finish what ardent spirits began.' He further adds that 'beer gives us the stupidity of the idiot, and ardent spirits the frenzy of the demon.' Dr. J. Barker (United States) tells us 'that General Jackson observed that soldiers who drank nothing but cold water endured hard duty and excessive cold much better than other soldiers who drank intoxicating liquors.' Dr. Parish observes that 'happy is he who considers water as the best drink.'

The value of cattle imported into Liverpool from Ireland, in the first eleven months of last year, amounted to £2,900,000; and the value of the insignificant article of feathers, imported into England from that country, is estimated to amount annually to £500,000.

Trial of Captain Cain.—The friends of the prisoner spared no trouble or expense in advocating his cause; and mainly through their exertions, in procuring favourable evidence before the grand jury, the bill for wilful murder filed against him was ignored. In the first instance, application was made to Sergeant Wilde to take the prisoner's brief, but he refused; afterwards Sir Frederick Pollock consented to take the brief, but was obliged to give it up, and go to Manchester on special business. Finally, Sir John Campbell, the Attorney General, was engaged as leading counsel for the defence, with a fee of one hundred guineas, and twenty guineas for a license to plead, he being Queen's counsel, together with Mr. Adolphus and Mr. Phillips as juniors.

PRIESTLEY.—He made mistakes: they are transient evils, for others have been

to rectify them. He felt certain of some things still dubious: this is a transient evil; for he is gone where he will obtain greater clearness: and men have arisen, and will arise to enlighten us and those who will follow us. He exploded errors; this was a real, but second-rate good, which would have been achieved by another not by him. He discovered new truths; this is a real good, and as eternal as truth itself. He made an unusual progress towards moral perfection; this is the highest good of all, and never ending. His mistakes will be rectified; the prejudices against him on their account will die out; the hands that injured him, the tongues that wounded him are all or nearly all stilled in death: the bitter tears which these occasioned have long since been all wept. These things are gone or going by: they have reached, or are tending to the extinction which awaits all sins and sorrows.—What remains? Whatever was real of the man and of the work given him to do. Whatsoever truth he discovered will propagate itself for ever, whether the honour of it be ascribed to him or not. There remain other things no less great, no less real, no less eternal, to be reckoned among the spiritual treasures of the race; things of which Priestley, the immortal, was composed, and in which he manifestly survives: a love of truth which no danger could daunt, and no toil relax: a religious faith which no severity of probation could shake: a liberality proof against prejudice from within and, and injury from without: a simplicity which no experience of life and men could corrupt: a charity which grew tenderer under persecution and warmer in exile: a hope which flourished in disappointment, and triumphed in the grave. These are the things which remain, bearing no relation to country or time; as truly here as there; now as hereafter.—Miss Martineau.

Communication by steam with India seems to be proceeding now with some approach to regularity. Letters from London, dated 8th October were received via Marseilles at Bombay on 21st November, having been conveyed in 44 days or less than one-half of the time consumed in a voyage round the Cape. But the time is likely to be still farther shortened. The Berenice steamer from Bombay reached Suez to London (which is 3000 miles shorter) will probably be reduced to about the same length; and allowing 3 or 4 days more for loss of time, the whole passage will be accomplished in 35 or 37 days, which is one-third of the average duration of a voyage by the old route. The ultimate project is however, to extend the steam voyage from Luez to Calcutta, taking in Madras and Ceylon as intermediate points, and establishing a station for coals on one of the Maldive Islands. This would lengthen the passage 7 or 8 miles. This inland journey from Bombay to Calcutta is both slow and insecure, and five-sixths or more of all the letters and communications to India go to Calcutta.

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NOVEL TRAVELLING CARRIAGE.—A carriage has just been built for George Newman, Esq., of Bedford Place, Kensington, which for elegance and comfort in travelling, surpasses anything we have ever seen. It is divided into two compartments, one being used as an ante-waiting-room, and the other as a drawing room or bed-room, with every comfort, convenience and elegance that could be desired. The ante room contains a table drawers, and culinary utensils; the drawing-room, reclining sofas, sofa-bedsteads.