



## Agricultural.

## THE ROOK SITS HIGH.

The Rook sits high when the blast sweeps by,  
Right pleased with his wild see-saw;  
And though hollow and bleak be the fierce wind's shriek,  
It is mocked by his loud caw-caw.  
What careth he for the bloom-robed tree,  
Or the rose so sweet and fair?  
He loves not the green of the spring-time green,  
Any more than the branches bare.  
Oh, the merriest bird that the woods e'er saw,  
Is the sable Rook with his loud caw-caw.

Winter may fling crystal chains on the wing  
Of the field-fare, hardy and strong,  
The snow-cloud may fall like a downy pall,  
Hushing each warbler's song;  
The starved gull may come from his ocean home,  
And the poor little robin lay dead;  
The curlew bold may shrink from the cold,  
And the house-dove droop his head;  
But the Rook still chatters away,  
Through the bitterest frost and the darkest day

He builds not in bowers 'mid perfume and flowers,  
But as far from the earth as he can;  
He "weathers the storm," he seeks for the worm,  
And craves not the mercy of man  
Then a health to the bird whose music is heard  
When the plough-boy's whistle is still,  
To the pinnions that rise, when the hail shower flies,  
And the moor-cock broods under the hill;  
For the merriest fellow the woods e'er saw  
Is the sable Rook with his loud caw-caw.

We read in the page of the gray haired sage,  
That misfortune should ne'er bow us down,  
Yet if care come nigh, the best of us sigh,  
And cower beneath his frown.  
But the Rook is content when the summer is sent,  
And as glad when its glories fade;  
Then here's a health to him—here's a health to him  
Who sings on through the sun and the shade;  
For the wisest fellow the world e'er saw  
Is the sable Rook with his loud caw-caw.

—Eliza Cook's Journal.

THE WEATHER for the last week has been very pleasant in Toronto, quite unlike that of the heart of winter. Captain Miller of the Admiral steamer, informed us that during most of last week the lake was as still and as pleasant as in the summer, between Toronto and Niagara. Friday and Saturday last were mild, sunny days, more like March than January. The frost—with the exception of Tuesday & Wednesday of last week—has been light. Tuesday and Wednesday were very cold. There is no sleighing about Toronto. The Bay is only partly frozen over. We noticed numerous ice-boats with sails, on the upper part of the Bay last week, and there was much skating going on. This month so far has been unusually mild. The wheat and pork markets are very nearly over. Still the prices keep up in Toronto as usual. Pork readily brings from \$6 to \$7½ per 100 lbs.—Flour, best, brings \$4.50 per barrel. The roads to Toronto are most excellent. The health of the city, good. The wind has been mostly in the west. Sunday was mild. On Monday, a heavy snow storm from the east came on.

WOOL FROM THE VEGETABLE KINGDOM.—The name of vegetable wool has been applied to a fibrous material which the ingenuity of M. Pannwitz has succeeded in extracting from leaves of the fir. A manufactory of this material has for some time past existed near Breslau, in Silesia, in a district termed the "Prairie of Humboldt." The species of pine there operated upon is the *pinus sylvestris*, or wild pine; but it would seem that every member of the fir and pine tribe might be turned to similar account. The leaves of these trees, if examined, will be found to be made up of fibrous material, held together by a resinous substance. The latter may be dissolved out by means of alkalies, leaving the woolly matter behind. Coverlets, blankets, and other articles made of vegetable wool have long been employed in Austria, Vienna especially, in some of the charitable institutions. The materials are warm, durable, and agreeable to the eye; moreover they enjoy the excellent quality of preserving a certain balsamic and rather agreeable smell, which nevertheless is so inimical to insects that they never harbour in it. In the Silesian manufactory the resinous matter holding the woolly fibres together is also turned to account, medicinal baths being made with it as a basis, and which are found to be useful in many chronic diseases.

DECEMBER WEATHER IN 1852.—In Maine the trees are putting out buds, in Hartford, Connecticut, young clover has sprung up in the fields, and had have been caught in the Connecticut. In some of the flower gardens in New York, vegetation has taken a fresh start. Flies and mosquitoes have come out of their hiding places, though not in large numbers, and appear to be near the worse for their suspended animation.—Rural New Yorker.

TUNNELLING OF THE ALLEGHANY MOUNTAINS.—One of the Tunnels on the Pennsylvania Railroad, now constructing, is to be 3,670 feet long. Its area at the widest space within the lines of the masonry will be about 24 feet, and the spring of the arch will begin 16 feet from the crown of the arch. The arch will be rather of an oval form, one of the most beautiful curvatures which Conic Sections can afford. The greater part of the vast arched excavation will be laid with strong and substantial masonry. More than half this masonry will be composed of sandstone, well laid in hydraulic cement, and the remainder will be hard burnt brick. This whole masonry will be 22 inches thick. Taking into account the length of the Tunnel and its interior breadth and the quantity and solidity of its masonry, it may be regarded as the largest work of the kind in the United States. About four hundred men are employed upon it.

