

THE TWO STREAMS.

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

Behold yon rocky wall—
That, down its sloping sides,
Pours the swift rain-drops, blending as they fall,
In rushing river-tides!

Yon stream, whose sources run—
Turned by a pebble's edge—
Is Athabasca, rolling toward the sun,
Through the cleft mountain ledge.

The slender rill had strayed,
But for the slanting stone,
To evening's ocean, with the tangled braid
Of foam-flecked Oregon.

So, from the heights of Will,
Life's parting stream descends;
And as each moment turns, the slender rill—
The widening torrent, bends.

From the same cradle's side—
From the same mother's knee—
One to long darkness and the frozen tide—
One to the Peaceful Sea.

AGRICULTURAL.

PLOUGHING UNDER CLOVER.—The following remarks, which we find copied in the *Lower Canada Agriculturist* for October, may be advantageously studied by our farmers, in connection with what we have in another column given of the substance of the address delivered lately at Utica, by the editor of the *Genesee Farmer*:—

The principal crop used in this country for green manuring, or for ploughing under, is red clover. This kind of manuring is not practiced to any considerable extent. We are not habituated to waiting long enough for results—we want to see the effect almost directly following the cause; and again we are apt to think, or at least to act, as if we thought it was a loss, not to harvest and preserve every crop the soil will yield. So when we have a fine field of clover, redolent with blossoms and fragrance, the temptation to cut it is too strong to be resisted, although we may still be aware that the soil needs the substance derived from plowing it under.

The plants principally used in Europe for plowing under as green manure, are the spurrey and the white lupine. These are leguminous plants of quick growth, and drawing their substance largely from the air. Of the former, as many as three crops are sometimes turned under in the same season. It thrives best in a damp climate, hence England is well adapted to its growth, and it is used for the purpose of plowing under to assist in restoring and to invigorate sandy lands, and old worn out fields.

We believe that these plants have been cultivated for this purpose with good effect in this country, but probably nothing will answer the purpose so well as clover. The principal reason why the plowing under of clover is so beneficial to the soil, is because of the large per centage of its substance which is taken from the air. It is evident that if a plant was plowed in which drew all, or nearly all its nourishment from the soil, there would be nothing or but little gained, for it would be simply returning the substance to whence it was drawn.

Clover contains, when growing, only about five per cent. of matter taken from the soil, the other ninety-five per cent. having been drawn from the air, and it is said, that what it takes from the soil is drawn up from the sub-soil, by its long roots, from which common plants could not obtain it; therefore, when it is plowed under, it returns to the soil not only the five per cent. which it draws from it but the ninety-five per cent. also, which it has drawn in from the atmosphere through its broad leaves, and which is an actual gain or addition to the soil, and it is also by the decomposition of the clover plant made fit and nourishing food for other plants, as it is rendered capable of being immediately assimilated by the growing plants.—*Maine Farmer*.

TO MAKE CATTLE THRIVE IN WINTER.—There are certain requisites to be constantly observed, namely, the following:

1. To feed regularly, and so as to prevent fretting for expected meals.
2. To give enough, but never over-feed.
3. To feed often, and moderately at a time.
4. To furnish constantly a supply of good water.
5. To shelter from storms.
6. To rub them clean, and give clean litter.
7. To give them a portion of carrots or beets daily.
8. To keep their stables properly ventilated and free from bad air.—*Rural Affairs*.

HORSES NEED AIR AND LIGHT.—If anything can be done to add to the comfort and health of the horse, no animal deserves more to have such an effort made. Our stables should be constructed with special reference to his comfort and health, and to these all other accessories must yield.

Our fathers' and grandfathers' barns were of the wide, old-fashioned sort, with all manner of loop holes and air holes—between the vertical boarding you could put your whole hand. They were originally tight, but when well seasoned, there was light without windows, and the pure air circulated freely; there was perfect ventilation, and yet talk with those men about the necessity of ventilating a stable, and they are ready to prove that they have kept horses all their lives, who did well, worked well, were always in fine health, and spirits, and that a ventilator is only a fancy idea—one of the new-fangled notions of the present generation.

Our stables have been improved in architectural beauty, and in more permanent form of construction; they are pleasing to the eye, tight, proof against the wind and weather, and with solid walls of brick and stone, all of which the poor horse would gladly exchange for the pure, fresh air, of which he is now deprived.

