Poetry.

THE DEATH BED.

He sleeps—the sufferer sleeps:
How pain—devoid his placid features seem,
Oh! surely by that sufferer's couch, a dream
No earthly vigil keeps.

The pang will not return:
Pain hath done all it can do—the brief rest
Will be a giving forth of life, so bless'd—
It would be sin to mourn.

He wakes—I said he would:
His pillow smooth—support him to behold
Yon sun declining through a path of gold,
With clouds of evening strew'd!

Let not a breath be heard;
Watch but the faintest glance of his dull eye,
For know, a look, a sign from those who die,
Is like a gospel word!

The sun is sinking fast:
His soul yet lingers in its cell of day;
Till the rich glory of the sun's last ray
On the calm scene be cast.

Then will his soul arise—
Piercing the shades of evening, afar,
To the pure bosom of its kindred star,
Whose mansion is the skies.

Listen—the deep faint strain
Of all he can call forth from memory's string,
Touch'd by soul—breathing thought is murmuring,
From his far wandering brain.

Oh! never yet the tongue
Interpreted so faithfully that thought,
Whose holy notes no mortal feelings taught,
No mortal accents sung.

'Tis o'er—'tis o'er—his breath
Departed softly, placidly away:—
Said I not rightly that the eve of day
Would be the morn of death?

Varieties.

THE NATURAL AND CIVIL HISTORY OF CEYLON.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS.—THE COCOA-NUT TREE.—THE PALMYRA.—THE AREEKA TREE.—THE JAGGHER PALM.—THE TALIPAT TREE.—THE CINNAMON TREE.

The most remarkable vegetable productions of Ceylon are the Palms, the Cinnamon-tree, and the tree bearing Eve's-Apple, or the Forbidden-Fruit. Of these I shall give a brief description. The cocoa-nut-tree usually grows to the height of from seventy to eighty feet. It has a short, branchless stem, surrounded by annular indentations, the number of which ascertains the age of the tree, as each year an additional circle is produced. The stem is nearly the same size from the root to the top, from which a crest of large pinnated leaves radiates about a yard in breadth, and four yards in length. These leaves are invariably twelve in number, and form a circle, divided from the circumference to the centre like the spokes of a wheel. The leaf is separated by a strong woody fibre, from which smaller fibres shoot out on either side, exactly opposite to one another, as in the common fern; of these, excellent brooms are made by the natives. The nuts grow in clusters, within the leafy crest, and each tree, when full-grown, produces two or three dozen. The fibrous husk, which covers the nut, is manufactured into cables and cordage of various descriptions; and these cables have the remarkable quality of suffering no injury from long immersion in salt-water, but on the contrary; are said to be preserved by it.

In Ceylon, this filament, which is called coire, is obtained from a tract of cocoa-nut trees, forming a belt, a hundred and thirty miles long, and one mile and a-half broad, along the south-western coast. It has been calculated that this belt contains between ten and eleven millions of cocoa-nut trees, and produces, besides a vast quantity of oil, six thousand leaguers of arrack, and upwards of three million pounds' weight of coire, sufficient to rig twenty first-rate ships of war. The produce of a good tree in this belt, has been estimated at from fifty to a hundred cocoa-nuts in the year, each nut, as food, being equivalent to at least three ounces of rice.

From the kernel of the cocoa-nut is extracted a thick oil, used by the natives throughout India, for lighting their houses and anointing their bodies. The shell is converted into ladles. At the top of the tree grows a large shoot, two feet long, and as thick as a man's thigh; commonly called the cocoa-nut cabbage; when boiled, it is an excellent vegetable for the table; but as soon as it is cut off, the trunk gradually perishes. The toddy, from which arrack is distilled, is drawn from this tree; a pot, measuring two quarts, is fixed to a shoot, in which an incision is made at night, and is brought down at sunrise filled with the exuded sap. The filaments that surround the stem are manufactured into a kind of sackcloth, which is very durable. The wood of the trunk is porous and spongy, and therefore of little value, but it is occasionally employed for pillars to support temporary buildings. The leaves are used for thatching the roofs, and covering the walls of huts; they are also converted into torches, when dry, and, when fresh, are a favourite food of the elephant.

THE PALMYRA.

