

Guelph Evening Mercury.

VOL. VII. NO. 209

GUELPH, ONT., CANADA, MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 6, 1874.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

Business Cards.

STEPHEN BOLT, Architect, Contractor and Builder, Planning Mill, and very kind of Joiner's Work prepared for the rule and the public. The Factory is on Quebec Street, Guelph.

LIVER & MACDONALD, Barristers and Attorneys-at-Law, Solicitors, Notaries Public, &c. Office—Corner of Wyndham and Quebec Streets, up stairs, Guelph, Ont.

GUTHRIE, WATT & CUTTEN, Barristers, Attorneys-at-Law, Solicitors in Chancery, Guelph, Ontario.

D. GUTHRIE, J. WATT, W. H. CUTTEN dw.

WILLIAM J. PATERSON, Official Assignee for the County of Wellington.

Office—Opposite Town Hall, Guelph. dw

F. STURDY, House, Sign, & Ornamental Painter

GRAINER AND PAPER-HANGER. Shop next to the Wellington Hotel, Wyndham Street, Guelph. t27 dw

LEMON, PETERSON & McLEAN, Barristers and Attorneys at Law, Solicitors in Chancery, Conveyancers and Notaries Public.

Offices—Brownlow's New Buildings, near the Registry Office.

A. LEMON, H. W. PETERSON, R. McLEAN, County Crown Attys

IRON CASTINGS Of all kinds, made to order at

CROWE'S IRON WORKS, Norfolk Street, Guelph.

JOHN CROWE, Proprietor. CASH FOR WOOL, HIDES, SHEEP SKINS, CALF SKINS, AND WOOL PICKINGS.

The highest market price paid for the above at No. 4, Gordon Street, Day's old Block, Guelph. Plasterers' hair constantly on hand for sale. **MOULTON & BISH,** Guelph, Jan. 1, 1874. dw

RICE'S BILLIARD HALL, In the Queen's Hotel, Guelph, opposite the Market.

The room has just been refitted in splendid style, the tables reduced in size, and everything done to make it a first-class Billiard Hall. **Guelph, Nov. 3rd, 1873.**

DOMINION SALOON AND RESTAURANT. Opposite the Market, Guelph.

Oysters in their season. First-class accommodation for supper parties. **GEORGE BOCKLESS, Proprietor.** Guelph, Oct. 31, 1873. dw

PARKER'S HOTEL, DIRECTLY—

OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH. First-class accommodation for travellers. Commodious stabling and an attentive hostler.

The best Liquors and Cigars at the bar. He has just fitted up a room where Oysters will be served up at all hours, in the favorite styles. **PICKLED SALMON LOBSTERS AND SARDINES.**

HOTEL CARD. The Right Man in the Right Place.

Thomas Ward, late of the Crown Hotel, begs to inform the travelling public that he has acquired possession of the Victoria Hotel, next door to the post office, where he hopes by courtesy, attention and good accommodation to merit a fair share of public patronage, both from old and new friends. The best of Liquors, Wines, Cigars, &c., constantly on hand. A good hostler always in attendance. Remember the spot—next door to the post office. **THOMAS WARD, Proprietor.** Guelph, Dec. 11, 1873.

THORP'S HOTEL, GUELPH—Re-modelled and newly furnished. Good accommodation for commercial travellers. Free omnibus to and from all trains. First-class Livery in connection. **my 14 dw** JAS. A. THORP, Proprietor.

PRIZE DENTISTRY. **DR. ROBERT CAMPBELL,** Licentiate of Dental Surgery. Established 1864. Office next door to the Y. M. C. A. Rooms, Wyndham Street, Guelph.

Residence—Opposite Mr. Boulton's Store, Quebec Street. Teeth extracted without pain. References—Drs. Clarke, Tuck, McGuire, Herod, McGregor, and Cowan, Guelph; Drs. Buchanan and Phillips, Toronto; Drs. Elliot & Meyers, Dentists, Toronto.

