

THE COURIER. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1851.

As the pork-killing season is first approaching—a season when certain sleek porcupines in white cravats mount their waggons and go forth in one general missionary crusade to enquire particularly after the individual health of the matrons of their neighborhood—for which universal sally, the first lady-laying-down of a defunct porker is the signal—we cannot do better, in the absence of more important matter, than give a slight outline of the life and opinions of this much-abused quadruped.

All domestic animals, a pig is the most despised; he, poor fellow, is everywhere abused, degraded, and reproached, as the very quintessence of filthiness and stupidity. No usage is so violent for him, no food too coarse, no home too homely; yet amid cold hunger and buffets, piggy almost always thrives; every hardship has only the effect of adding to his fat. It is, therefore, our most decided opinion that he is the most ungratefully used animal in existence.

In Ireland, it is true, his real worth seems to be fully appreciated. There he is hospitably treated, like one of the family—he fires as they fire—he feeds, if not fat, at least beside the same board—he is sheltered under the same roof—and sleeps on the same bed. Nor have we ever heard of a single act of ingratitude on his part for these privileges—more than can be said of many a biped pig.

The natural term of a hog's life is not very accurately known; but according to Buffon's theory of the duration of animal life, drawn from the length of time he takes to come to maturity, and supposing that to be about two years, it follows that piggy would be old at fourteen. But the plain fact is, that the poor useful animal grows fat so rapidly, and makes himself fit for eating so early in his matry life, that no one ever thinks or cares to consider, or really knows, if left to himself, how long he would live. Every man's hand—at least every butcher's hand—is raised against him upon the very verge of what we had almost said his manhood, as if he were in civilized society a *homo humanioris generis*, a pirate and an outlaw.

It is related by an English Naturalist that a neighbour of his kept a half-bred butem sow, who was as thick as she was long, and whose belly swept the ground. At the age of seventeen, she showed evident tokens of age, by the decay of her teeth and the decline of her fertility, when she underwent the fate of all pork, being fattened and killed. For eleven years, this pig produced two litters annually of about ten, more or less, and once above twenty at one litter. At a moderate computation, she was allowed to have been the mother of three hundred pigs.

But this is biographical, while we, as we set out, intended to confine our remarks to the physiological. The learning of pigs is incontrovertible. From *Roger Bacon*, who we presume was the first, or among the first, learned pig, and could see the wind as well as any man there, there have been pigs who could play at cards, set to grouse and partridges better than any pointer going, and besides could spell the names of bipeds who could not do so themselves, though they hoisted of having been at school—from which circumstance, we suspect that their inferior capacity arises as much from want of cultivation, and jealousy on the parts of their biped coopers, as from any natural want of brains.

We have an equally strong reply to those who accuse pigs of being filthy. It is very true that they are rather negligent in their personal appearance, and careless whether they eat their food from the ground or out of a china plate, which seems to us a mere matter of taste and convenience, about which men and pigs may honestly differ, and which by preference they ought to be judged charitably. Pigs certainly are not filthy enough to chew tobacco, and spit upon a Turkey carpet or a polished steel fender; neither do they poison their breath by dram drinking. And as to their personal appearance, you won't catch a pig with a profusion of copper gilt chains dangling from his neck, nor the females among them trooping through the mud in Notre Dame Street

on a wet day dressed in kid slippers. Besides, if one does choose to wallow a little deeper in some puddle than his fellows, he never assumes any legal possession of more of this earth than his fellows, he never assumes any extra importance on that account, neither are his brethren stupid enough to worship him for it. Their only question seems to be, he is still a hog, they find when they find that he is so, they treat him strictly as such. Besides, when a hog has no merit of his own, he never puts on aristocratic airs, or claims any particular respect on account of his family connexions; yet some hogs have no doubt descended from very ancient families. They have common sense enough to understand the maxim, that "every tub must stand upon its own bottom," or otherwise, "every hog on his own trough."

The pig, then, lives for the family, and when his time comes, he lays down his life for their benefit—and if not silently, it is only because he possesses the natural feelings in favour of pleasure which he has in common with the living of every kind. Judging indeed from the noise they make, pigs have no particular penchant for the butcher's knife, and the loudness of their protest is a sufficient proof of their sincerity. It is a pity that an animal of so much dignity should not be made to die with more decorum. A pig might, for instance, go out of the world without any fuss about it at all, under the influence of chloroform; having been thus lulled into forgetfulness, the vital fluid quickly extracted, leaving Mr. Piggy, after being scalped, scraped, cut up and salted, apparently not a bit the wiser. We don't think there would be any great danger of his taking up suddenly, after being put into the barrel, but this cruelty on our part may come from our want of confidence in the real powers of the "Schoolmaster."