The next most useful of the palms in Ceylon is the palmyra: its manner of growth is similar to that of the cocoa-nut tree; the stem attains nearly the same height, but is more uniformly perpendicular, and the texture of the timber much firmer and more durable. The blacker this is the more valuable, and it has the rare quality of resisting the depredations of insects. The leaves are shorter, harder, and thicker, than those of the tree just described, having the form of an opened fan, as which they are frequently used: upon slips of these leaves all the Cingalese manuscripts are written with an iron style. The fruit of this palm is a firm pulp, about the bigness of a new-born child's head, of a black colour, emitting an agreeable perfume, and containing in its centre, from one to three nuts, about the size of a common plum. The toddy drawn from the palmyra makes better arrack than that extracted from any other palm-tree, and a very good sugar is obtained by mixing the toddy with the pulp of the fruit, and boiling them together. This tree, besides supplying a valuable wood for exportation, is of the greatest importance to the natives, its fruit and roots being used by them for food, and many other parts being very successfully applied to the purposes of manufacture. The cocoa-nut tree is almost exclusively confined to the southern, and the palmyra to the northern parts of the island, on the coast.

THE AREEKA-TREE.

The areeka tree is the smallest of the palms, the stem not being more than a foot in circumference, though it attains to the height of sixty feet. It grows perfectly straight, and the leaves are confined to the top. The nuts, which grow in clusters at the bottom of the leaves, are of an oval shape, and somewhat smaller than those of the palmyra. They resemble nutmegs in consistence, being solid all thro' and of a faint white, streaked with red.

One of these trees yields from 300 to 1000 nuts, and some produce 1500. "They bear," says Knox, "but once in the year, generally: but commonly, there are green nuts enough to eat all the year long. The leaves fall off every year, and the skins, upon which they grow, with them. These skins grow upon the body of the tree, and the leaves grow out of them. They also clasp about the buds or blossoms which bear the nuts, and as the buds swell, so this cover gives way, till at length it falls quite off with the great leaf on it: it is somewhat like leather, and of great use to the country people; it serves them instead of basins to eat their rice in, and when they go a journey, to tie up their provisions; for in these skins or leaves they can tie up any liquid substance, as oil or water, doubling it in the middle and rolling it on the two sides, almost like a purse. Ordinarily they are about two feet in length, and a foot and a half in breadth. In this country there are no inns, therefore, when people travel, the manner is to carry, ready dressed, what provisions they can, made up in these leaves. The trees within have only a kind of pith, and split easily from one end to the other. The wood is hard and very strong; it is used as laths for houses, and also as rails instead of hedges. Money is not very plentiful in this land; but, by means of these nuts, which are a great commodity to carry to the Coromandel coast, the inhabitants furnish themselves with all things they want. The common price of nuts, when there is a trade, as there was when I came first on this land, is twenty thousand for one dollar; but now (A. D. 1681) they lie and grow, or rot on the ground under the trees.

THE JAGGHER-PALM.

A fourth species of the palm is the jaggree, so called from its fertility in the production of sugar. It has the same tall branchless stem as the cocoa-nut tree; but the fruit hangs from the top in straight lines upwards of a yard long, all round the trunk. The leaves are serrated. The nut is about the size of a common marble, and is chewed in every part of India, with the beet leaf. Sago is the pith of this palm, dried and granulated.

THE TALIPAT-TREE.

The most remarkable of the palm tribe is the talipat-tree, of which a detailed account was given in No. 152 of the *Saturday Magazine*, of which Knox says, "This tree is as big and tall as a ship's mast, and very straight, bearing only leaves, which are of great use and benefit to the inhabitants; one single leaf being so broad and large, that it will cover fifteen or twenty men, and keep them dry when it rains. The leaf, being dried, is very strong and limber, most wonderfully made for men's convenience to carry along with them: for though this leaf be thus broad when it is open, yet its folds close, like a lady's fan, and then it is no bigger than a man's arm, and extremely light. The people cut them into pieces and carry them in their hands. The whole leaf spread out is round, almost like a circle; but the pieces cut for use are nearly like unto a triangle. They lay them upon their heads as they travel, with the peaked end foremost, which is convenient to make their way through the boughs and thickets. When the sun is vehement they use them to shade themselves from the heat: all soldiers carry them; for besides the benefit of keeping them dry, in case it should rain upon the march, these leaves make their tents to lie under in the night.

"This tree bears no fruit until the last year of its life, and then it comes out on the top, and spreads abroad in great branches, all full first of yellow blossoms, most beautiful to behold, but of a very strong smell; then it comes to a fruit, round and very hard, as big as our largest cherries, but good only for seed to set: and though the tree bears but once, it makes amends, bearing such great abundance, that one tree yields seed enough for a country. If these trees stand near any houses, the smell of the blossom so much annoys the inhabitants, that they, regarding not the seed, forthwith cut them down. The step has within it a pith only, which is very good to eat, if the tree be cut down before it runs to seed. It is beaten to flour in mortars, and baked into cakes, which tastes much like wheat bread. It serves instead of corn before the harvest is ripe."

