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Sept. 15, 1841

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SAINT ANDREWS, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 4, 1842.

[17s. 6d. sent by Mail.

COMMUNICATIONS.

MANURES—LIME.

[CONTINUED.]

MR. EDITOR.
When we form compost manures, we should endeavour to produce those useful substances which may have been deficient in the natural soil, and replace those which appear to be exhausted by the repeated removal of crops or by infestation. It becomes us, therefore, to ascertain most minutely the chemical nature of our soils, and to study attentively the compost nature of manures. This subject is yet in its infancy and requires the aid of the most careful and scientific researches for its full development. I can, from experimental treats, and from repeated observation, give some useful directions as to the preparation of compost manures. The following results therefore may be of some use to the farmer:—Vegetable matters on decomposition produce a brown substance which has acid properties, and which is highly soluble in pure water. By the action of *alkaline* gas, such as potash, soda, ammonia, and lime, we may correct this natural acidity, and at the same time convert a large portion of vegetable mould into a soluble manure, capable of being taken up by the root-lets of plants, and suitable for assimilation in vegetables. Animal matter containing a large portion of nitrogen, gives a large quantity of ammonia when decomposed, hence the great value of animal manures, even on soils already charged with sufficient matters of vegetable life. Now we shall see that the influence of lime, in a compost heap, composed of animal and vegetable matters in a state of decay, is to reduce the ammonia from the putred animal matters, so as to cause it to act upon the vegetable matters, which are naturally acid, and to render a larger portion of the organic matter soluble in water.

The influence of Lime is most useful in order to neutralize acids, which in their free state, are noxious, such, for instance, as the sulphuric and phosphoric acids, and their acid salts, together with their resulting combinations with lime, are favourable for vegetation. Gypsum, if mixed into a compost heap, where carbonate of ammonia is eliminated, is perhaps partially decomposed. Carbonate of ammonia is also well known to be a most powerful manure, but we cannot afford to use in so large a way, a commercial article. We must therefore make it in our compost heap, where we compose together wood, or any other peat, swamp muck, rotten wood, or any other vegetable matter with farmyard manure; and in the spring season, we mix into the heap, about three weeks before we intend to use the compost, some recently slaked lime, or if that cannot be had some potash will suffice, we generate from the composition of the animal matter, an enormous quantity of ammonia, which will be absorbed by the vegetable acids, and the manure will be powerfully increased in strength and value. The proportion of peat, swamp muck and stable manure have been employed on a large scale successfully, as follows:—three loads of peat, or swamp muck, one load of stable or barnyard, or any animal manure. These are made into compost heap, and are allowed to ferment over winter, or long enough for decomposition to commence. In the Spring season one cask of recently slaked lime is to be carefully mixed in while digging the heap. The lime extracts the pungent gaseous alkaline ammonia, which penetrates every part of the compost heap, and neutralizes the organic acids, forming valuable soluble compounds. Night soil, and the urine of animals are also a most useful addition to a compost heap, and will produce more ammonia than any other animal manure. Every farmer should endeavor to furnish some means of saving the liquid manures, which are so frequently wasted, for if properly used, liquid manures are of very great value. If peat, swamp muck, or rotten wood can be obtained they may be made to absorb the liquid by placing them under the stable and vaults, and the liquid manures may be conveyed thereby into the vegetable compost, which, in such a case, may be placed at a distance from the house at a lower level. Vegetable matter of the above kind should also be put in the hog sties, and the hogs will convert it into a good compost. Every hog, says a celebrated farmer, will produce ten loads of good compost manure, if he is afforded the materials:—in Spring the compost should be mixed with ashes or lime, and in ten days it will be fit for use.

Many intelligent farmers in Ireland practice already some of the rules here laid down; and it is desirable that all should know the theory of their operation.

(To be continued.)

Your's, &c.,

AGRICOLA.

Jan'y 29, 1842.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

CHINA.

Twenty Days Later.