The *Trav Daily Wigg* says that Mr. James Bourdon has offered the \$5,000 service of plate, which it was proposed to present to him, as the late President of the Hudson River Railroad Company. He suggests its appropriation as a fund for the relief of those persons who may be injured while employed in the road. This is a noble and generous idea, and we trust it will be adopted.

The *California Post* has got tired of using so many figures in giving the amount of gold shipped by the steamers, and so calls it *tons*—the last shipment was 31 tons.

A Railroad Meeting has been held in Brockville for promoting a Meeting from Lake Huron to Brockville and Prescott. The Canadian are really awaking to the importance and value of Railroads.

We observe the following in the *N. Y. Tribune* of the 13th inst. The young lady referred to is the daughter of Mr. Oyster, the Band Master of the 20th Regiment—

We had the pleasure yesterday of listening to the performance of Miss Ann Eliza Oyster, a child of eight years of age, upon the *concertina*, an instrument that is not common in construction. It was the opinion of a large number of musical critics, and judges of music, that the execution was of an equal excellence for such a child. This little girl is indebted to nature also to her wonderful power over the most difficult music.

Live advices from Washington state that considerable excitement is excited in diplomatic circles there, by the expected arrival of a Spanish Minister from Spain, to demand satisfaction for the Cuban revolt.

The Washington Telegraph says that the new Consul for Havana has just been nominated.

We would call the attention of our readers to the sale of *Hyalocin*, *Crocus*, and other Botanical specimens, advertised in our columns to take place on the 23rd October. For Horticulturists and Amateurs this affords an excellent opportunity for securing a supply of these favorite flowers, as we are informed that they are obtained from a reliable source, and consist of the most esteemed varieties.

The Treasurer of the Montreal General Hospital begs to acknowledge the receipt of the sum of £3 from James Law, W. Edmonstone, and Charles Becken, Esqrs. (by the hands of John Row, Esq.) for 500 farms in the Seigneurie; if perhaps you could plant 100 trees and take care of them, it would be a great blessing to the people.

From the *Quebec Mercury and Morning Chronicle* of Tuesday.

Restoration of the Seat of Government—Arrival of the Governor General.

Quebec is once more the Capital of the Canada, and the seat of the British Government.

At 2 p.m., yesterday, the discharge of artillery from the Durrant Terrace announced His Excellency's arrival at the Government Wharf, in the steamer *Highlander*, where he was received by the Corporation, Heads of Departments, &c., and a military band of honor.

At 2 p.m., yesterday, the discharge of artillery from the Durrant Terrace announced His Excellency's arrival at the Government Wharf, in the steamer *Highlander*, where he was received by the Corporation, Heads of Departments, &c., and a military band of honor.

The reliable view of the property assessed to the rate of the year in the several parishes of London, as far as the collection on the 14th June last, was £2,760,306.

Correspondents.—"Laking" under consideration.

Reviews.

THE ROMANCE OF THE HIGHLANDS. BY G. W. M. REYNOLDS. CHAMBERS & CO. Montreal.

This Romance is certainly a Romance of the most approved kind. It is a story, with its differences, that glows and glows as a story as a story in a kitchen garden; in fact, the whole plot is carried on by means of a machinery of supernatural appearances, which considerably relieves the tedium of the story. So matter how deep the dungeon, when there is a ghost in the shape of an armed knight to deliver him—no odds how profound the mistletoe, when there is a lady-like corpse, in a white shroud, to encourage him by her appearance with muffled steps at midnight—and it can make no difference how great and odious a power may be the villain of any adverse party, when there is a walking skeleton, covered with a mink's coat, to fight him from a pig's squeak and hissing.

The style is, in general, pretty good; but there is little invention displayed in the supernatural appearances—each appearance being accompanied with the same accessories—except, perhaps, the clash of a suit of steel armor falling from a sail occasioned, which acts as a sort of diapason to the screams which are sometimes heard, and which are so loud that the reader marvels at the strength of lungs which can possess. The moon is also always shining with "argentine" light, except indeed when a ghost chooses to veil her from sight, on all which occasions we think her "argentine" livery is very severely used.