LONGEVITY.—In 1497, a carp of prodigious size was caught in a fish-pond of Suabia with a ring of copper affixed to it, on which were engraved these words in Latin: I am the first fish that was put in this pond by the hands of Frederick 2nd, Governor of the world, 5th Oct., 1230. The fish must have lived 269 years.

ONE OF THE PIGS.—Mr. Luzere Van Deventer, of Torrey, in this country, slaughtered the other day, a pig two years old, which weighed when dressed, 839 pounds. If anybody can beat this porker in this town or any other county, we would like to know it. This little pig was bought by N. Thompson, Esq., of this village, and the snug little sum of \$61.42 was paid for him.—Penn Van Dem.

The skeletons of a cat and a rat, in excellent preservation, have been found in Gerard's Hall crypt, London. The rat was firmly held in the mouth of the cat. It is thought they had lain there 480 or 500 years.

The culture of rice is being generally and successfully introduced into the department of the Landes.

APPLES.—Apples may be kept the whole year round, by being immersed in grain, which receives no injury from their contact. If it were universally practised, we should hear no complaints of decayed and rotten apples.

APPLE TREES NEAR STONE WALLS.—A writer in the Journal of Agriculture, says he has seen orchards in which a row of trees nearest a stone wall, produced more than two rows in the middle of the orchard. He recommends bordering walls with trees, where it may be convenient and desirable, as their roots will extend under them, and use the nourishment which accumulates there, and which is not available to other crops. This plan would be ornamental as well as useful along many of the broad walls on New England farms.

MONSTER BLAST.—An extraordinary blast or explosion of powder, ignited by means of electricity, took place in Garantually quarry on Monday last. Something more than half a ton of powder was used. There were thirteen simultaneous charges, shearing off, on a rough calculation, not less than 140,000 cubic feet of stone.—North British Mail.

THE N. Y. State canal tolls of the present year exhibit a deficiency of \$126,577, as compared with the receipts of 1851.—Cayuga Chief.

## THE SONS OF CALIFORNIA.

DEAR SIR, AND BROTHER:—Far distant from the scenes of my Canadian associations, I take the present favorable opportunity of corresponding with you. Since I left Toronto, a few weeks since, I have been tossed, to and fro, on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and am now again on terra firma, in the possession of excellent health. Yesterday I returned from a mining excursion, as they term it here. I was on a trip into the snow-covered mountains, where the golden dreams of so many adventurers have been realized. I had the pleasure of boating it about two hundred miles up the Sacramento, Feather and Yuba Rivers, to Marysville, a large and flourishing town, where I had the pleasure of mingling in the society of old acquaintances, among whom was Brother Black, late of Ontario Division, No 26, Toronto. There is a large division of the "Sons" at this place, but, unfortunately, the members do not attend the weekly meetings regularly, which I am informed, is generally the case throughout this State.

I had an exceedingly pleasant passage from New York to this city, via Central America. The only difficulties we had to contend with, were the heat, rain and mud in crossing the Isthmus. I came by the Vanderbilt Line, over the Nicaragua Route, which, I think, is decidedly to be preferred to any other; as I have once been over the Panama Route, and have lately conversed with those who recently crossed it; and, I am informed that it is a great humbug. Persons are now waiting for ships, at Panama, that left New York in a steamship the same day that we started.

During the last two weeks we have had delightful weather.—In San Francisco it has not rained for two weeks; however, the aspect of things changed this morning, for it is now raining in torrents. Some of your readers, Mr. Editor, may not be aware that it does not snow in San Francisco during the whole year.—The winter here is as pleasant as the summer, with the exception of a few weeks of rainy season.

The drinking custom is carried on in this country to a fearful extent. Nearly every house here sells liquor. The temperance movement, however, is in operation. There are four divisions of the Sons of Temperance in this city, and there are, it is gratifying to remark, no less than twenty-one divisions of the "Sons" in the State of California. There are good men here as well as elsewhere.

There has been a most destructive fire in Sacramento; only three or four buildings were saved out of the entire city. I have seen the ruins. The city is being built again. Men have been at work on some of the buildings day and night. I was in Sacramento, sabbath before last, and mechanics were at work all over the city. Bricklayers have been getting, recently, twenty-five dollars per day, but wages now average twelve, and carpenters eight dollars per day. Board is from twelve to eighteen dollars per week. You can't get very decent board less than fourteen dollars a week.