By the arrival of the Swedish brig Albion, Capt. Holdt, at New York, letters and papers have been received from Canton (Macao) to

the 15th of Sept. inclusive.
The accounts, says the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser, are painfully interesting, teeming as they do with the destruction of human life in the progress of a war which cannot but be regarded as cruel and unjust almost without a parallel.

The fact has been several times brought to our notice that a very different feeling prevails among the Chinese out of Canton from that exhibited by the citizens and civic authorities: the latter are governed by the spirit of trade and cupidity, and their national zeal having long since been deadened by profitable intercourse with foreigners, they have been disposed for peace on any terms, however humiliating or adverse to the long settled policy of the empire; but the country people look upon their relentless invaders with horror, and were their martial ability but equal to their good will, the conflicts that have taken place would have presented a much less uniform character of ransomed butchery.

Influenced by this spirit, as we now learn, they had sunk huge blocks of granite and other obstructions in some of the passes leading to the city, with a view to hinder the approach of the British ships; and these proceedings were eagerly laid hold of by the commander of the squadron remaining near Canton, to make renewed attacks upon the forts, villages and junks, several of which had been destroyed, with a murderous destruction of life, and the ships had gone up the river, with the presumed intention of destroying the city—unless they should be bribed to spare it with another half dozen millions.

One letter, dated September 15, says:—I have just heard of Capt. Nias, (the commanding officer) having issued a proclamation in Chinese, and commenced hostilities by attacking the villages on the banks of the river near where the obstructions were sunk, and by blowing up and utterly destroying Wang Tung and the fortifications Kow Loon. There is a rumor of his intention to surround Canton, and I should not be much surprised to hear of the city being burnt before I get away from here. Thus, it appears, as conjectured and stated to you yesterday, that the least provocation is now made the excuse of great violence, and the result is as doubtful and the anticipation of it as much clouded by fear of suffering to the innocent people, as at any former period. This news is just as heard in a letter from Canton, where the smoke of burning villages was seen, the cannons boomed, and the people of Canton were fleeing in all directions, whilst the reports were that many people had been killed at the villages.

The process of building up a settlement at Hong Kong was going on, with considerable vigor, and it is said that the native population was increasing.
Sir Henry Pottinger and Admiral Parker sailed for the North on the 22d of August, with the major part of the forces, both naval and military, and reports had come through the Chinese, that Amoy had been attacked and taken, after a feeble resistance. We may don Mercantile Committee on Postage, consisting of Sir G. Larpent, Messrs Travers, Lestock, Wilson, and Moffat, had an interview with the Postmaster-General, for the purpose of urging upon his lordship the desirability, as well for the interests of the revenue as for those of the public, of perfecting Mr. Rowland Hill's plan of penny-postage. The chief points brought before his lordship were, those of increased facilities for posting and delivering letters in the metropolis and the suburbs, similar measures in the chief provincial towns, and an extension of Post-office conveniences to country districts at present destitute of them. The statements of the deputation received every attention from the Postmaster-General, who expressed his desire to give them his best consideration, and assured them that there was equal willingness with himself as his predecessor to carry out Mr. Hill's plan.

THE ARMY.—New Musket for the Service.
The musket that Colonel Hawker has suggested to the Ordnance (subjected to a severe trial, which has been begun, and will continue through the winter months) is the most simple, and the most waterproof that has yet been in use. He has availed himself of that clever invention, called the patent spring-musket (without a lock) of Wilkinson, and shortened the communication, by doing away with the chimney, and cutting deeper the concave under the stock; so that the stud of the nipple now screws directly into the under part of the barrel; and, by taking Westley Richards's hermetically sealed primer, he gets rid also of the distance which is taken up in firing down the office of a copper-cannipile. The great advantages of these combinations are, that the detonating flame fires directly into the body of the charge, so that the soldier may use (and even without biting off the end of his cartridge) the coarsest cannon powder, which stands all weathers, and which, Colonel Hawker has proved, shoots much stronger, and keeps its strength much longer than fine powder; and he gets rid altogether of the copper-caps, which, like the fine powder required for them, he never, he says, could depend on, in sea-coast shooting, and all other continual damp; although they answer ex-

