

and maturity of vegetation. Consequently the labours and cares of the husbandman were crowned with a beautiful harvest, both the earlier and later. September was cool and rainy, October was exceedingly fine—the splendour and beauty of the hues of the decaying leaves of the trees unsurpassed; and the month of November thus far has been exceedingly unpleasant—snow and rain, or rain or snow, almost every day.

J. WETHERELL.

Rochester, Nov. 13, 1848.

ON THE MEANS OF DESTROYING SNAILS.—I determined to undertake the analysis of the small grey snail (*Limax agrestis*), so frequently found in gardens and in the fields, and which has this year done so much damage to all kinds of cultivation, hoping that such an investigation might lead to the discovery of a means of preventing the too great increase of these creatures. My attention was especially directed to the glutinous matter which they continually secrete, and which serves to attach their bodies to the surface over which they pass. I endeavored to find out in what way lime which has long been recommended to cultivators as a means of destroying snails, acted upon them; and I have ascertained that lime-water diluted with three times its bulk of water, was sufficient for their destruction. Water, scarcely rendered alkaline by the addition of potash, killed them still more quickly, causing a large quantity of slime to be thrown out. Solutions of the metallic salts, when added to this slimy matter, produce an abundant coagulated mass; that which is produced by the action of nitrate of copper dissolves in an excess of potash, and produces a violet-coloured liquor. Of all the poisons which I have tried on the snails, there is none which has appeared to exert so deleterious an influence as the alkalis. If a drop of caustic ammonia, or of caustic potash, be added to a quart of rain-water, an alkaline solution will be formed of such little strength that it scarcely affects delicate test-paper, and causes no impression on the organs of taste; if however we place some snails in this solution they soon die, whilst other snails placed in rain-water alone, escape out of the vessel in which they are placed. It would appear difficult to find more energetic poisons for snails than those I have indicated; I therefore think that a weak solution of caustic potash or soda, or, what would be still more economical, the refuse lyes which have served for the washing of linen, diluted with water to which a small quantity of quicklime has been added, will enable us to attain the object we have in view more readily and certainly than by the use of lime alone in the state of powder, as this is speedily converted into a carbonate of lime by the action of the air, and thus loses its poisonous influence on the snails.—*M. Braconnot, in The Florist.*

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, CIRENCESTER.—We are glad to hear that the Agricultural College at Cirencester is in a very prosperous condition, and that the power of nominating students, which is vested in the shareholders, is soon likely to be a valuable privilege. The opportunity which it affords of acquiring sound agricultural and scientific education, under Mr. Wilson, its able principal, and the other highly qualified professors, on a farm now getting into a high state of cultivation, is perhaps superior to any other of the kind in this country; and its bearing upon a young man's prospects in life for obtaining a livelihood in connection with the management and cultivation of land, have just received satisfactory exemplification. During the past week we hear that two students, who since they left the college had prepared themselves by further practice, have obtained valuable appointments.—*Agricultural Gazette.*

MR. COLEMAN IN ENGLAND.

The Saffron Walden Agricultural Society held its annual meeting for show of stock and competition in ploughing, yesterday week. Lord Braybrooke presided; Lord Sondes, Lord Walsingham, Mr. Oct. Duncombe, M.P., and Major Beresford, M.P., were among the numerous gentry that attended. The usual routine of agricultural speeches was relieved by the presence of Mr. Coleman, an American, who has been some years in England and the countries of Western Europe, on an agricultural tour—commissioned by certain public bodies to collect European knowledge on agricultural subjects, for American use. Mr. Coleman made a speech full of hearty national sympathy with this country, and of instructive matter to his audience, whom he warmed to enthusiasm by the animation of his oratory. Some of his facts on the agriculture of the Flemings, the only people who excel the English in any department of that pursuit, were remarkable. For example, in commenting upon the Flemish maxim, "Without forage, no cattle; without cattle, no manure; without manure, no crop," he gave this statement—

"The Flemish farmer keeps twice as many cattle as the English. A valuer was sent to value the manure upon some land about to be sold; and he estimated the manure per acre at—how much do you think? Was it at £10? Thirty shillings, one gentleman told him, was the usual price—at £15—at £20—will any one bid more—it's going, no, at £45 per acre. And the party who had manured in this way was a shrewd man, who would not have put it on if he could not have seen his way to a fair return for it. Manure is, in fact, the life-blood—it is the foundation of agriculture. We hear of agricultural schools, and the researches of learned chemists, which are to turn everything into gold. Why, chemistry has long been well understood, at least to this extent, that we have not to learn the value of manure; and I say, let the chemist go on—he will tell you what he has found when he discovers it: and in the mean time do you go on saving all the manure you can, and bestowing it with the most liberal hand."

Diverging from the more immediate topic, Mr. Coleman touched on education; and thence on the institutions of his own country and of this:—

"You call us a Democracy. We are not a Democracy—we are a Republic. We are governed by refinements, the tendencies of which are to place us under the wisest and the best men of the country, if these were carried out. What country do we come from? From England; and you are a Republic. A limited Monarchy is a Republic; and you have the principle of Democracy infused into it. The opinion of some is, that there is no liberty unless every man has his will; but if every man had his will, there would be no liberty at all. There cannot be any liberty enjoyed but under the strongest government—the stronger the government, the more the liberty; but I do not say a despotic government."

He ended with hopes for increasing harmony between his native country and "the old fatherland"—

"I can only pray that the sympathies that bind together these two nations of the earth in peace and civilization, the mother and daughter, the parent and child, may grow stronger and stronger. That which was considered the means of separation has become a bond of union; and may this union continue! If I could find a man on either side of the water who could speak with indifference and complacency of a war between the two countries, I would hang him—I would hang him, for high treason to humanity, on the first tree I found. I am too much oppressed with all I have seen in England to express my wishes as I could desire; but I earnestly pray for the continued prosperity, for the wealth, happiness and glory of that magnificent, that great and glorious land in which you live."—*L. Spec.*