W. M. POSTER, D.D.S., Surgeon Dentist, Guelph.

Office over E. Harvey & Co's Drug Store, Corner of Wyndham & Macdonnell St., Guelph. Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas) administered for the extraction of teeth without pain, which is perfectly safe and reliable. References kindly permitted to Drs. Herod, McGuire, Keating, Cowan, and McGregor, Guelph.

NEW Paint Shop.

The undersigned begs to inform the people of Guelph and surrounding country that he has opened a new paint shop in Quebec Street, next Fowke's Furniture Shop, and opposite C. Palmer's Church. He is now prepared to paint all kinds of Painting, Glazing, Graining and Paper Hanging on short notice.

He hopes by strict attention to business, and using none but the best materials to secure a share of public patronage. All orders whether from town or country promptly attended to. **W. HUMPHRIES,** Guelph, March 21, 1874. dwsm

LIME, BRICKS AND TILES FOR SALE.

The subscribers are prepared to furnish Lime in quantities to suit purchasers at the kilns on the York Road, Guelph. Also, constantly on hand first-class Bricks and Tiles, at their residence, Liverpool-st., Guelph. **PEARSON & SON,** Guelph, March 31, 1874. 3m

New Advertisements.

WANTED—A Cook. Apply to Mrs. Lemon. 17-dw

SERVANT WANTED. To do general housework. Apply to Mrs. J. B. Armstrong. 485

FOR SALE.—Horse, Harness, Wagon, and Carriage. Apply to John McCreas. 1874. dw

TO LET.—A stone cottage near the Great Western Railway Station. Apply to John McCreas, or Henry Hamilton. Guelph, March 20, 1874. dw

SEWING MACHINES FOR SALE. For sale several first-class Sewing Machines, different makes, all new and cheap for cash. Apply at the Mercury Office. dw

SEED BARLEY.—Seed Barley for sale at the Guelph Packing House, opposite the Grand Trunk Passenger Station. Guelph, Feb. 25, 1874. dw

CORNISH SILVER MINE. A few shares for sale on advantageous terms. **mill-wadstf** Box 750, Toronto P.O.

M. L. B. C. C.—The annual meeting of the Maple Leaf Base Ball Club will be held at the Royal Hotel, on TUESDAY evening, April 7th, at half-past seven. A full attendance is requested. **JOHN GOLDIE, Secretary.** Guelph, April 4, 1874. dw

BARREL ASTRAY.—Was rolled against my wagon on Neeve street on Thursday night, a barrel, filled it is supposed with pork. The owner on proving property and paying the expense of this advertisement can have it by applying to **W. LAWRENCE, Neeve st.** dw

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY. In unlimited supply on good Farm and Town Security. Lowest rates and most moderate charges. **HART & SPEIRS,** Guelph, April 1, 1874. dw2w Day's Block.

MONEY TO LOAN ON FARM SECURITY. The undersigned have \$25,000 for investment in Mortgage on Farms, in sums to suit borrowers, with interest at 5 per cent., for periods from 5 to 15 years. Early applications requested. **LEMON, PETERSON & McLEAN,** Guelph, March 18, 1874. dw

MEETING. The regular monthly meeting of the St. Patrick's Catholic Benevolent Society will take place on Wednesday Evening, at half-past seven o'clock, at Thos. Merlihan's hotel. All members are requested to attend as business of importance is to be transacted. **JOHN F. MURPHY, Secretary.** Guelph, April 6th, 1874. dw

WAR, WAR!! NO SURRENDER!! NO MONOPOLY!!

If you want your hair cut in the best style

Go to Bryan's Hair Cutting Saloon Next to the Temperance Hall.

Hair Cutting, 10c.; Shampooing, Shaving and Dyeing on the lowest terms, and in the best manner. **A. POLTON, T. NICHOL,** April 1, 1874. wtdw

LEWIS'S FAMILY WASHER AND WRINGER COMBINED. The Best, Cheapest, Simplest, and Most Complete Machine yet offered to the public.

