

certain organs, and is itself capable of being transformed into fat. We add to the quantity of food, or we lessen the processes of respiration and perspiration by preventing motion. The conditions necessary to effect this purpose in birds are different from those in quadrupeds; and it is well known that charcoal powder produces such an excessive growth of the liver of a goose, as at length causes the death of the animal.

The increase or diminution of the vital activity of vegetables depends only on heat and solar light, which we have not arbitrarily at our disposal; all that we can do is to supply those substances which are adapted for assimilation by the power already present in the organs of the plant. But what then are these substances? They may easily be detected by the examination of a soil, which is always fertile in given cosnical and atmospheric conditions; for it is evident, that the knowledge of its state and composition must enable us to discover the circumstances under which a sterile soil may be rendered fertile. It is the duty of the chemist to explain the composition of a fertile soil, but the discovery of its proper state or condition belongs to the agriculturist; our present business lies only with the former.

Arable land is originally formed by the crumbling of rocks, and its properties depend on the nature of their principal component parts. Sand, clay, and lime, are the names given to the principal constituents of the different kinds of soil.—*Leibeg.*

NEWS.

The Queen has been paying visits to some of her nobility.

The Subscription for a Free Church College and 500 Free Church Schools are in a very advanced state. Nineteen individuals have subscribed £1000 each to the former institution, ten of whom are in Glasgow.

O'Connell has abandoned the Federal plan and agitates the Repeal as earnestly as ever.

The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have given permission for upwards of 20 tons of the lotus nuts to be admitted, without the payment of any duty, for Earl Spencer, which he is about to import for the purpose of the article being tried as an experiment as food for cattle.

It is calculated that if the duty were paid on the whole of the tobacco at present in bond in London alone, including manufactured and unmanufactured tobacco and cigars, the sum would amount to little short of seven millions sterling.

Lord Ellenborough is spoken of as the next Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. Another report, says the office has been tendered to Lord Powis.

The discovery of a forgery of Bank of England notes has created great excitement. The notes discovered to be forgeries are all for £100. The French papers mention that upwards of forty of these forged notes were passed in Paris, and several in Brussels and Antwerp. It is probable that the paper was made and the plate engraved at Paris.

In compliance with a requisition, numerously signed, the Mayor of Gravesend has convened a public meeting of the inhabitants of that place, for the purpose of concerting measures for the suppression of brothels.

There are about ninety new railways proposed, ten of which are opposed to the interests of others. The total share capital required for those ninety railways amounts to about £71 000,000, on which deposits to the extent of £4 230,000 will have to be paid before application is made to Parliament.

That the town of Milton, Wisconsin, is indubitably prosperous and moral, no one will doubt who is aware that 70,000 bushels of wheat have been raised during the past year—not a glass of ardent spirits was ever sold in its bounds, and there is not a justice of the peace who has received fees enough within a year to pay for a barrel of salt.

The President's Message to Congress recommends the immediate annexation of Texas, by joint resolution of the two houses. This step, were it adopted, would probably lead to immediate war with Mexico.

There are now 600 paper mills in operation in the United States, giving active use to a capital of \$16 000,000, manufacturing at least a sum equal to the capital per annum, and affording maintenance to upwards of 50,000 persons.

At Salem, Ohio, five men have died from eating water melons that had been drugged. The proprietor of a water melon patch found that depreddations had been made upon it, and to detect

the trespassers plugged a number of the melons with a poisonous drug inserted.

**THE LORD'S-DAY CONVENTION.**—The body assembled in Baltimore on Wednesday last. It is a National Lord's-Day Convention. Invitations are extended to all friends of the Lord's-Day in all parts of the country to attend.

In six months, thirty-six vessels under American colors, have been brought into Rio Janeiro, with average cargoes of 500 slaves each, making in all 18,000.

The amount annually paid in Lowell, Mass, for the wages of labor, is one million eight hundred thousand dollars.

The subscriptions to the Canada and Boston Railroad already, it is said, reach eight hundred thousand dollars in Boston.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, December 4.

Mr. M'DONALD, of Cornwall, moved an Address in reply to His Excellency's Speech. The motion was seconded by Mr. COLVILLE.

Mr. BALDWIN proposed several amendments.

In support of these amendments, which were seconded by Mr. CAMERON, Mr. BALDWIN spoke at great length. On the other side Mr. SHERWOOD and Dr. DUNLAP addressed the House.

THURSDAY, December 5.

Seventeen Petitions were presented; among them were the undermentioned:—

From the Rev. Dr. Phillips—praying that his salary as Chaplain to the late Assembly and Council of Upper Canada may be continued during the remainder of his life.

From the Ursuline Nuns of Three Rivers for the passing of an Act to enable them to acquire and hold additional property yielding an annual revenue of £1,500.

From the Rev. P. Archambault and others, of St. Michael de Vaudreuil, for a grant of £250 to complete a school-house therein.

From the Moderator and Presbytery of Montreal, praying that certain Ministers who voted at the late election may be relieved from the penalties attending the same, under the late election law, of which they were ignorant.

Mr. Attorney General Smith moved for the appointment of Standing Committees on the following subjects, viz:—Privileges and Elections, Expiring Laws, Private Bills, Standing Orders, Printing and Contingencies.

Mr. Christie moved to add a Committee on Public Accounts, which was negatived—Yeas, 4; Nays, 67.

The original motion was then carried, and a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Papineau, Moffatt, H. Sherwood, Hale, Robinson, Murney, Lafontaine, Baldwin, Morin, Price and Leslie, appointed to prepare lists of Members to compose the said Standing Committees.

The debate on the address was continued. The Speakers were, Messrs. GOWAN, PRICE, DUGGAN, WILLIAMS, J. S. MACDONALD, PAPINEAU, and MORIN.

FRIDAY, December 6.

Nineteen Petitions were presented.

Mr. ROBLIN brought in a Bill for the more equal distribution of the property of persons dying intestate.

The debate on the Address was resumed; the principal speakers being Mr. AYLWIN, the Hon. D. DALY (Provincial Secretary), the ATTORNEY GENERAL, and Mr. BALDWIN in reply. At four o'clock on Saturday morning the division took place, and the Ministerial Address was carried by a majority of six.

For the amendments..... 36  
Against them..... 42

Majority..... 6

*For the Amendments.*—Messrs. Armstrong, Aylwin, Baldwin, Berthelot, Bertrand, Bouthillier, Cameron, Cauchon, Chabot, Chauveau, Christie, Desaulniers, Dewitt, Drummond, Franchere, Jobin, Lacoste, Lafontaine, Lantier, Laurin, Le Moine, Leslie, Macdonald (Glengary), Macdonald (Stormont), Methot, Morin, Powell, Price, Roblin, Rousseau, Small, Smith (Wentworth), Tache, Taschereau, Thompson, Nelson—36.

*For the Ministerial Address.*—Boulton, Brooks, Chalmers, Colville, Cummings, Daly, De Blury, Dickson, Duggan, Dunlop, Ermatinger, Foster, Gowan, Griev, Guillet, Hale, Hall, Jessup, Johnston, Lawrason, Macdonald (Cornwall), Macdonald (Kingston), M'Connell, Meyers, Moffatt, Murney, Papineau, Petrie,