

The London General Omnibus Company reports a saving of £28,000 per annum on the feeding of 6,000 horses with maize instead of oats. The experiment has been tried during eighteen months, and the improved condition of the animals is as remarkable as the saving.

The wolves are becoming very troublesome in West Garafaxa, as well as Luther. A correspondent of the *Fergus News* says Mr. Wm. McMullin had six sheep killed and three more almost worried to death by these voracious animals, on the night of Sunday, the 25th of October. The wolves are also getting very bold through incessant plunder, even daring to show combat with the lords of creation. A case occurred of a man and his wife being attacked while returning from a neighbour's one night lately. They had to turn back; and get torches; and on coming to the same place again they found the wolves waiting for the affray, and keeping up an unearthly howling. But the quadrupeds had to yield and acknowledge the bipeds masters of the situation, though they did so slowly and reluctantly. No loss on either side. Sportsmen cannot sight a deer this fall; but numerous skeletons are to be met with in every direction, indicating that the wolves commit, fearful devastation among the innocent creatures. There are eleven Nimrods from Elora encamped in the neighbourhood of Hungry Hollow, but their luck has not been sufficient to repay their toil, as yet.

Miscellaneous.

The Dignity of the Farmer's Life.

There is a higher dignity than that of poetry or painting that attaches to the farmer's profession—a dignity which should make him walk as erect and look the blue heavens as proudly in the face as any man who treads the earth. No industry to which human hands were ever set since the first pair were made is deserving of higher estimation than his, for, of all the toilers of the earth, he stands in the closest copartnership with Divine Providence in its realm of nature. See now the conditions of this copartnership, the capital which each invests in one summer's crop. Here, for example, is a cultivated farm of one hundred acres of land. The Creator might have made that land bear stout crops of wheat and corn all of itself, without man's help, but He did not, and would not. He condescended to admit man to a partnership with him in variegating the verdure of those acres, in covering them with waving grain and yellow harvests. He would not let nature produce any crops for human sustenance without the co-working of human sinews. The wheel of the seasons might turn on for ever scattering rain, dew, light and heat, and every germinating influence; but unless it was belted on to man's industry it would not turn out a sheaf or a loaf of bread. But see what comes of the connexion when a pair or two of hands and hopping hearts join their activities to the revolutions of that wheel. How generously nature divides with man the honour and joy of the crop. How she works with all the

sublime and mute economies of the seasons in this partnership of toil. The very shape of the earth's orbit, and all its million-miled many stages round the sun, as well as the fine dew-distillery of the evening's sky, are brought to bear upon the production of the fields. See how the light and heat are graduated to the growth of these acres of Indian corn. See the temperature that nurses it into the blade, then into the stalk, then into the silken setting of the ear. See what purple curtains are hung around the horizon, what drying, jocund fall winds blow; what a ruddy-faced hue glows upon the ripening ears, reddening them to Indian summer tints, as they peer from the white lace drapery that enfolded them. Look at that sight, and never more let a murmur of discontent stir your lips when you talk of merchants, manufacturers, or joint stock companies, or any other occupation or profession whatever. Joint-stock companies, indeed! What company of that sort ever formed on earth can compare with the joint-stock company that carries on the smallest farm? What a firm of active partners have we here. What a diversity of capital is invested in the enterprise. What sympathy and co-working. Where falls one drop from the moistened brow of the farmer, there fall a thousand of germinating dews from heaven, and the combination touches the life of every plant and blade with a new vitality and verdure.—*Elihu Burritt.*

Book-farming.

The following extract from the *Independent* puts the case of the objectors to "book-farming" in a plain and telling manner, and we commend its logic to those who affect to condemn all agricultural writing:—

There was a farmer once who hesitated not to hurl all manner of invectives against book farming, and those who consulted books for advice. By long experience and practical observation, he had become quite successful in the culture of grapes and trees. His fields were clean and fair, and highly productive. His trees were vigorous, well adjusted, and profitable.

In conversation with a friend, he related his experience in raising grapes and trees, entering into the minutest details, sometimes becoming quite eloquent when describing his victories over the enemies which infest them.

"My knowledge," he said, "was gained by dint of application, by actual experience and hard labour. It was none of your book knowledge, written by men who know nothing about farming."

"Well," said his friend, "if all this valuable information, gained by assiduous labor and observation of so many years, and which you have so clearly described, were written out and published, which would you have a young and inexperienced man do, take this as he finds it from your pen, or go through

the same tedious process that you have gone through with, including all the vexations and losses?"

The question puzzled him, and he was silent for a moment, but was obliged to confess, after all, that there was much that was valuable in books, because combining and relating the results and experience of practical cultivators.

Do not condemn book farming. You may criticise certain books very severely, because written by ignorant theoretical writers; but there is always good wheat as well as abundant chaff. So there are many good books as well as poor ones. The time may come when a single hint from a book or paper may save your farm or orchard, or add to your wealth by telling you how to increase your crops.

UTILIZING WAR MATERIAL IN TIME OF PEACE.—The Society of Agriculture of the Drome has addressed to the Emperor a letter in which it describes the suffering state of agriculture in consequence of the continued decrease in the number of labourers, and requests his Majesty to place, in time of peace, at least one quarter of the effective strength of garrisons at the disposal of agriculturists during the summer months. Might not the hint be taken by other countries with large standing armies?

ANOTHER GUANO DEPOSIT.—An important guano deposit has been discovered on an estate called Kukers, belonging to Baron de Toil, in the neighbourhood of Jawc, in Esthonia, Russia. The bed was accidentally found by some workmen employed in draining the land, and it is supposed, by those who have studied the matter, that the layer in question was formed so long ago as in the early days before the deluge. The chief layer exposed was found at a distance of six feet below the surface of the soil, and measures two thousand feet long by ninety wide. Its volume is calculated at one hundred and eighty thousand cubic feet.

NEW USES FOR PAPER.—In recent times the use of paper in various modifications of form and manufacture has been applied, to purposes so extraordinary, that scarcely any new application of this material would surprise us. It has been used, with apparently great success and economy, as a building material for dwelling houses, to form external walls, roofs, and interior divisions. One of the latest novelties offered to the public, is a patented invention, to which the name of "felted paper" has been given, and from which are manufactured all sorts of fabrics for the purposes of upholstery or dress, such as curtains, quilts, tablecloths, and petticoats, the latter, we are told, "quite irresistible," all amazingly cheap, and the last named articles for as little as 6d. apiece. The material is also applied to articles of a more substantial character. Very good imitation leather is formed of it, capable with the addition of oil and india-rubber of making shoes impervious to wet. This new branch of industry is likely to have a sensible effect on the manufacture of and trade in woven fabrics; at all events, it will open out a fresh field for commercial enterprise.