The subscribers announce that they have secured the sole right to sell the above machine in Puslinch, Guelph, Eramosa, and Erin townships, and solicit a trial of the machine. The machines have given entire satisfaction wherever used. All orders addressed to **Everton P.O., O.** will be promptly attended to. **A. POLTON, T. NICHOL,** April 1, 1874. wtdw

TOWN HALL, SIX NIGHTS.

RETURN OF HERNDON'S Opera House Company. BRASS BAND AND ORCHESTRA!

COMMENCING MONDAY EVE, APRIL 6th, When this Star stock Company will have the honor of presenting the beautiful and thrilling Irish Drama of

KATHLEEN MAVOURNEEN To conclude with the screaming farce of

The Stage Struck Tailor. Admission 35 cents; Reserved seats, 50c; Reserved seats secured 75 cents—To be had during the day only at Anderson's bookstore. Doors open at 7. Begins at 8. Guelph, April 4, 1874. dw

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1869. In the matter of **RICHARD CLAYTON,** an Insolvent.

The Insolvent has made an assignment of his estate to me, and the Creditors are notified to meet at my office in Guelph, on WEDNESDAY, the 13th day of APRIL, 1874, at eleven o'clock, a.m., to receive statements of his affairs, and to appoint an Assignee. Dated at Guelph, Ont., 25th day of March, 1874. **W. J. PATERSON, Interim Assignee.** dw

TOWN OF GUELPH. TO BUILDERS

Tenders will be received at the Town Clerk's Office, up to twelve o'clock noon, on MONDAY, APRIL 6th, next, for the

Erection of a New Town Hall and Market House, As well as an Extension of the present building. Plans and Specifications can be seen at the Council Chamber.

For further particulars apply to **E. HARVEY,** Chairman Market House Committee. The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender. Guelph, March 24th, 1874. dw

MONEY TO LEND. In sums to suit borrowers. No solicitor's fees or commission charged. Apply direct to the undersigned **GUTHRIE, WATT & CUTTEN,** April, 1874. dw

Guelph Evening Mercury

MONDAY EV'NG, APRIL 6, 1874.

Town and County News

Mr. ARELL has expressed a willingness to establish a branch of his agricultural works in Orangeville provided sufficient inducements are held out.

J. D. WILLIAMSON, of the Golden Lion, has purchased the bankrupt stock of R. Clayton, Alma Block, and is disposing of the goods at a great sacrifice.

The customary effusions on "Spring" have started on the rounds of the press. We think it would be as well to postpone their publication for a week or two.

VESTRY MEETING.—At the annual Vestry meeting of St. George's church, held to-day, Messrs. George Elliott and F. Bischoff were elected Church Wardens.

The Herndons' open their season of six nights in the Town Hall this evening, when the drama of "Kathleen Mavourneen" will be played. We predict a full house.

RENTAL SERVICES are now being held every evening, in the Primitive Methodist Church, services commencing at half-past seven o'clock. The public are cordially invited to attend.

Six persons have been fined for swearing in the streets of Blackburn, and other towns in England are about to follow the example. If the idea were acted upon here a goodly fund might be raised.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.—As will be seen by advertisement the regular monthly meeting of the Catholic Benevolent Society will be held on Wednesday evening next at Merlihan's Hotel.

Don't fail to call and examine the fine collection of oil chromes at McMillan's old stand. These valuable pictures are to be sold by public auction this evening, at 7 o'clock, and to-morrow afternoon and evening. The collection is a valuable one, and is being disposed of at about one half the regular price.

WOUNDED.—On Friday last John Briggs, living on Wyndham Street, was accidentally shot by a companion, who, in firing at a target across Victoria Bridge, made a "wide" and hit Briggs, who was attending the target. The wounds are but slight and the lad will soon be around.

GARR has been sent us by J. Anderson and T. J. Day. The cartoon is entitled "The Vacant Chair," and represents the Riel bond of union between Mr. MacKenzie and Sir John, who are standing on either side of Mr. Riel's vacant chair waiting for the occupant. Each has a warrant for Riel's arrest in his hand, and the suspicious-looking spikes in the chair suggest the question "will Riel take his seat?"