In providing for the necessities of a horse, it would be well to ask ourselves, how we should like to be placed in the same situation. If it is healthy for a man to live day and night in a close, damp cellar or underground apartment, then it is healthy for a horse. If it is healthy for a man to live on the lower floor, in an unventilated apartment, with a manure and root cellar beneath him, whose pestiferous miasmas are penetrating every crack, mingling with the foul air he breathes, and rising still higher, permeating the food he consumes, then it is healthy for a horse. But why argue against barn cellars and ill ventilated apartments—the proof is abundant to all who want it, and he that cannot be convinced, must cease to wonder why his horses have diseases of the skin, the lungs, the eye, etc., or the glanders, the grease, the scratches, and other diseases that are directly traceable to the impure atmosphere, in which he compels them to stand and breathe.

We would, therefore, in the construction of a stable, endeavor to provide against these evils. Build root cellars and other cellars entirely distinct from the barn—at least not directly under the horse stalls; let there be a free circulation of air under the floor, and particularly so through the stable apartments. Ventilate the horse stable through the roof, and entirely independent of the other portions of the barn; let the connection between the horse stable and hay mow be closed tight, except when hay is being delivered. Ventilate the carriage house through the hay mow and roof.

Let your horses' heads be toward the side or end of the barn, and provide the head of each stall with a fair sized window: a horse wants, under all circumstances, whether tired, sick, or well, plenty of light. When there is light and plenty of fresh air, it is a common practice to turn the stalls the other way, and keep the horse somewhat in the dark. A good horseman knows that a horse enjoys light and air as much as he does himself, and we will thrive better on the lee side of a hay stack, than he will in a badly ventilated barn, however comfortable it may be otherwise. It is stated that, if the gases exhaled from a horse's body were confined around him by a gas-tight bag, they would cause his death in twenty-four hours, allowing him at the same time to have his head out and to breathe pure air.

If you want satin-skinned horses, in fine health and spirits, ready at all times to work or to drive, a thorough system of ventilation will be one very important step toward it.

A manure shed should be built outside the stable, and sufficient only to afford protection from wind and rain, with a door connecting with the barn, and running to floor of stable, which should only be open when the stable is being cleaned. The exhalations of the manure heap are then not permitted to return to the stable—nor should any of the gases generated in the stable, be allowed to pass into the carriage room or hay mow.

As a matter of economy, it is just as cheap to build a stable calculated to give a horse the greatest amount of comfort as to build it in any other way. Cellars are handy arrangements, and in the first cost it may be cheaper to put them under the barn, but a few years, experience will show the heaviest balance on the debit side.—*American Agriculturist*.

WINTERING BEES.—The great drawback to successful bee-culture is the loss they sustain in the winter. In all latitudes South of New York city, where the snow seldom falls to last over a day or two, we think the hives may as well remain out upon their stands, as the weather in such climates is not so cold as to do them much injury. Bees, when the hives are prosperous, will stand a few days of very severe cold weather, provided that the sun shines warm enough, once a week to warm the hives, and cause the frost which accumulates frequently at the tops of the combs to melt and run down.

It is a good plan, when hives are left all winter upon their stands, to remove the small boxes in the supers, and fill the upper sections of the hives with fine hay, packed in rather closely. We now refer to any hive that is constructed in two parts, or those that have doors in their backs to allow a set of small boxes to be slid in, in which the bees store their surplus honey. The moisture generated by the bees will ascend through the holes leading to the supers, and become collected in the hay. In the spring it will be found in a wet and slightly mouldy condition, and may be thrown out as waste litter.

Some apiarists, bore an inch hole near the tops of their hives, in order to allow the moisture to pass away. We never approved of this plan, as a vast deal of cold air must be constantly circulating up through the hives.

All hives left out upon their stands in winter, should either be raised up to allow a circulation of air beneath them, or once in three or four days, the dead bees around the passage ways should be cleared away, as an accumulation of bees at the entrances in the winter will sometimes become saturated with the melting snow or rain, and close up the passages by freezing, which will smother the bees, when they have no other means of ventilation. A long goose quill is an excellent thing to run into the passages, to remove the dead bees.

We recommend the placing of short pieces of boards, a foot wide, up against the hives, so as to prevent the sun shining into the passage-ways, which always, in mild weather, causes the bees to leave their hives, and many become chilled, on alighting upon buildings, fences, &c., and never return. But more especially is great loss caused, when the ground is covered with snow, and the warm rays of the sun draw forth the bees in large numbers, to become dazzled by the reflection of the sun upon the snow, and fall down and die.—*Rural American*.

BIRDS CONSIDERED INJURIOUS TO THE FARMER.

There is a certain class of birds, which, whenever or wherever they happen to appear, are indiscriminately shot at and murdered. I speak of the Crow, the Blue-Jay, the Owl, and the Hawk.

The character of these birds has been singularly mistaken, for while they are secretly doing good to the farmer, he repays their kind services by killing them.

