

collecteth, without any expression of joy or cheerfulness while he is at his work.—Sir Edward Coke.

EDITORIAL LABOURS.—The conductor of an able and influential paper (*The Spectator*) gives the following estimate of the labours of an editor:—"Many people estimate the ability of a newspaper, and the industry and talents of its editor, by the variety and quantity of editorial matter it contains. Nothing can be more fallacious. It is comparatively an easy task to pour out daily columns of words—words, upon any and all subjects.—His ideas may flow in one 'washy and everlasting flood,' and his command of language may enable him to string them together like bunches of onions; and yet his paper may be a meagre and poor concern. But what is his labour, the toil of such a man, who displays his 'leader-matter' ever so largely, to that imposed upon a judicious, well-informed editor, who exercises his vocation with an hourly consciousness of its responsibilities and its duties, and devotes himself to the conduct of his paper with the same care and assiduity that a sensible lawyer bestows upon a suit, or a humane physician upon a patient—without regard to show or display? Indeed, the mere writing part of editing a paper is but a small portion of the work. The industry even is not shown there. The care, the taste, the time employed in selecting, is far more important—the tact of a good editor is shown more by his selection than any thing else; and that, we all know, is half the battle. But, as we have said, an editor ought to be estimated, and his labours understood and appreciated by the general conduct of his paper—its tone—its temper—its manner—its uniform consistent course—its principles—its aim—its manliness—its courtesy—its dignity—its propriety. To preserve all these, as they should be preserved, is enough to occupy fully the time and attention of any man. If to this be added the general supervision of the newspaper establishment, which most editors have to encounter, the wonder is how they can find either time or 'head room' to do it all."

A FACT FOR THE CHEAP-BREAD AGITATORS.—It was stated by M. Ledru-Rollin, in his address to the Court of Peers on behalf of M. Dupoty, that there are eight millions of persons in France at the present time in a state of misery. France is one of the countries to which the agitators point, where the luxury of "Cheap Bread" is to be had—if money can be procured to purchase.

AGRICULTURE AMONG THE CHINESE.—In classing the people, the Chinese place the Literati in the foremost rank, as learning is with them the stepping-stone to honour; but immediately after the learned, the husbandman takes precedence of all others, because engaged in raising the necessities of life. Agricultural employments are thus honoured in China from wise and politic motives, the country requiring cultivation to the utmost extent, to provide for its population.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.—The Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, has again announced a premium for the first successful application of steam to the cultivation of the soil. No premium was awarded last year, and the committee announce their intention of withdrawing the notice after the present year. The particulars with reference to the premium may, per-

haps, be interesting to some of our readers, and we, therefore, subjoin them:—"A premium of five hundred sovereigns, or such other sum as the directors may see proper in the circumstances, will be awarded for the first successful application of steam-power to the cultivation of the soil. By the cultivation of the soil are to be understood the operations of ploughing and harrowing, or preparing the soil in an equally efficient manner, and the other purposes for which animal power is now used; and the success of the invention will be judged of in relation to its applicability to the above purposes in the ordinary situations of farms in this country, and to the saving in time, labour, and outlay, which it may possess over animal power, as now generally employed in the cultivation of the soil."

THE ROYAL ENGLISH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

BOKHARA CLOVER.

William Taylor, Esq., F. L. S. of 314, Regent-street, presented to the society a bundle of Bokhara clover, (recently cut) with a coloured engraving of the plant, and the following account of its cultivation:—