THE EVE-APPLE.

This is one of the most remarkable vegetable productions of the island. The tree which bears this singular fruit, grows to the height of from twenty to thirty feet. It has an irregular inelegant stem, with a scanty growth on the lower parts, but on the top the leaves germinate luxuriantly, forming an extensive and graceful crest. The branches shoot upward, though a few strike out horizontally, and these are generally charged with the greatest quantity of fruit. This is a deadly poison, and as if to remove the danger of mischief, Providence seems to have placed it above the reach both of rational and brute animals, as it hangs chiefly upon the crest of the tree, and never grows so low as to be reached from the ground. The trunk is about the size of a man's body, and covered with a dark corrugated bark. The leaves are long and narrow, shaped like those of the bay tree, with a smooth shining surface, the fibres crossing the filament that divides the leaf longitudinally, being strongly marked and regular. The fruit, which hangs from the bough on a long limber stem about the size of a quill, is shaped something like the large white magnum-bonum plum, somewhat flattened at the extremities, but exhibiting a feature as singular as it is unpleasing. From the upper side it appears precisely as if a portion had been bitten off, and from this circumstance the Mohammedans who imagine the primitive paradise to have been situated in Ceylon, have called it forbidden fruit; conceiving that the mark of that breach of the Divine interdiction, which entailed so grievous a curse upon the posterity of Adam, has been placed by the Almighty upon this singular tree, and that, in consequence of Eve's crime, the fruit was rendered poisonous, in order to secure it from future profanation. The blossom is a white flower something larger than that of the apple-tree, opening into five long pointed leaves, slightly pinnated and presenting a pod which shoots from the extremity of a capsule, something like that of the common gilly flower. The fruit is very tempting to the eye, being of a vivid orange on the outside, and looking exceedingly beautiful as the rays of the sun fall upon its smooth and glowing surface. When cut, the pulp, which is solid and without any stone, is of a deep ardent crimson, but exceedingly acrid when the smallest quantity is placed in contact with the tongue. The Mahommedans of Ceylon formerly expressed great veneration for this tree, and connecting it with the print of Adam's foot on the summit of a mountain in the interior, of which they are very tenacious in their belief, they feel satisfied that this island is the locality of the earthly Paradise. This belief is moreover strengthened by the legend of Adam's bridge, and the tombs of Cain and Abel in the island of Ramisseram.

THE CINNAMON-TREE.

The cinnamon-tree, which is the most profitable vegetable production of this island, is a kind of laurel, growing to the height of from twenty to thirty feet. The trunk is about the size of an ordinary man's body, giving out a great number of large horizontal branches, clothed with thick foliage. The roots which strike deep into the earth, and spread considerably, are covered with an odoriferous bark on the outside, of a grayish brown, and on the inside of a reddish hue. Camphor is extracted from them. The stalk of the leaf when chewed, tastes strongly of cinnamon, but is fresher and more juicy. The leaves are oval, from four to six inches long, and about three broad, with a smooth surface and plain edge. The blossoms are numerous clusters of small white flowers, about the size of the lilac, which they much resemble. The tree produces a fruit of the form of an acorn, but not larger than a small black currant, and in taste like the juniper-berry. When removed from its socket, it has the shape of an olive, and when dry becomes a thin shell, containing an oval kornel, no larger than the seed of an apple. If boiled in water, it yields an oil, which floats on the top, and is used for burning in lamps. As soon as it congeals, it becomes a solid substance like wax, and is formed into candles.

The trees planted for the purpose of obtaining cinnamon, shoot out a great number of branches apparently from the same root, and are not permitted to rise above ten feet. The sprouts which are cut for barking, are about the length and thickness of a common walking-stick.

Those trees which are cultivated, may be reared in the four ways following: from seeds sown during the rains; from shoots cut from large trees; from layers; and by transplanting old stumps. A dry soil and frequent rain is necessary to produce cinnamon of the finest quality. The tree blossoms in the month of January, and it is then that the plantations look most beautiful. In April the fruit is ripe, and soon afterwards the process of decortication begins. May and June are esteemed the best months for this purpose, and are styled the great harvest. November and December are likewise considered favourable months, and are called the little harvest.

In order to ascertain whether the bark is ripe, the peeler strikes his knife obliquely into a branch; if on drawing it out, the bark divides from the wood, the cinnamon has attained its maturity, but if it adhere, it must remain until it be detached from the limbs. The knife employed in peeling is a small sharp-pointed hook.