ACCIDENT WITH POWDER IN FERGUS.—On Friday forenoon two young boys named Wilkie and McCulloch were going out hunting, they met with an accident whereby they may lose their sight. They had their powder in a flask and the shot in a paper; both were put into a school bag, the shot and powder getting mixed in the bag. The boys stopped to pick the shot out from the powder, and both leaning over the bag smoking cigars, one let the cigar fall into the bag amongst the powder, when it at once exploded in the boys' faces. A doctor was soon on the spot, and did all in his power to relieve them. He says they will both lose the sight of one eye, and perhaps of both.

A WARNING.—A man drew a note promising to pay \$100. He used the printed form and did not close up the blank devoted to dollars, and after passing it as a negotiable paper somebody inserted "and fifty" after the one hundred and before the printed word dollars. The note, thus altered, got into the hands of an innocent party, who presented it to the drawer, and the Supreme Court decided that the maker of the note was liable for its face, because through negligence he did not draw a line between the written word and "dollars." Any testimony that the drawer might offer to establish the fact that he gave the note for \$100 must go for nothing, as "there was nothing on the face of the note to show that it had been altered." Evidence of alteration on the face of the note would have changed the case.

PROHIBITION AND THE WOMEN'S CRUSADE.—On Saturday evening, in the Templars' Hall, Rev. J. Russell, of Detroit, delivered a very logical and powerful lecture on Prohibition, looking at the subject in its legal aspect. Yesterday afternoon in the same place a large audience assembled to hear an account of the work now going on in Ohio, known as the "Women's Crusade," which the lecturer witnessed personally. He preached in the W. M. Church last evening on the subject of Temperance, from the moral standpoint, to a large congregation. While the lecturer does not approve in all respects of the conduct of the Ohio ladies, he thinks it would advance the cause in Guelph if the ladies would undertake the systematic work of tract distribution and holding prayer meetings where keepers of saloons refused to abandon the trade.

Local and Other Items.

Mr. Thos. Frailek, of London Township, Proof Line Road, has two cows, both of which increased his stock by twins on Wednesday last. Beat this, who can?

JOSEPH KIDD, Esq., one of the prominent citizens of Cantonbrook, proposes to sink a salt well near Seaford and conduct the brine through underground pipes to Carronbrook, where he will convert it into salt.

PRAYING WOMEN.—Encouraged by their success in the Commons, the Ottawa ladies intend asking the Senate to abolish its saloon. Should the request be refused, 200 ladies will visit the Senate lobbies daily and engage in devotional exercises till their purpose is accomplished.

The Great Western Railway, warned by the Komoka disaster, now use candles instead of lamps in the saloons, and run the bell rope along the top of freight trains.—It is rumored that they have also determined to provide the Babcock fire extinguisher for passenger cars.

The mayor and some of the councillors of Mitchell stepped into a hotel on their way home from meeting the other night about 11 o'clock, and took a drink, and next morning the license inspector brought a charge against the rum-seller, and Mr. Mayor had to fine him for keeping such unlawful houses.

WORTHY OF EMULATION.—The employees of the Great Western Railway in St. Thomas have established a Mutual Improvement Association with a reading room in connection. The General Manager, Mr. Price, with characteristic liberality, supplied the necessary furniture for the room. On the tables are found no less than eight daily papers, the leading magazines, as well as chess and checker-boards for those wishing such amusements. The reading room is well patronized—a hopeful sign that the Association is accomplishing much good.

FATAL GUN ACCIDENT.—On Good Friday four young lads at St. Catharines went out to shoot pike with shot guns. One of them named Henry, a clerk in a store, accidentally discharged the contents of his gun in the side of a boy named McElroy, aged 14 years, and son of Mr. Benjamin McElroy. The gun had hung fire and as Morley thought it was not going off he lowered it in a line with poor McElroy's body. The boy only lived three hours. Deceased was a bright promising lad, and a pupil of the St. Catharines Collegiate Institute.

The boot blacks of London are 400 in number. They are well organized, and so successful that they seldom remain very long in the brigade. Promotion is certain, and often very rapid. The total earnings of these boot blacks exceed \$60,000 a year. They last year contributed \$5,000 to build a "Boot Black's Home."

