

farmer immediately, without, perhaps, more than one penny being deducted for a profit for the butcher or baker; but if the same sixpence be spent in a public-house, not more than three-halfpence of that comes back to the barley-grower. I believe in no way that a working man can spend his money does it return with so little profit to the cultivator of the soil as when he lays it out in beer. I only wish to call the attention of the agricultural world to the subject. As far as I have been able to ascertain, all those who have fairly examined the question are satisfied that the change that is now going on will be greatly to our advantage.—A FARMER."

I believe it will not be possible for any person successfully to controvert these plain and unvarnished statements. Some may object that the profits set down for the butcher and the baker are too little: double them if you please; and a balance will remain in favour of teetotalism, sufficiently large to convince agriculturists of the utter folly of disposing of a single grain of their produce to the brewer or distiller. I remember being once asked by a man, what dairymen in our city would do were it not for grain to feed their cows with. He had a nose-bag in his hands, with a feed in it for his horse. I looked into it, and found it contained oats. I asked him why it was that he gave his horse oats instead of the hulls of oats. He laughed at my question; and I replied, why not give barley to your cows; it is full of nutriment, while the hull of barley, like the hulls of oats, contain very little of the nutritious principle. Or how would you like to be set down to a dinner of potato skins instead of good potatoes? The English farmer's allusion to the feeding of pigs with barley, is quite to the point. I have been, for the greater part of my life, connected with the flour trade, and I can confidently state, that the consumption of this article has greatly increased in Ireland of late years. I know many millers who, a few years since, exported nearly all the flour they manufactured, but who are now able to sell nearly it all to customers at, or within a moderate distance from their own doors. Can any man attribute this increased consumption of good food to any other cause than the ability of the people to purchase it: because they no longer expend their earnings on poisonous intoxicating drinks! I believe no other reason can be assigned for it. Nor will it be wondered at when it is known, that, not many years since, the cost to Ireland alone for intoxicating drugs, including various losses to the country arising out of their use, was little, if at all, short of twenty millions of pounds annually. Some years ago, I published this statement to the country, and it never has been controverted. Mr. Buckingham, late M. P. for Sheffield, stated in his place in parliament, that the loss to the United Kingdom, arising from the use of such drinks, was one hundred millions of money annually. Landowners and farmers of Ireland, it is time for you to awake from your long dream of ignorance on this vital question. By your use and countenance of intoxicating liquors, you have been helping to paralyse the best interests of your country; you have been wasting and destroying, year after year, an enormous amount of that capital yielded to your industry, and which, if properly applied, would place you in an enviable position of prosperity and happiness.

I have but alluded to the pecuniary losses to yourselves, and your country, arising from the use of the drunkards' drink. Its moral evils no language can depict; you must go to our lunatic asylums, our work-houses, and our prisons, to become acquainted with these. You must follow the career of the wretched drunkard from his days of innocence to the hour of his deep degradation, surrounded by a miserable wife and starving children; you must multiply this crime, and poverty, and wretchedness, by thousands, and when you have in your minds totted up the sum total, ask yourselves what weight of that overpowering misery rests on your souls, for having supplied to the brewer and distiller the means of creating it all. It will not do for you to say, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Some of the sin must remain at your door, until you wash your hands clean of all participation in it. I think I have proved to you that it is your interest, in a pecuniary sense, to become teetotallers, and to refuse to grow corn to be converted into poisons; and, in a moral sense, if there be truth in religion—if patriotism be a virtue—if it be a Christian's duty to pursue the good and avoid the evil, so true is it, that you, the landowners and farmers of Ireland, and all men everywhere, are bound to avoid and discourage all the causes and practices which lead to drunkenness. I have just learned that a fine young man, only 24 years old, the son of a gentleman, who, a few years ago, was High Sheriff of one of our counties, died a few days ago in

one of our hotels, raging mad, in a fit of delirium tremens. Truly, the makers of intoxicating drinks, and all who encourage them, have much to answer for to their country and their God.

My subject has led me away farther than I had intended. Pardon me if I have encroached too much on your space. The well-being of society depends, in a great measure, on the right understanding of this great question—Teetotalism.—Yours, &c.

JAMES HADGROVE.

#### VALUE OF THE WILLOW.

The importance of the willow to man has been recognised from the earliest ages; and ropes and baskets made from willow twigs were probably among the very first of human manufactures in countries where the trees abound. The Romans used the twigs for binding their vines and tying their reeds in bundles, and made all sorts of baskets of them. A crop of willows was considered so valuable in the time of Cato, that he ranks the *salicetum*, or willow field, next in value to the vineyard and the garden. In France, the leaves whether, in a green or dried state, are considered the very best food for cows and goats; and horses in some places are fed entirely on them, from the end of August till November. Horses so fed, it is stated, will travel twenty leagues a day without being fatigued. In the north of Sweden and Norway, and in Lapland, the inner bark is kiln-dried and ground for the purpose of mixing with oatmeal in the years of scarcity. The bark of the willow is astrigent, and the bark of most sorts may be employed in tanning.

#### NEWS.

The inaugural address of President Polk, as relating to Oregon, and the vote of the Senate for the annexation of Texas had occasioned a good deal of discussion in and out of Parliament. The *Times* expresses its opinion strongly, that "the territory of Oregon will never be wrested from the British Crown, to which it belongs, but by war."—And Sir Robert Peel declared that British claims would, if necessary, be maintained by force.

An opposition was getting up to the proposed increased grant to Maynooth College. Mr. O'Connell was endeavouring to keep up the Repeal agitation. The rent for the week was £477.

The general state of business was good, and the public securities continued very high, until affected a little by the aspect of the Oregon question. Ashes were firm, but corn and cotton rather depressed.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert were expected shortly to visit Ireland.

SPRING TRADERS TO CANADA.—The European, Albion and James Campbell, sailed from the Broomielaw for Montreal direct, on Monday last, the Caledonia and Erromanga on Tuesday, to be followed in a few days by the Jane Brown, Favorite, and Monarch, for Quebec and Montreal, all bumper ships, some of them having short shipped goods and a large number of passengers.

The *Mining Journal* states that a process has been discovered which will produce cast steel at a cost not exceeding that of pig iron, of a quality suitable for the manufacture of steel.

Some sensation was produced in the Scotch Episcopal congregation in Brechin, by the junior minister intimating, on a late Sabbath, that he was ready to receive auricular confession from all who chose to take advantage of it.

A great quantity of property, such as sugar loaves, gown pieces, cheese, &c., seized from different tradesmen for church rates, were put up by public auction, at Lancaster, last week. The cry of "stolen goods" was raised, and there was not a single bid for any one of the lots.

It was reported in London that Mr. Gladstone was about to re-enter the Cabinet, in an higher post than the one he resigned. It was said too that he had reconsidered the subject of educational grants for Ireland and was prepared to co-operate with the Ministry on that question.

Sir Robert Peel has announced that Government will bring forward a measure to remove the civil disabilities of the Jews.

It is stated that the Russian Government, aroused probably by the projected scheme of a canal from the Danube to the Black Sea, has at length positively engaged so to clear the mouth of the