

duty) on American wheat imported, does not appear to me, an equitable measure.—In the first place the duty is too low; secondly—although it must be admitted that Canada is not entitled to the duty on wheat exported to Great Britain, it is equally clear the Province can justly claim the duty on what is brought into consumption (as in case of a bad harvest) or on such portion as may be shipped to British America or the West Indies.

The great importance of the question involving the prosperity or ruin of nine-tenths of the population, must be my excuse for so long intruding on Your Excellency's attention—relying on the justice of their claims, the agriculturists can with confidence leave them to the consideration of that enlightened British administration of which Your Excellency forms a part, assured a powerful advocate will not be wanting should Your Excellency conceive the relief they seek, would tend to develop the resources of the Province.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's ob't. humble Serv't.

J. BROWNE.

Secretary to the Committee for the
Protection of Agriculture.
Vaughan, March, 1842.

* The Rochester Democrat stated a short time since—they would be enabled to manufacture two millions barrels of flour, which would find a reliable market through the St. Lawrence.

BENEVOLENCE should be expansive; a man that does good to none but himself is a hateful encloser; he imputes God's bounty by usurping a strict property in those blessings which he intended for the common use of mankind.

HOME.—The only fountain in the wilderness of life, where man drinks of water totally unmixed with bitterness is that which gushes for him in the calm and steady recess of domestic life. Pleasures may heat the heart with artificial excitement, ambition may delude it with its golden dreams, war may eradicate its fine fibres, and diminish its sensitiveness but it is only domestic love that can render it truly happy.

INDUSTRY.—There is no art or science that is too difficult for industry to attain to: it is the gift of tongues, and makes a man understood and valued in all countries and by all nations; it is the philosopher's stone that turns all metals and even stones into gold, and suffers no want to break into its dwelling; it is the north-west passage, and brings the merchant's ship as soon to him as he can desire, in a word, it conquers all enemies, and makes fortune itself pay contribution.—Clarendon.

DR. CHANNING ON MONOPOLY.—What is the happiest community? What the city which should be chosen above all others as our home? It is that, the members of which form one body, in which no class seems a monopoly of honor or good in which no class is a prey to others, in which there is a general desire that every human being may have an opportunity to develop his powers—What is the happiest community? It is not that in which the goods of life are accumulated in a fine hand, in which property sinks a great gulf between different ranks in which one portion of society swells with pride, and the other is broken in spirit; but a community in which labour is respected, and the means of comfort and improvement are literally diffused. It is not a community in which intelligence is developed in a few, whilst the many are given up to igno-

rance, superstition, and a gross animal existence: but one in which the mind is so revered in every condition, that the opportunities of its culture are afforded to all. It is a community in which religion is not used to break the many into subjection, but it is dispensed, even to the poorest, to rescue them from the degrading influence of poverty, to give them generous sentiments and hopes, exalt them from animals into men, into Christians, into children of God. Thus is a happy community, where human nature is held in honour, where, to rescue it from ignorance and crime, to give it an impulse towards knowledge, virtue, and happiness, is thought the chief end of the social union.

CELEBRATED OAKS.—The oldest Oaks in England is supposed to be the Parliament Oaks (from the tradition of Edward I, holding a Parliament under its branches) in Chipstone Park, belonging to the Duke of Portland; this park being also the most ancient in the island; it was a park before the conquest and was seized by the Conqueror. The tree is supposed to be 1500 years old. The tallest Oak in England was believed to be the property of the same nobleman; it was called the "Duke's walking stick," it was higher than Westminster Abbey, and stood till of late years. The largest Oak in this country is called Catthorp Oak, Yorkshire, it measures 78 feet in circumference when the crank meets the ground. The "Three Shire Oak" at Workeop, was so called from its covering part of the counties of York, Nottingham, and Derby, it had the greatest expanse of any recorded in this island, dropping over 777 square yards. The most productive Oak was that of Gelonon, in Monmouthshire, felled in 1810, its bark brought £200, and its timber £670. In the mansion of Tredegar Park, Monmouthshire, there is said to be a room forty two feet long, and 227 feet broad, the floor and wainscots of which were the production of a single oak tree, grown on the estate. While on the subject of trees, the following anecdote respecting an old elm-tree, that formerly stood in a park near Cognac, may not be uninteresting:—The Duchess of Angoulême, mother of Francis I, during a morning ramble in the park, being at that period far advanced in the last stage of her pregnancy of that Prince, was suddenly seized with the pains of immediate labour, and being unable to reach the Castle, or obtain assistance, was obliged, under the shady and wide spreading canopy of an ancient elm-tree, to give birth to the Prince. The singularity of the circumstance excited general interest at the time in favour of this venerable inhabitant of the forest, and to secure it from the sacriligious axe, a wall of hexagonal form was erected around its base. Time, however, the general destroyer of all things, led to the total decay of the old-elm, which was speedily replaced by another planted in its stead, and called "L'Orme Filic."—*London Mark Lane Express.*