The period of this Novel will afford pleasure to some minds; but it does not afford anything like a truthful picture of Scottish manners at that period, superstitious though the people of that country were, and in some respects are to this day.

LAW INTELLIGENCE. COURT OF QUEBEC'S BENCH. Present.—The Hon. J. J. Caldwell, Chief Justice. Thomas C. Aylwin, Justice of the Bench.

Mary Ann was put on her trial for stealing banknotes, to the amount of £23. From the plea of not guilty, she was found guilty, and sentenced to be imprisoned for six months.

The Grand Jury came into Court and presented the following true bills, against Jean-Baptiste Lacombe, for selling and conveying to the said Lacombe, a parcel of land, which he had stolen from the Crown, and which he had sold to the said Lacombe, and against the said Lacombe, for receiving the same.

At 2 p.m., yesterday, the discharge of artillery from the Durrant Terrace announced His Excellency's arrival at the Government Wharf, in the steamer *Highlander*, where he was received by the Corporation, Heads of Departments, &c., and a military band of honor.

internal improvement which I have occasionally seen in the progress of the city. This assurance is the more satisfactory, because I feel that it is the result of the efforts of the city, and not of the efforts of the Government.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE EARL OF ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

We, the undersigned, Magistrates for the District of Quebec, most respectfully approach your Excellency to offer you a hearty welcome to the Ancient and Intelligible best of the Government of this Province.

We shall on all occasions be ready to afford our support to the preservation of order, and to see that justice is done to all parties, and that the laws, which are so essential to the prosperity and stability of the country, are strictly enforced.

THE DEFENSE MEN.—An Inquest was held at Quebec on Monday last before the coroner, in relation to the death of a young man named Kinney, who was killed by a bullet from a rifle.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held at the residence of the late John Hertz, Esq., on the 21st inst., in relation to the death of a young man named Kinney, who was killed by a bullet from a rifle.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held at the residence of the late John Hertz, Esq., on the 21st inst., in relation to the death of a young man named Kinney, who was killed by a bullet from a rifle.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held at the residence of the late John Hertz, Esq., on the 21st inst., in relation to the death of a young man named Kinney, who was killed by a bullet from a rifle.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held at the residence of the late John Hertz, Esq., on the 21st inst., in relation to the death of a young man named Kinney, who was killed by a bullet from a rifle.

PORT OF QUEBEC. Arrived, Oct. 18. Bark Leocadia, Vigano, 30 Oct. St. Johns, N.B. M. Boleston, and fish, 10 tons.

Departed, Oct. 18. Bark Leocadia, Vigano, 30 Oct. St. Johns, N.B. M. Boleston, and fish, 10 tons.

Departed, Oct. 18. Bark Leocadia, Vigano, 30 Oct. St. Johns, N.B. M. Boleston, and fish, 10 tons.

Departed, Oct. 18. Bark Leocadia, Vigano, 30 Oct. St. Johns, N.B. M. Boleston, and fish, 10 tons.

Departed, Oct. 18. Bark Leocadia, Vigano, 30 Oct. St. Johns, N.B. M. Boleston, and fish, 10 tons.

Departed, Oct. 18. Bark Leocadia, Vigano, 30 Oct. St. Johns, N.B. M. Boleston, and fish, 10 tons.

Departed, Oct. 18. Bark Leocadia, Vigano, 30 Oct. St. Johns, N.B. M. Boleston, and fish, 10 tons.

Departed, Oct. 18. Bark Leocadia, Vigano, 30 Oct. St. Johns, N.B. M. Boleston, and fish, 10 tons.

Departed, Oct. 18. Bark Leocadia, Vigano, 30 Oct. St. Johns, N.B. M. Boleston, and fish, 10 tons.

REGULAR TRADER FOR BYTON AND BIDEAU CANALS.

THE STEAMER ALBION, Captain W. H. ...

THE STEAMER ALBION, Captain W. H. ...

THE STEAMER ALBION, Captain W. H. ...

THE STEAMER ALBION, Captain W. H. ...

THE STEAMER ALBION, Captain W. H. ...

THE STEAMER ALBION, Captain W. H. ...

THE STEAMER ALBION, Captain W. H. ...

THE STEAMER ALBION, Captain W. H. ...

AUCTION SALES BY JOHN LEEMING.

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...

CRATE COALS—ON THURSDAY ...