

restless, gaily-costumed crowds. The Sarnus then was "a shining river" rushing to the halcyon sea that filled the port, and came to murmur and ripple close to the city walls; now the river is a shrunk stream, and the blue sea has drawn back affrighted, and the city is a skeleton.

### 5. ANCIENT ROMAN AGRICULTURE.

By request of the Agricultural Association, the Rev. Dr. McCaul delivered an address on Ancient Roman Agriculture, in the Crystal Palace, on the Thursday evening of the Exhibition. Mr. Ferguson, the acting President of the Association, introduced—

The Rev. Dr. McCaul, who, in an able and excellent address, gave a brief but very clear description of the chief characteristics of Roman agriculture, as related to their farms and farm houses, their crops, their cattle and agricultural products, and their mode of cultivation. Under the first head he referred to the care which they exercised in selecting a farm, and mentioned the particulars as given by Columella, which should influence a choice, viz., good soil, good air, good water, good roads and good neighbours. The advice, which the old author gave, would in his (Dr. McCaul's) opinion, be valuable even now in Canada to those desiring to select a position. The Roman farm houses—at least of those who were in good circumstances—were on a large scale, containing separate accommodation for the proprietor and his family, the farm servants and slaves, and granaries, barns and other out-offices of a similar description. The wealthy had villas on a wonderfully large scale, containing different suites of apartments, suitable for use in winter and in summer, and attached to the villas were covered drives, ball courts, swimming basins, fish ponds, &c. Lucullus had a villa so large, that it was said he had more ground to sweep than to plough. Of their crops cereals were not held in the high estimation in which we hold them. They depended chiefly for their supply of wheat on Sicily, Sardinia, and Egypt. Their principal remunerative crops were from vines, and olives, and bees. They had fall and spring wheat, spelt, barley, sesame, rye, millet and pannicum, but not *zea*, interpreted as maize, for that was unknown until after the discovery of the new world. Of other crops, which they cultivated he would name beans, vetches, lupines, hemp, flax and turnips. In their kitchen gardens they had many of the vegetables which we now value, with some peculiar to the soil and climate. They had garlic, leeks, onions, parsley, asparagus, cucumbers, beets, cabbage, artichokes, kidney beans, lettuce, parsnips, anise, mustard, skirret, savory, &c. Of their fruits the principal were, apricots, damsons, peaches, pomegranates, cherries, apples, pears, strawberries, blackberries, bilberries, &c., but it is not probable they had melons. It is surprising that the list of their horticultural products contains but very few species as compared with ours. In this our greater intercourse with remote parts of the world gives us very marked advantage. They did not rear fat cattle as we do for the butcher; for joints of beef and mutton were not articles of ordinary diet. They were well acquainted, however, with the good points of cattle, and their description would be a useful index even now. Oxen were valued by them for draught; sheep for the fleeces, and for milk, butter and cheese. Butter was not used as we use it, the oil of the olive supplying a substitute for most purposes. As they had not the sugar cane, honey was a very important article in their diet, yielding the saccharine matter which they required. There were two modes of cultivation—by the proprietor himself with slaves, or by *coloni*, free tenants. Sometimes they adopted a principle similar to the *metayer* system on the continent of Europe, and not unlike our plan of shares, by means of a class called *politores*. They were acquainted with the advantages of the rotation of crops, paid much attention to manures, and were careful in forming drains, but it is not probable that they used those formed by tiles. Of their agricultural implements they had many intended for the same purpose as those in present use. Here the learned Doctor explained from a diagram, the different parts of a Roman plough, and pointed out the progress from the hoe to the plough by drawings of sculptures from Theban tombs of the 18th and 19th Egyptian dynasties. In conclusion, the Dr. drew a very eloquent comparison between ancient Roman and Canadian farmers. The address was heard throughout with marked attention, and at its close, three hearty cheers were given for Dr. McCaul, after which the audience dispersed.—*Leader*.