Let us begin and take them up in regular order, in the way I have set them down, and perhaps I may be able to convince some farmers that instead of their being an injury to the farmer—as he imagines them—they are positively a benefit. Let us begin with

THE CROW.—He, for example, has had great injustice done to him. While he is accused of eating the corn, he is really doing good. When you see him in the corn-field in the spring, scratching vigorously, do not imagine that he is eating the corn. It is not the case. Watch him closely and you will be convinced; he is eating the grub worms. For every blade of corn that he destroys—for when his supply of animal food is shortened, he must live—he kills at least five hundred grubs. This is a positive fact. Now consider which is the best, whether you lose one blade of corn or suffer to live five hundred grub-worms.

THE BLUE JAY.—This bird, from being so unmercifully destroyed has greatly decreased in numbers. How he was put upon the "black list" I don't know. He is the avowed destroyer of grubs—their enemy and ours.

THE OWL.—Strange how this majestic bird was included on the list. "Guardian of the night" as he is, he seldom makes his appearance during the day-time. He frequents barns and old ruins—there to destroy numberless rats and mice. In some parts of Europe he is said to be kept in families, like a cat, and it is said that he equals in patience and excels that animal in alertness.

THE HAWK.—It is an admitted fact that this bird does sometimes trouble hen roosts, but in my opinion the injury done in this manner is more than counter-balanced by the benefit he confers by destroying vermin, such as the weasel, the fox, the racoon, with untold numbers of rats and mice. Very seldom do we find a good thing in this world without its disadvantages. We should remember this when we ruthlessly take the life of the above-mentioned bird.—*Country Gent's man*.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO GERMANY—THE AFFAIRS OF THE CONTINENT.

(From the *London Watchman*, Sept. 9th.)

Her Majesty is on her way home, and is expected to land at Woolwich to-morrow. In Germany the Queen has enjoyed the comfort of seeing her royal daughters in the land of their adoption, and has had interviews with the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia. The latter Sovereign, still instigated by evil advisers, who think they can make political capital out of the Congress at Frankfurt, has issued a decree dissolving the Chamber of Deputies, which M. von Bismark has found so tenacious of its constitutional rights that he has twice prorogued it before the Budget was passed. The Court electioneering cry is to be—a Prussian, not an Austrian Germany; and the nation is to return the Deputies under the hallucination that the object of the late Congress was to insult and injure Prussia, and to displace her from her rank as a leading Power in Germany and in Europe. Roused by the nefarious conspiracy against the grandeur of their country, the people are to cease to alternate for their own rights and those of their representatives; they are to return a Chamber of Deputies who will pass the Budget with a wet finger, enable the military King to raise to any strength he pleases an army which may be used for the suppression of liberty, and to pass votes of confidence in the Bismark Ministry. If that is the device, it is more like the low and silly trick of a profligate adventurer than the plan of a statesman. The new elections will inform us, what the gagged press of Prussia cannot, whether or not the people are foolish enough to swim, like the smaller sisters of the swan, into M. von Bismark's decoy.

There is an impression that France has leaned more towards a Prussian alliance of late. It is the hearty desire of William I. to be the connecting link between Napoleon III. and Alexander II.; and there is a fickleness about the policy of France which makes her, as the idea may strike her, ready either to draw the sword against or clasp hands with Austria or Russia at brief notice. She has acted in each way towards both those Powers within a few years; alternately fighting and soon afterwards cussing first one and then the other. Like Canning's "Matilda," her impulsiveness makes her say, "A sudden thought strikes me—let us swear an eternal friendship;" but a French eternity in such cases is too often measurable by a very moderate sand-fall in the hour-glass of time. That Austria with England caused her war-chariot to drag heavily when it was got ready against the oppressor of Poland, can have produced only momentary vexation; for the inclination to take up the Polish quarrel appears to have passed away, like other fits and humours of the moody and mutable ruler of France. A great and patriotic work would Francis Joseph have executed if his ability to reform and consolidate the Germanic Confederation had been as great as his intention was good. But Prussia has it in her own power to frustrate the undertaking without ruining herself, as she would do if she was detected intriguing with France to prevent the unity of Germany.

WHAT IS AN ABOLITIONIST?—We find the following definition of the term 'abolitionist' quoted from the *Southern Literary Messenger*, a Richmond publication: "An abolitionist is any man who does not love slavery for its own sake as a Divine institution, who does not worship it as a corner stone of civil liberty, who does not adore it as the only possible social condition on which a permanent Republican government can be created, and who does not in his inmost soul desire to see it extended and perpetuated over the whole earth as a means of human reformation second in dignity, importance, and sacredness, only to the Christian religion. He who does not love African slavery with this love is an abolitionist."