

pedient to be done. We shall most anxiously wait the result. It is not a matter where only an individual or small class are interested, but one that will have an influence for good or evil on nine-tenths of the inhabitants of Canada; and give them encouragement to improve and prosper or content them to poverty.

ENGLISH AGRICULTURE.

From our own Correspondent.

London, Sept'r, 3rd, 1842.

My Dear Sir,

Until within the last few days we have experienced a continuation of brilliant weather, and it is calculated that the present summer has been the hottest and longest we have experienced in this country for the last 34 years. This fine weather has been very favourable to harvest operations, which are in most districts nearly concluded. The crop notwithstanding the desponding cry of a few troakers may be considered a fair average one. Still it is quite clear that we shall require a large quantity of foreign corn for home consumption, and the arrivals continue to be extensive. The transactions however are limited, the millers only purchasing for their immediate wants. Within the last day or two we have had some very heavy falls of rain.

The *Farmers' Magazine* for September last, published, contains the first part of a very interesting narrative of an agricultural tour in England and Scotland in the year 1840, by Count Conrad DeGourcy, translated from the French. The Count, who is an extensive and experienced agriculturist, visited many of our leading agriculturists, and his report of the information obtained from them as to their mode of farming, breeding, &c., and his own observations thereon will be found exceedingly interesting. As an instance of his good sense and impartiality I cite the following passage:—

"I think that for the improvement of our flocks in France, and of our cattle generally, our rich farmers having sons whom they mean to bring up to agriculture should have them taught, instead of the classics, English, a little mechanics, chemistry, and natural history, drawing, book-keeping, &c.; should place in their hands the best works on agriculture, and the best agricultural periodicals, especially those that are published in England, and should instruct them well in French agriculture; and then send them to spend two or three years with the best English breeders and Scotch farmers. If a number of young members went through this training, they would soon do something towards altering the present condition of French agriculture, which is very bad in three-fourths of the Kingdom, especially as compared with that of England, Scotland, and Germany. We have excellent farmers in Flanders and in some other parts of France, but they never dream of improving their breed of cattle."

While on the subject of publications I may state, that a very important and interesting work (at least to British agriculturists and men of estate) has just been published on the management, or rather the mis-management of woods, plantations and hedge-row timbers by Mr. J. West of Collingham. Newark, Notts; author of some very sensible remarks on the "Turnip Question." He urges with much force that an improved system of management of the woods, &c., of our beautiful country would yield to proprietors a large increase of revenue, and create new and fruitful sources of employment for the distressing poor.

The Council of the anti-Corn Law League has offered three prizes of 20, 10, and 5 guineas for the best practical essays demonstrating the injury done to tenant farmers and farm labourers, by the Corn Laws, and the advantages which those classes would derive from its total and immediate repeal. In order to avoid prolixity and useless discussion on a subject which has latterly attracted so much attention, they have very properly limited the length of the essays to sixteen pages octavo. This is a fine opportunity for some of our intelligent farmers to take up the question. The state of the Corn Markets at present will lend them some assistance in showing what protection they derive from the Sliding Scale.

The Committee of the Manchester Agricultural Society, which holds its annual meeting on the 27th Instant, having learnt that Professor Liebig, the distinguished author of "Organic Chemistry of Agriculture and Physiology," would then be in England, unanimously resolved that an invitation should immediately be forwarded to him by John Moore, Esq., F. L. S., to attend the dinner; and many of the first agriculturists of the Kingdom when assembled at Bristol, signified their intention of paying their respects to him in Manchester, where his important discoveries have been so well investigated, and are so highly appreciated. It is universally admitted that Professor Liebig is the first living analytical chemist. As a proof of how much the science of Chemistry is appreciated at the present time in Great Britain, we have only to refer to the leading agricultural periodicals, where we shall find a large space devoted to the writings of such men as Dr. Madden, Professor Johnston, Sprengel, and others. Every local agricultural society is discussing the subject, and I find a course of lectures recently delivered before the Bath and West of England Society, (one of the oldest and best provincial societies), by Professor Robinson, on Chemistry, Vegetable Physiology, and Meteorology as applied to agriculture, spoken of with the highest approbation. The highest advantages of all branches of art have been derived from a knowledge of chemistry; and the agriculturists are too much alive to its importance, to allow such a science to escape attention. On the other side of the Atlantic I observe that its value in connection with agriculture is appreciated by the frequent allusions to its principles in the agricultural journals, and the announcement of reprints of Liebig's, Professor Johnston's, and other works.

The Royal Botanic Society of London held its annual meeting a few days since. The report of the Council for the past year showed that there had been a large accession of members, and that a very considerable sum had been expended upon the gardens, which are laid out with great judgment, the several parts to suit the objects of the Society, and the whole forming an excellent specimen of landscape gardening. The Duke of Norfolk was re-elected President. Specimens grown in the gardens of various kinds of grass and other plants, lately introduced from New Holland and elsewhere for agricultural purposes, were exhibited at the meeting. I will conclude my letter with two or three extracts from the local papers which may interest, although the statements are hardly credible. However, you have them as I find them.

LAMBS AS CHEAP AS HENS. — A woman from the neighbourhood of Beany went on Friday to Inverness with 20 hens, with the price of which on her return, she purchased no less than twenty

lambs at the Muir of Ord Market. — *Rosehill Advertiser.*

AN OLD HEN. — The *Perthshire Courier* records the death of a hen 35 years old, the property of a farmer at Tullylumb, after laying on a fair calculation 9,000 eggs.

But there is the death of an agriculturist, a country older than this hen. There died lately (says a German paper), in the village of Felsoborbeck in Transylvania, a farmer, named Toraborn, in the 135th year of his age. He always enjoyed good health, and worked in the field until just before his death!

I am yours very truly,

P. L. SIMMONDS.

THE WHEAT CROP IN CANADA WEST.

A friend of ours has lately returned from a tour in Canada West, and reports that the fall sown wheat had suffered generally and considerably from the disease of rust or mildew. He says that from his own observation and from reports he conceives the crop suffered damage to the extent of one-third, or that the produce was a third at least less in quantity and value than it would have been if free from this disease. He mentioned one farmer who had sown wheat last year in the month of August, and this wheat was perfectly free from rust, while wheat sown by the same individual in September, on the same quality of land, was much rusted. This would show the advantage of early sowing. The grain of early sowing is so far advanced towards maturity before the latter end of July—the dangerous season of rust—that if the straw should then be rusted, it will not injure the grain to any extent. The spring wheat he reports to be very good generally. He says that a most excellent system of farming is adopted by many in Canada West, and summer-fallowing executed in the English fashion; but that others pursue a very slovenly and defective system, and that weedy and deficient crops result from this system. Farmers complain of the high wages of labour and the extremely low price of produce, except hay. Wheat, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.; Peas, 1s. 8d.; Oats, 10d. to 1s.; Potatoes, 10d. to 1s.—rather a poor crop. He mentioned the new mode of constructing houses with unburnt bricks, and what are termed mud walls. He spoke favourably of both, and says they are a cheap and ready mode of construction, and make warm and handsome houses when properly plastered and finished. The roof is allowed to project considerably over the outer walls in order to save them from rain. Stables might be constructed of unburnt brick; they would be warm and cheap. They should of course have a foundation of stone. We shall refer to this subject again.

EARLY MATURITY. — On Thursday the 9th of September last, a shearling and a lamb were slaughtered at Birmingham, England, the elder weighing 43½ lbs. per quarter, and the lamb 26½ lbs. per quarter. The shearling produced 16 lbs. of wool the 1st of June last.

A New York paper states that a certain poor person was going to open a banking house.