Many of them contribute largely to help their parents or mothers and sisters, and almost all have money in the savings banks. In short, a member of the London Boot Black Brigade has about as good a start in life as a boy needs, for the education is carefully attended to.

EASTER DEEF IN OTTAWA.—The Times says Messrs. Satchell Bros. this Easter have the finest display of meat upon the market. Amongst it are the carcasses of the two celebrated prize steers so much admired by the Governor-General, who saw them at the Provincial Show when held in Hamilton. They weigh 6,070 lbs and were bred and fed by Mr. Thompson of Mayfield Farm, Whitby, having taken prizes to the amount of \$600 since they were calves. Messrs. Satchell have three carloads of the choicest cattle the western market can produce, five head out of the number have taken prizes at Guelph and Elora Easter Fairs; they have also some prize sheep, lambs, and pigs of the finest breeds.

NEW MASONIC LODGE AT PALMERSTON.—A lodge named Blair U. D. A. F. & A. M., G. R. C., was opened on Friday night with Bro. H. Hyndman as W. M., Bro. J. Skeas S. W., and Bro. R. Shields, J. W. The W. M. elect was pleased to appoint Bro. A. Bruce as Secretary. A large number of visiting brethren from sister lodges were received, amongst whom was Bro. W. S. Burnett the R. W. of the D. D. G. M., who was introduced by Bro. Irvine, W. M. of Harrison Lodge, and Bro. Wm. Gibson, J. W. of Barton Lodge, Hamilton. At the close the D. D. G. M. expressed himself highly pleased with the evening's proceedings. The regular meetings of the Lodge are to be held on the first Friday after full moon in each month.

A PAIR of poor farmers in Marengo, Ill., conceived the idea of starting a butter factory. They obtained 130 cows, and in addition bought milk from several of their neighbors. Butter is made mostly in the fall and winter season, the cows "coming in" to suit the plan. Milk is set in a proper room in common pans and churned as soon as sour. The cows are fed on eight quarts of corn and oatmeal per day, and plenty of good hay and corn fodder. Each cow produces 300 pounds of butter per annum, which sells at 40c. per pound. They make about 250 pounds a day. The sour milk is fed to hogs which forms an additional profit. Manure accrues in large quantities, and it is applied to the land, which produces 150 bushels of corn to the acre.

THE TOPPING MURDERER FOUND GUILTY.—At the opening of the court on Saturday morning, Dr. Lander, of London, and other experts held that Topping at the time of the butchery was of unsound mind, as evidenced by his changes of religious belief, and a non-belief in a hereafter. Many witnesses testified to peculiarities of action which the counsel contended gave proof of unsound mind. It was not pretended that at present insanity existed. The defense was able, and the prosecution all that justice and society could desire. After a consultation extending over three hours, a verdict of Guilty of Wilful Murder was returned. The prisoner was painfully agitated while the jury were absent, and broke down completely when the verdict was rendered. He wept like a child, and was supported from the court to the prison.

Staff-Sergeant Roberts, paymaster of the Penitents at St. Catharines, presented James Riley, on behalf of the Horse Guards, with a silver medal, for his good conduct while in the army.

BARLEY, strange to say, is coming from Europe to America this season. In the month ending March 14th, 465,203 bushels were brought into the United States, British and Continental ports.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE MERCURY

Goldwin Smith on Home Rule.

The Famine in Calcutta.

Crusade on the Crusaders.

Murder and Suicide.

Secretary Richardson to Retire

London, April 6.—Professor Goldwin Smith has a long letter in the News on Home Rule. He adverts to the general improvement of local institutions, and giving them legislative powers for the administration of local affairs similar to those of the Legislatures in the American States.

New York, April 4.—Calcutta reports from the famine stricken districts show continued improvement in the general situation. The authorities are now in a position to hope that difficulties are over except in the north-eastern portion of Tirhoot, where over 500,000 persons are yet dependent upon the Government for food. The spring crop has yielded well except in Tirhoot.