tremely well for the "flood and field" sportsman, and may even weather an occasional wet day. With regard to the stocks, he says, in page 323 of his eighth edition on "Guns and Shooting," "If strength and consequent cheapness require them to be so straight that I defy a man to shoot with them—put some elevation (similar to that on a rifle.) instead of obliging the soldier to incline his head over—beyond the true line of aim." The Colonel has added to the stock of the musket, now on trial, a little knob of wood, merely put on with one screw, and similar to a pistol-grip, which gives great steadiness in firing, and a firm hold for the soldier if an enemy were attempting to disarm him. Should this market be adopted, the motion of "support arms" would require to be superseded by that of "slope arms," there being no cock or hammer to it. But this would be an advantage rather than an objection, as one motion less would be called for, thus saving the jackets of the men from being soiled by damp hands or whitened by pipelayered gloves. Westley Richards has also a new patent musket coming out, which he anticipates will beat all others; and, if so, Colonel Hawker, who is to receive one for trial, will not, we are sure, hesitate to give it a preference, having no interest in either, beyond his desire to benefit her Majesty's service.—*United Service Gazette.*

Great Britain and America.—We have reason to believe that a very serious misunderstanding now exists between the British government and the United States, arising from the one hand, from the unwillingness of the American President to apologise for the detention of a British subject (McLeod), on an unfounded charge, and, on the other, from the alleged fact that vessels engaged in the slave trade are notoriously fitted out in American ports. Lord Aberdeen, as we learn, has written repeated and decided notes on both these subjects, without as yet receiving satisfactory answers; and, considering the fresh obligations imposed on this country by the new anti-slave treaty, it is much to be feared that something unpleasant may occur between both governments.—*Morning Herald of Saturday.*

Paisley, Dec. 25.—We are unable to state any vestige of improvement in our trade. A few houses are preparing for the spring trade, but it is to a small extent, and with great caution. They have not altogether lost hopes of some improvement after the new year, though the streaks of light in their horizon are very faint. One intelligent correspondent does not expect that any revival which may be counted upon will take up all our harness weavers, and he strongly recommends as many of them as can fall in with work of any other description to embrace it without delay. Female sewers of shawl borders are also not at all likely to meet with full employment, and he strongly recommends the younger part of them to turn their attention to hand sewing. A great deal of this kind of work is sent both from Paisley and Glasgow to distant parts of Scotland and even Ireland, and were they to learn it, it would prove serviceable in throwing a variety into female work.

It is true that Lord Haddington is about to resign the office of First Lord of the Admiralty, and to be succeeded by Sir George Cockburn.
It now takes only as many weeks to go from England to the East Indies as it occupied months some years ago to perform the journey.
In all departments of the naval service of the country a degree of activity prevails unexampled at any period since the battle of Waterloo re-established the peace of Europe. In one of the many departments to which the manning and fitting out war is entrusted, the weekly bill sent in last week exceeded by £40,000 any accounts rendered for the last five and twenty years. This increase of activity is not confined to one branch of the service, and taken altogether it is said, in the past week, there was the immense augmentation in the payments for strengthening the navy alone of not less than £400,000. The navy estimates for the next year will therefore state those who look with alarm at any future addition being made to the national debt.
In addition to the reported change in the Horse Guards by the appointment of Sir George Murray as Lord Hill's successor in office of General Commanding in chief, it is probable that Lord Fitzroy Somerset will be appointed commander-in-chief in Ireland, Sir H. Hardinge appointed Master General of the Ordnance, and W. Herries the new Secretary at War.