"A small packet of the seed of the clover in question, which appears to be a variety of *Melilotus arborea*, was given me by Mr. Loudon in the spring of 1839. It vegetated freely, and grew most luxuriantly, up to the latter part of September, when it was four feet high; it was then mown, and the stalks were manufactured into strong and durable hemp. Horses eat the plant with great avidity in its young state; and to judge from its extraordinary growth the first year, it may be fed off three times, namely, the middle of June, July, and August. It stood the winter of 1839-40 well, proving itself to be a hardy plant. On the 25th of April, 1840, a small portion of it was cut, which was then 15 inches high; on the 25th of May again, height 16 inches; and subsequently on the 25th of June, height 17 inches; in August 15 inches, and in September 12 inches; the first flowers appeared in June, and by the middle of July it was covered with its highly fragrant white blossom. A large portion had been left for seed, and towards the end of September the crop was harvested, each plant producing from 10 to 20,000 seeds, the stalks being from 12 to 13 feet in height. From the experiments I have made with Bokhara clover, I should calculate that an acre would produce from 20 to 30 tons of green herbage. The first year it may be cut in June, July, and August, each cutting averaging three to five tons of green herbage. The second year, in April, May, June, July, August, and September, each month producing three to five tons of herbage. If intended to be saved for seed, it must not be cut more than three times, in April, May, and June. The roots form a sort of manure; and from two to three tons of hemp. Great advantage must be derived from its cultivation, as it forms a valuable green food for all sorts of cattle at an early period of the season; and if cut when 15 or 20 inches high, an abundant crop would be produced, yielding hay superior in quality and quantity to the common herbage plants. To judge from what has hitherto been seen of the Bokhara clover, it appears to be a valuable biennial plant, well adapted for growth in this country; nor is it unlikely that it may be found to thrive on such soils as, by agriculturists, are termed clover-sick; whereby its value would be greatly enhanced. Should it, as may reasonably be expected, in ordinary seasons, on good soils, be ready for cutting in the early

part of April: farmers who have no grass, and but a short supply of hay, carrots, or turnips, would derive essential benefit from it. The Bokhara clover being a tall, deep-rooted plant, with a strong stem well clothed with foliage and blossom, it keeps the ground in a more perfect state than most other plants of the artificial grass kind, and, consequently, will be more influential in ameliorating and preparing soils for the reception of wheat crops. It is a plant capable of being cultivated with success and advantage on almost all heavy and dry descriptions of land in a tolerable state of fertility; and it may be sown from March till June. The proportion of seed that is necessary must vary according to the quality of the land and the state of preparation to which it has been brought; on the richer descriptions of soil that are free from weeds, 8 to 10 lbs. may be sufficient for an acre; whereas 14 to 15 lbs. will not be too much for those that are of stiff quality, or which possess a less degree of fertility. As already indicated, the crop may either be mown for hay, cut every month as green herbage for different sorts of live stock, or serve for the grazing of cattle and sheep. The separation of the seed from the capsule does not require so much labour and expense as the common clovers. It is thrashed in the same manner as trefoil, and sent to the mill to free the seed from the husk. The Bokhara clover is likely to answer well, and may, in a great measure, render this country independent of foreign clover-seed. On account of its elegant appearance, and the fragrance of its blossom, it likewise deserves a place in every flower-garden."

Mr. Gibbs stated to the council, that the plant now known as the "Bokhara clover" was identical with the *Trifolium Melilotus alba*, or (as it had been formerly called) the *Melilotus officinalis alba*, a plant which had been partially cultivated in this country for the last twenty-five years, and the seed regularly imported by Messrs. Thomas Gibbs and Co., who had been in the habit of recommending the growth of a small breadth of this clover, for the purpose of mixing it with hay that might have been damaged by wet weather, the fragrance of the leaf imparting to the whole the smell of new hay; also for cutting and placing in layers with oat straw, for the purpose of cutting into chaff, stacks being formed of alternate layers of the straw and clover. Mr. Gibbs stated that this clover grew to a gigantic height, but should be cut at any early stage, as otherwise it would be ligneous or woody in stalk, the soil most favourable to its cultivation being a deep rich mould.

CRETAN MELILOT.

Mr. Taylor having presented to the society a coloured drawing of the *Melilotus Creticum*, transmitted the following account of the plant:—

"A few seeds were sent me from the Island of Crete, under the name of the *Melilotus Creticum*, as a plant that would be found highly useful for feeding cattle. The seed was sown the 25th of March, produced flowers in June, and by the middle of July it was covered with its highly fragrant yellow blossoms; ripened seed in August; height of the plant 20 inches. The *Melilotus Creticum* seems to be a valuable plant, and well calculated for growing in this country. It seems to possess all the properties sufficient to recommend it to the notice of agriculturists, particularly as its stalks are very succulent, and its foliage very abundant; and when sown in autumn, it may be cut and cleared from the ground in the beginning of June following, and the land fallowed for wheat or spring corn. It forms a valuable