Cincinnati, Ohio, April 5.—At Bufton, Indiana, last night, Phillip Jones was kicked to death in a quarrel. Jones was trying to make peace between a party of roughs.

At Mount Vernon, Ohio, the Mayor attempted to enforce the ordinance against obstructing the sidewalks, and ordered the sentry-box used by the crusaders to be removed from the front of a grocery. A crowd of men and women interfered and prevented its removal. The affair occasioned excitement, and there is fear of serious disturbances.

Chicago, April 5.—There has been a snow storm here for 12 hours.

San Francisco, April 5.—At a New York picture gallery to-day, one Conden, prompted by jealousy, shot Charles Kingsley through the head, killing him instantly. He then blew his own brains out.

New York, April 6.—The overdue steamer Morriss from Rio Janeiro and intermediate points, concerning whose safety there has been much anxiety, is coming up the bay this morning.

A Washington special renews the report that Secretary Richardson will resign at an early day. In case Delany should succeed him General Bristow, of Kentucky, and not Eugene Hale, of Maine, would probably be nominated Secretary of the Interior.

President Grant says that Secretary Richardson will retire voluntarily, if at all.

The Times says editorially:—If he goes he will be accompanied by Mr. Sawyer, and Mr. Barfield should join the retiring party.

POLICE COURT. (Before the Police Magistrate.) Monday, April 6th.

The case of John O'Donnell, charged with breaking into Holliday's brewery, remanded from Thursday last, was laid over till to-morrow.

Independent Base Ball Club. ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Independent Base Ball Club was held at the Western Hotel, on Thursday evening last. Mr. E. Hutchison occupied the chair. Several important matters in connection with the prospects of the Club having been discussed, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, J. R. Hewer; Vice-President, J. Watt; Secretary, William Stephens; Treasurer, W. Craig; Committee, Messrs. F. Curtis, E. Hutchison, S. Penfold, and T. Hewer.

It was also decided to hold meetings on the first Tuesday in each month. During last season they only lost one game and won seven, while they made some of the best scores on record for a junior club; and from present appearances it will take a strong team to vanquish them this season. After votes of thanks to the proprietors of the Mercury and Herald for their kindness in inserting in their respective papers the reports of matches played during last year, the meeting adjourned.

A balloon ascension near San Francisco ended in an unlucky, though not fatal, catastrophe. After rising some 600 feet the balloon collapsed, and the six occupants of the car were dashed violently to the ground.

Rev. Charles Kingsley, Canon of Westminster, is the guest of the Governor-General. He preached on Sunday morning in St. Bartholomew's Church, New Edinburgh, that which His Excellency attends.

On Saturday morning, three carpenters in attempting to pass each other in a weak part of the scaffolding of a building in Hamilton, were precipitated about twenty feet to the street. All were injured, but none seriously.

The yearly contract for supplying the lighthouses and public works with refined petroleum has been awarded by the Dominion Government to F. A. Fitzgerald & Co. of London. It covers 16,000 barrels.

It is announced that the head office of the Ontario Bank will certainly be removed to Toronto; and in consequence the premier of the institution in Willoha was greatly improved. This wise determination when carried into effect will result favorably to the interests of the Bank.

Mrs. Shiples, of the 6th concession of Kincardine, had some difficulty about her husband's will, and went crazy. She was removed to Walkerton.

A new fire company has been formed in St. Thomas, with a membership of about eighty.

PUSLINCH FARMERS' CLUB

MEETING AT ABERFOYLE.

A number of the farmers in Puslinch being anxious to organize in the Township a Farmers' Club, a meeting for that purpose was held in the Town Hall, Aberfoyle, on Saturday afternoon. There was a fair attendance of leading farmers from nearly every section of the Township. Mr. Jas. H. Glennie, was appointed chairman, and Mr. Joseph Grant Secretary.