London, Dec. 29.—It is hinted by some influential parties in the City, to whom full credit is due, that there is something more in the wind than meets the eye in the simultaneous departure of the fleet of steamers destined to ply on the West India station, in the company of the Mails, passengers, &c. to and from her Majesty's colonial possessions in the directions alleged to. Some significant inquiries have been made from headquarters as to the number of troops each of these fine steam ships could accommodate, and the re-

sults given is, we are informed, that with very little alteration each ship could convey 1,000 men. We do not believe that there will be any relaxation in the activity that now prevails in all the naval departments of the country; and if our information be correct, the destination of most of the vessels of war now getting ready for sea will be the American station. These steamships may, we hear, be found in company with our men of war on the coasts of the United States; and we are told that, should the American Executive refuse to adjust the Boundary Question, those gentle admonitors in upholding British rights and British honor, may use something unlike "soft persuasion" in compelling "Brother Jonathan" to settle the account that has been so long standing between this country and America. We have given this statement as it has reached us, and we will only add that it is derived from a highly respectable source.—*London Observer.*

Extensive Failures at Glasgow.—The large concern of Messrs Wingate, Son, and Co. wholesale warehousemen, in this city, stopped payment on the 29th ult. The liabilities are considered not to be under £120,000, and it is expected that the concern will turn out well for the creditors. Wingate, Son, & Co. are well known all over the country, and had an establishment in America.—They were principally in the silk and shawl trade. This failure, gives the finishing stroke to Paisley, and brings down nearly all the few remaining houses in that unfortunate town. Mr. Wingate, eighteen months ago was considered to have realized a clear fortune of £30,000 or £40,000. This failure, joined with that of the Bananaynes, grain-merchants, and those connected with them, makes considerably upwards of £200,000 in all, and will in the latter case, be very severely felt.

Wonderful instance of Sagacity in a Dog.
About eight months ago a gentleman belonging to this city embarked at Port Philip for Scotland. In the bustle and confusion of preparing for so long a voyage, a favorite dog disappeared about a couple of days before the vessel in which he returned left for Port Philip; and, as all the enquiry he was able to make turned out to be fruitless, he was under the necessity of leaving his four footed friend behind him. He arrived in Edinburgh about two months ago, and, wonderful to tell, within the last three weeks, was surprised by a visit from the animal he had left in Port Philip about eight months before! Upon inquiry, it turns out that the dog had gone aboard of a ship on the eve of sailing for London; that once aboard, he resolutely refused to be put ashore, and, by dint of sheer resolution, obtained a passage. On his arrival in London, it is ascertained that he visited the lodgings formerly occupied by his master, and, failing in discovering the object of his search, immediately disappeared, and was not again heard of till his arrival in Edinburgh. Familiar as we are with instances of the affection and sagacity of the dog, this is perhaps the most extraordinary example on record. His going on board of an English ship many thousand miles from home, his refusal to quit it—his visit to the former lodgings of his master on his arrival in London, and the journey from London to Edinburgh—rank the subject of this brief notice as one of the most wonderful animals of his species. The gentleman to whom he belongs is well known in Edinburgh, and is the son of a gentleman who, within the last twenty years, has filled various offices of civic dignity.

We have recently on one or two occasions, called public attention to an inland communication with Canada, by means of a Rail-Road, by which produce may be forwarded to a port in the vicinity of the Atlantic, during those periods when the navigation of the St. Lawrence is closed; and in connection with this subject, we refer our readers to an article from the New York *Admiral*, on our last page, which must satisfy every person who reads it, that if some such port should not be established in New Brunswick, one or more will be found in the United States.
The discovery of a site for a rail-road between St. Andrews and Quebec, a distance of 270 miles, was undertaken about six years since, and discontinued at the instance of the American government, under the pretence that it went through the disputed territory. An offer was subsequently made, to open a rail-road from the Kennebec to the Canadian line, if the Canadian authorities would make the remainder; one has just been completely connecting Boston with Albany, 200 miles in length; and New York is making renewed efforts to secure the trade of the Far West.

At a period when the timber trade of this Province is jeopardized, Her Majesty's government would doubtless aid an undertaking which would rescue the country from the deplorable condition in which it is placed; and create an outlet by which an immense amount of property would be transported throughout the Province, to be received or shipped from the shores.—*Sentinel.* best new double steamers, Be fast and fear not, &c. will be required.