The following is copied from the fifty-second volume of the "Transactions of the Society of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce."

Culture of the Cambridgeshire Fens.

The thanks of the Society were voted to George Aikin, Esq., of Cook's Court, Carey Street, for the following account of the recent improvements in the culture of the Cambridgeshire Fens.

In the preface of part 2nd, of Volume 51, of the *Transactions of the Society*, noticing Mr. Glynn's paper "On Draining the Fens

Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire by Steam-Engines," a conjecture is hazarded, that "the time is probably not far distant when all the Fen lands in the kingdom shall be enabled to exert their exuberant fertility." So far as the fens of the *Bedford level* are concerned this conjecture is being carefully verified; the more complete and certain system of drainage by means of the Steam-engine, as well as the great improvement of the out-fall, having enabled the occupiers of the land to avail themselves of the valuable strata of clay and marl which are now accessible at a very short depth from the surface, and by which a new and most advantageous system of farming has been introduced.

As some account of this new method may be interesting to such members of the Society as are acquainted with agricultural pursuits, I have endeavoured to collect some information on the subject which I now with great deference submit to the Society.

The practice of using clay and marl upon the fen or moss land in other parts of the kingdom, especially in Scotland, has been in use for many years, and their good effect has been fully appreciated; as may be seen in Mr. Steel's excellent work on the subject: the mode of practice laid down there, however, being somewhat different from that in use here, it will not preclude any benefit which may be derived from such information as I have been able to obtain.

The soil of the fens is a dark-coloured almost black, peat, mixed with silt, and graduates downwards into spongy peat.—In many places occurs a tanacious soapy-feeling peat, mixed with micaceous sand, in which state it obtains the local name of *bean's muck*, forming a barren untractable soil, which, by drying, becomes of a stony hardness. The peat in some parts rests on a thick stratum of blue calcareous clay, called *gault*, (a fair sample of which was found to contain 30.7 per cent of carbonate of lime,) but in other parts a deposit of gravel, varying in thickness, is found between the peat and the *gault*.

The great Ondford Level contains upwards of 300,000 acres, which formerly were subject to continual floods, so that the cultivation of the land was exceedingly uncertain; and, at best, it could only be worked in spring and summer. The usual course of husbandry was to pare and burn the sod, as a preparation for coleseed or rape, which was fed off by sheep, and was followed by one or two successive crops of oats; according to circumstances; and was then laid down to grass for two or three years; when it was again broken up and the same return of crops observed. The crops, of course, varied according to the situation of the land; where it was very low and wet, the oats rarely exceeded four or five quarters per acre, and were light in quality; but in more favourable situations, where the land was higher and stronger, the crop would be from five to eight, and sometimes ten quarters per acre; all this, however, depended upon the state of the land, as to being flooded or not. Fifty years ago, the drainage was very inefficient.

The out-falls for the waters having been much improved by forming the Van Brink Cut; by scouring out and deepening the Hundred-foot River, which communicates with the Van Brink, and conveys the upland waters of the river Ouse more directly to the sea, also, by scouring out and deepening the river Nonc and other main drains, and by the introduction of the steam engine, the drainage has become so complete, that the land is now esteemed almost certain from being injured by floods; the consequence of