When a branch is completely cleared of small shoots and leaves, the cinnamon-peeler, seated on the ground, makes two parallel cuts up and down the length of the bark, which after being gradually loosened with the convex edge of the knife, he strips off in one entire slip, half the circumference of the branch. This slip he passes to a companion, who is seated in a similar manner by his side, with one foot pressed against a piece of wood, from which a round stick slopes towards his waist. Upon this stick he lays the slip of bark, keeps it steady with his other foot, and holding the handle of the knife in one hand, and the point of it in the other, scrapes off the epidermis or superficial cuticle, which is very thin, of a brown colour on the outside and white within. In doing this considerable attention is necessary, for if any of the outer bark remain, it gives a bitter taste to the cinnamon. When this operation has been performed, the cinnamon is of a pale-yellow colour, and about the thickness of parchment. When spread on mats to dry in the sun, it curls up and becomes darker. The smaller pieces are then inserted into the larger, and, both contracting still closer, assume the form of solid rods. These are tied up into bundles with plant canes.

When cinnamon is shipped for exportation, a quantity of loose black pepper is thrown in upon it, which, by attracting the superfluous moisture, preserves and improves the cinnamon, while at the same time its own flavour is improved. Thus the two spices prove mutually beneficial.

The best cinnamon is of a light brown colour, and does not much exceed the thickness of royal paper. It is of a fine texture, of a smooth surface and brittle. Its taste is sweet and sharp. The coarse cinnamon is dark, thick, and hard. It has a hot and pungent taste, exciting the tongue, and leaving upon the palate a somewhat acrid bitter.

The quantity of cinnamon sent from Ceylon to England yearly, amounts to four thousand bales, or three hundred and fifty-three thousand pounds weight, for which the India Company pay to the British Government, a stipulated price of sixty thousand pounds sterling, and transport it to England at their own expense.

Oil of cinnamon was formerly made at Columbo, of the fragments and small pieces broken off in packing. A great quantity of this oil is obtained from the coarse cinnamon, which is considered unworthy of exportation in any other shape. Three hundred pounds weight of the bark, are said to yield no more than twenty-four ounces of oil. It is, therefore, necessarily dear, and used commonly to sell at ten guineas a quart. It is highly esteemed both as a medicine and as a perfume. That of the best quality, extracted from the finer sorts of cinnamon, is of a pale gold-colour, and different from all other oils. Its excellence is determined by its sinking in water. The oil distilled from coarse cinnamon is of a dark brown hue, and does not sink in water. The wood of the tree, when deprived of the bark, has no smell, and is chiefly used for fuel.

The persons employed in the cultivation and barking of cinnamon, are called Chalias. They are a distinct tribe of people; not the lowest, but almost the poorest of the Cingalese casts. They appear, however, to be contented with their condition, never repining at its severity. They feel few or no wants, wear no clothing but a coarse bandage round the waist, and live almost in a state of barbarous desuetude. They are governed in the same manner as other casts, by their own officers, over whom is placed an English superintendant, who is looked up to as the chief of the whole tribe. The inhabitants of each district where cinnamon grows, are bound to deliver yearly, a certain quantity ready prepared for the market. Upon which condition they are allowed to have gardens and pieces of land rent free, besides enjoying other privileges. They likewise obtain additional remuneration, sometimes in rice, and sometimes in money, according to the time and labour employed by them in the public service. Every individual is obliged to furnish a stated proportion of cinnamon in the season; and if any one deliver a larger quantity than what is required of him by the stipulation of the British Government, he draws extra payment for the surplus.

The principle figure represented in our engraving is RAJA PAXA, chief of the cast of cinnamon peelers in Ceylon. When the Dutch slave masters agreed to consider as free, all the children of their slaves, born after the 11th of August, 1816 this amiable person not only followed their example, but was even anxious to bestow immediate liberty upon all slaves, possessed either by himself or by any of his relatives. He is extremely hospitable to Europeans, a man of extensive information and the best Sanscrit and Pali scholar in the Island. The print represents Raja Paxa in the rich costume of his country, attended by two servants, bearing umbrellas. It is copied from a picture by a native artist, and kindly lent by Sir Alexander Johnstone.

Saturday Magazine.