### 6. RESTORATION OF OLYMPIC GAMES IN GREECE.

A correspondent writing from Athens, under date September 4, says—"The Queen-Regent has just signed a royal decree for the re-establishment of the ancient Olympic games, after being discontinued nearly 1500 years. They are to be held in Athens, in the ancient Stadium, which is still in a very perfect state of preservation, and requires very little more than a good cleaning out, and are to take place on the three first Sundays in October, every fourth year, com-

mencing in 1858. The games are to include horse races, wrestling, throwing quoits, and other athletic sports, singing, music, and dancing, besides which there is to be an exhibition of flowers, fruit, cattle, and other articles of Greek produce or manufactures. This eccentric idea was formed by a wealthy Peloponnesian named Evangelos Zappas, who resides at Jassy, in Moldavia, and who has liberally endowed the games by placing at the disposal of the Hellenic Government 400 shares in the Greek Steam Navigation Company, besides the sum of 3000 Dutch ducats *in natura*. The prizes are to be awarded by a committee appointed each Olympiad by the Greek Government, and will consist of gold and silver medals, and wreaths of silver leaves and flowers. The former will contain an effigy of the King, whilst on the reverse will be engraved the name of the founder "Zappas," and the date, or rather the number of the Olympiad. The winners of the prize medals will be entitled to wear them at the button hole, suspended by a blue and white watered silk ribbon."

### 7. SITE OF THE BATTLE OF ACTIUM.

A German archaeologist, Dr. Erlinger, has after two years' labour succeeded in ascertaining the precise position of the camps of Antony and Octavius just before the battle of Actium, which place, now called Azio, is on the Gulf of Arta, in Epirus. The camp of the latter is surrounded by a ceinture of redoubts about 5½ miles in extent, which were constructed in stone, faced with earth, and protected by a ditch. At a distance of about 1,000 yards, the remains of square towers, surmounted by a platform and protected by a rampart, have been found, as have also balls, or masses of metals of different forms, which served as projectiles, together with various arms and accoutrements. In the centre of the camp, on an eminence, were the head-quarters of Augustus; they occupied a superficies of about 1,000 yards, and were not unlike what are formed in modern times. In advance of the camp were external works, constructed on small eminences, consisting of several small forts, which served apparently more for observation than defence; they were occupied by detachments forming the advanced guard. One of them higher and stonger than the others, served as a telegraph for communicating with the fleet. In the ruins of one of these forts was discovered a tablet in steel, on which are traced signals, which have some affinity with those of aerial telegraphs. The camp of Antony has not yet been so closely examined as the other, but it is not doubted that the remains of it will be equally interesting. The town of Actium contains ruins of temples of Neptune and Mars, and of other remarkable edifices.

### 8. REMARKABLE WORKS OF HUMAN LABOR.

Nineveh was 15 miles long, 8 wide, and 40 miles round, with a wall 100 feet high, and thick enough for three chariots abreast. Babylon was 50 miles within the walls, which were 75 feet thick and 300 feet high, with 100 brazen gates. The temple of Diana, at Ephesus, was 429 feet to the support of the roof. It was an hundred years in building. The largest of the pyramids is 481 feet high and 653 on the sides; its base covers 11 acres. The stones are about 30 feet in length, and the layers 208. It employed 330,000 men in building. The labyrinth in Egypt contains three hundred chambers and 12 halls. Thebes, in Egypt presents ruins 27 miles round, and 100 gates. Carthage was 23 miles round. Athens was 25 miles round, and contained 359,000 citizens and 400,000 slaves. The temple of Delphos was so rich in donations, that it was plundered of \$500,000, and Nero carried away from it 200 statues. The walls of Rome were 13 miles round.

## IX. Miscellaneous.

### 1. TIME.

Time's an hand's-breath; 'tis a tale;  
'Tis a vessel under sail,  
'Tis an eagle on its way,  
Darting down upon its prey;  
'Tis an arrow in its flight,  
Mocking the pursuing light;  
'Tis a short-lived, fading flower;  
'Tis a rainbow in a shower;  
'Tis a momentary ray,  
Smiling on a winter's day;  
'Tis a torrent's rapid stream;  
'Tis a shadow; 'tis a dream;  
'Tis the closing watch of night,  
Dying at the rising light;  
'Tis a bubble; 'tis a sigh;  
Be prepared, O man! to die.—*F. Quarles, 1634.*