

part of Holstein for two or three years, and has lately assumed a type so deadly as to rouse the apprehension of the principal Governments of the Continent. The Governments of France, Prussia, and some of the smaller German States have already made regulations for the exclusion of the tainted cattle, or any part of their carcases. The insular position of Great Britain gives a greater chance of immunity, but does not free them from the necessity of taking some precautions.

The Earl of Clarendon has sent to the Royal Agricultural Society, the following communication on the subject:—

“Foreign Office, April 29th, 1857.

“Sir,—I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon to transmit to you, to be laid before the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society, a copy of a despatch from her Majesty’s Minister at St. Petersburg, relative to the cattle disease.—I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

E. HAMMOND.

J. Hudson, Esq.

St. Petersburg, April 18, 1857.

My Lord,—With reference to your lordship’s despatch, No. 235, of the 8th inst., enclosing the Order in Council prohibiting the importation of cattle from Russian ports in the Baltic and Gulf of Finland, on account of the apprehended murrain, I have the honour to state that, as far as I can learn, the infectious disorder which prevails in this country amongst cattle, is confined to Lithuania and the provinces bordering upon Poland. I am assured that it has never appeared in Finland, or in the northern and eastern parts of European Russia. I am, of course, unable to vouch for the accuracy of this information, but I certainly have never heard any mention of a murrain except in the provinces I have mentioned. A considerable quantity of hides which were about to be shipped to England will, I am told, be stopped by the prohibition. I have communicated a copy of the *Gazette* to M. Tolstoy, and have requested that steps may be taken to make the prohibition publicly known.—I have, &c.,

WODEHOUSE.”

The Earl of Clarendon.

From this it would appear that the extent of the calamity has been exaggerated, but the Government will probably not relax its order upon the mere want of information thus confessed by its Minister. Agents have been sent to the countries where the disease is said to prevail, to ascertain the truth, and to report it officially. The *London Times* very justly remarks:—

“This disease, no doubt, has its cause and its cure, like those of human kind. The words ‘infectious’ and ‘contagious,’ are very loosely used. It is probable that this malady is propagated chiefly where the state of the animals is generally unhealthy, or where, through want of proper care, or through insufficient food or shelter, their physical condition is weak. We may further assume that a disease of this sort is epidemic, and likely to break out in more than one place, without any intercommunication. Both these considerations point to the necessity of increased care in the treatment of cattle at home. It is not impossible that the disease arises from natural causes, and cannot be averted solely by quarantine regulations. No doubt, infection from abroad would cause it to assume a still more deadly form, but yet the seed may be already sown among us, and favourable circumstances may cause it to take the dimensions of a great national calamity. Our agriculturists and breeders should therefore take their precautions in time. While Government is watching the out-posts, they should do all that science can suggest to stop the progress of the disease, or remove the causes which may lead to its appearance. If the crowding of cattle sheds and the want of ventilation and cleanliness have a tendency to encourage the epidemic, as certainly seems likely enough, no time should be lost in remedying defects which may be productive of such incalculable evil.”

APPLES.—I had occasion to overhaul some apples the other day. They were picked in the same orchard, and on the same day, and were put away the same day; and some in flour barrels and some in lime barrels. Those in the flour barrels were much decayed, while those in the lime barrels were sound, and but very few showed any signs of decay. The apples were of the same variety.

This observation may prove of service.—*New Jersey Farmer.*