The chairman in opening the proceedings, referred briefly to the objects of a club such as they proposed to organize, and the benefits the farmers would derive from it in the interchange of ideas, in enlarging their knowledge, and in the advantages, financial, social and intellectual, which would follow. He then introduced Prof. McCandless, of the Provincial Farm, who had kindly consented to address them on the subject. Prof. McCandless then gave the following address:—

The brief period that has elapsed since you favored me with an invitation to meet you here to-day to express my views regarding the usefulness of Farmers' Clubs, and to offer you any suggestions I could on the organization of your proposed club, has been, as some of you are aware, a period during which my official duties have made an unusual demand upon my time. This fact has prevented me giving to the subject the thoughtful consideration it deserves, and must be my excuse for the superficial and unstudied manner in which I am compelled to treat it. The best I can do under the circumstances is to offer a few suggestions that may possibly form a basis for discussion, and thereby elicit the views of those present.

A glance at the history of agriculture will, I believe, afford us strong arguments in favor of any organization that will have the effect of bringing together the farmers of a district, for the interchange of ideas, and for the discussion of topics connected with their calling. That history, when taken in conjunction with the sciences of civilization, proves beyond a doubt that there must exist, in connection with the pursuit of husbandry, some element inimical to progress and improvement, that does not, to the same extent, influence the other arts. Those arts, unless when injuriously influenced by some external causes such as national wars, have steadily progressed from their primitive simplicity to their present advanced state; while it is an undeniable fact that agriculture remained for ages without any apparent improvement in its practice. Like the other arts it has ever proved sensitive to external influences calculated to affect it injuriously; but, unlike them, it has always been slow to avail itself of opportunities favorable to progress. This is the more surprising when we call to mind the fact that it is, and always has been, acknowledged the most important of arts, and the sheet-anchor of all national prosperity. Notwithstanding, I repeat, it has until very recently failed to display that progressive tendency so evident in the pursuit of the other arts. As an instance of this I may cite the fact that the agricultural practice of the ancient Greeks and Romans—particularly of the latter—was decidedly superior in many respects to that of our British grandfathers; and indeed, it would not be straining facts to say that it was superior to the husbandry now practiced in many districts on both sides of the Atlantic. This retrograde movement in the art of industry will be evident to everyone who was conversant with the works of these agricultural writers, a task that might with profit be undertaken by many who entertain no small opinion of their knowledge of agriculture.

The events which gave rise to the period known in history as the "Dark Ages" may account for, and even excuse, this retrogressive movement, but they fail to account for the absence of progression which characterized its pursuit previous to that period, and which continued to characterize it up to the close of the last century. For ages it has stood still, the practice of one century was but a repetition of that of the preceding one, the practice of the son of the farmer was that of the father and grandfather, and this, too, when the other arts were making rapid strides towards perfection. This want of a progressive tendency in agriculture has been attributed to many causes; and no doubt is due to more than one; but it appears to me that one great cause of it is to be found in the fact that the cultivation of the soil has a tendency to isolate to a certain extent those engaged in that pursuit. The economical pursuit of most of the other arts renders it necessary that they should be followed by communities, the members of which must live in close proximity to one another, and this proximity of men engaged in the same calling naturally gives rise to that interchange of ideas, that whetting of mind upon mind, which experience proves, and which reason suggests, as indispensable to advancement in any calling. In every pursuit in life we find thoughtful, studious men, who are ever applying their reasoning faculties to the solution of the problems presented by the work in which they are engaged, and the man who can engage in any work calculated to present such problems, without occupying his mind in their solution, must take but little interest in that pursuit. Different minds will approach the solution of these problems by different trains of thought, and will, no doubt in many cases arrive at erroneous conclusions, from coming to these conclusions in ignorance of opposing facts known to others, and a knowledge of what would not only have prevented such a result, but would have enabled them to arrive at the correct solution of their difficulty much sooner. So long then as man continues to grapple with such problems unaided by his fellow man, his progress must necessarily be slow, but so soon as he brings himself into contact with others, whose minds are similarly occupied, and an interchange of ideas takes place, he, as it were, multiplies his powers of observation, and proportionally increases the knowledge he can acquire in a given time. Knowledge is power, and therefore by this increase of knowledge he increases his power to over-