The tidings from the mines are discouraging in the extreme, as there have been no provisions worth speaking of at the "diggings." The roads to the mines have been impassable. Flour has been sold up in the mountains at a dollar per pound; and seventy dollars per barrel! These are facts! Business here seems very brisk. There are thousands of persons out of em-

ployment in this city. There appears to be more losers in this city than I have ever seen in any city before. It is very difficult to get into a situation here. There are men with their families, in this country, that were in comfortable circumstances at home, and are now in a starving condition. Some mechanical businesses are good in this country, and there are many others that are over-done. I am happy to say, however, that I got into a lucrative business immediately on landing. I have seen a number of Torontonians since my arrival. They have all done well. I saw Mr. Gorham late of Toronto. He looks well.

I would gladly send you some items of news, but I fear it would be trespassing on your valuable space.

I remain, Yours &c., in L. P. & F.,

A. H. ST. GERMAIN.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 16th, 1852.

NOTICE.—Our agents in various parts of Canada would oblige by a little activity in circulating subscription lists and sending monies at once to this office. A very little canvassing would greatly enlarge our list. At present we cannot visit any of our subscribers, and the employment of travelling agents, who charge one-fourth of our subscription price for collecting or obtaining names is too expensive. Our readers can at once see that a weekly paper, such as we give them, expensively got up, could not be afforded for 3s. 9d. cy., even if it had a much larger circulation than it has. The editorial duties require our presence in Toronto. Let new and old agents then exert themselves at once, and the readers of this paper will find we will do our duty. According to the spirit of our terms any subscriber paying WITHIN A MONTH after his name is given, will come within the one dollar terms. Those leaving their monies unpaid longer, of course are liable to pay more.

ALL WILL ALSO NOTICE that those keeping the FIRST OR SECOND numbers of this paper, not entitled to them, are looked upon as renewing their yearly subscriptions. We have no copies of these numbers to spare, except to actual subscribers. Also, postmasters would oblige by sending all such numbers to this office, instead of sending them to the dead letter office.

Judge Curtis, of the United States Supreme Court, it is said, has given an opinion in that Court, now sitting at Washington, that the new liquor law of Rhode Island (like that of Maine and Massachusetts), is unconstitutional—that is, it conflicts with the United States constitution.—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

The above was copied into the Montreal Pilot. We have seen nothing of the kind mentioned in American temperance papers. It is well known that other judges of the court have decided that the States can make laws interdicting the traffic in ardent spirits &c. The Pilot seems opposed to the Maine Law! Is this so? How does he ever expect intemperance to be put down, or the Life Boat to reach a haven of rest whilst the land is full of taverns.

THE CANADIAN SON OF TEMPERANCE OFFERING—is the name of a neatly got up book, suitable for a friendly gift. Br. J. J. Otto, of the Mechanics' Division, is the publisher and proprietor, and he deserves the patronage of the temperance men of this city and elsewhere for his enterprise. It is offered at the low price of 3s. 1½d. per copy, and is filled with useful temperance tales and anecdotes. Enquire at Bentley's Drug Store, Yonge Street.

The Garland is the name of a new monthly paper published in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the benefit of the young—at the price of half a dollar per annum. It is printed on good paper, contains 8 pages quarto, and is beautifully got up and edited with talent.

The proceedings of the Grand Division of Lower Canada have just reached us.

The proceedings of the Grand Division at the late session at Oshawa, came to hand about four weeks since. We will make extracts from both in our next issue.

The American Temperance Magazine continues to be conducted with great ability. Gen'l Carey is editing a paper in Ohio, called the Organ of the Temperance Reform.

## AMERICAN TEMPERANCE NEWS.

A woman's State Temperance Society is to be immediately organized in Ohio.... The Vermont people are to vote for the immediate or future operation of the new temperance law of that State on the second Tuesday of February.... John C. Clure, of Boston, has gone to Ohio to lecture on the recommendation of the celebrated poet and philanthropist, Geo. W. Bungay of Boston. It would seem from this that after all Mr. Clure must stand well in Boston, when such a man recommends him. The Prototype of London wrote to the enemies of temperance in Boston to get evidence to injure him.... A State Temperance Convention was to be held in Ohio on the 5th January. The call was signed by General Cary and other eminent men.... The Maine Temperance Watchman, published at Portland, has come to hand greatly improved in appearance.

## FOREIGN ITEMS.

The French expedition to Sonora in Central America has been defeated, and the General killed. The difficulty arose about some mines claimed by some French merchants in Mexico.... The Caffre war at the Cape of Good Hope is still unsettled although both parties are apparently idle.... A great earthquake has occurred in China, several hundreds of persons were killed and much property destroyed.... France. M. Thiers had arrived in Paris from London, and the French papers were filled with accounts of the intended marriage of the Emperor. Prince Albert of Saxony, it seems is a rival of the Emperor's in the affections of the Princess Vasa. The French have settled down very quietly under the Emperor's rule. 200 pardons had been extended to eminent French exiles.