WONDERFUL TREE.—That extraordinary production of the arborary kingdom, the palo di vaca or milk bearing cow tree, which flourishes in Para, in South America, is among the loftiest of the forest—growing to the height of one hundred feet and upwards. It bears a delicious edible fruit, which has the united flavour of strawberries mixed with cream; and its trunk yields as fine bowls of milk as those from a cow. It seems rather startling, says Mr. Webster, in his voyage to the Southern Atlantic, to talk of a tree yielding milk, but such is the fact, and it is drunk by the people in large quantities, and was used by us at the gunroom table for mixing with tea, in lieu of cow's milk from which it is nowise distinguishable in general use. The milk is a rich, white, bland fluid without odour, and of the taste and flavour of common milk. It mixes readily with tea or coffee, without curdling or undergoing any change, and in every respect seems like cow's milk. Boiling water does not alter it. It keeps unaltered six or seven days in the temperature of eighty five degrees. It appears to differ from all the known milky juices of plants, and to approach in obvious properties to animal milk, from which it differs widely in chemical composition. There is no cream or caceous cheesy matter in it. I kept a bottle of the milk until our arrival at Trinidad: eight weeks after my procuring it—when it was sent to the Admiralty. Some which I and myself, had then seperated into a tough milky water and a white solid mass which when taken out and dried in the air, was a white inflamable substance, not softening at the temperature of the body, melting at one hundred and forty four degrees, insoluble in water or spirits, and resembling white wax more than any other substance I could compare it to. It burnt with a bright agreeable flame, without smell, and was neither greasy or resinous; I am therefore inclined to consider it as a species of wax. To complete the marvel of this tree we must mention that it affords the most valuable timber for ship building, and that it is so used in the dockyard at Para.

NATIONAL PREJUDICE.

Among all the famous sayings of antiquity, there is none that does greater honour to the author, or affords greater pleasure to the reader (at least if he be a person of a generous and benevolent heart) than that of the philosopher, who, being asked what countryman he was, replied, that he was "a citizen of the world."—How few are there to be found in modern times who can say the same, or whose conduct is consistent with such a profession! We are now become so much Englishmen, Frenchmen, Dutchmen, Germans, [or Americans,] that we are no longer citizens of the world; so much the natives of one particular spot, or members of one petty society, that we no longer consider ourselves as the general inhabitants of the globe, or members of that grand society which comprehends the whole human kind.

Did these prejudices prevail only among the meanest and lowest of the people, perhaps they might be excused, as they have few, if any, opportunities of correcting them by reading, travelling, or conversing with foreigners: but the misfortune is, that they infect the minds, and influence the conduct, even of our gentlemen; of those, I mean, who have every title to this appellation but an exemption from prejudice, which, however, in my opinion, ought to be regarded as the characteristical mark of a gentleman; for, let a man's birth be ever so high, his station ever so exalted, or his fortune ever so large, yet if he is not free from national and other prejudices, I should make bold to tell him that he had a low and vulgar mind, and had no just claim to the character of a gentleman. And, in fact, you will always find that those are most apt to boast of national merit, who have little or no merit of their own to depend on; than which, to be sure, nothing is more natural: the slender vine twists around the sturdy oak, for no other reason in the world but because it has not strength sufficient to support itself.

Should it be alleged in defence of national prejudice, that it is the natural and necessary growth of love to our country, and therefore the former cannot be destroyed without hurting the latter, I answer, that this is a gross fallacy and delusion. That it is the growth of love to our country, I will allow; but that it is the natural and necessary growth of it, I absolutely deny. Superstition and enthusiasm, too, are the growth of religion; but who ever took it in his head to affirm that they are the necessary growth of this noble principle? They are, if you will, the vicious sprouts of this heavenly plant, but not its natural and genuine branches, and may safely enough be lopped off, without doing any harm to the parent stock: nay, perhaps, till once they are lopped off, this goodly tree can never flourish in perfect health and vigour.

Is it not very possible that I may love my own country, without hating the natives of other countries? that I may exert the most heroic bravery, the most undaunted resolution, in defending its laws and liberty, without despising all the rest of the world as cowards or inferiors? Most certainly it is; and if it were not—but why need I suppose what is absolutely impossible?—but if it were not, I must own I should prefer the title of the ancient philosopher, namely, a citizen of the world, to that of an Englishman, a Frenchman a European, or to any other appellation whatever.—*Goldsmith's Essays.*

THE DOG AND THE SHILLING.—The following anecdote of a dog, given in the Sportsman's Annual, is one of the most curious we have seen of its kind:—A gentleman of Suffolk being on an excursion with his friend, and having a Newfoundland dog of the party, he soon became the subject of conversation; when the master, after a warm eulogium upon his perfections, assured his companion that he would, upon receiving the order, return, and fetch any article he should leave behind, from any distance. To confirm this assertion, a marked shilling was put under a large square stone by the side of the road—being first shown to the dog. The gentlemen then rode for three miles, when the dog received his signal from the master to return for the shilling he had put under the stone. The dog turned back, the gentlemen rode on and reached home, but to their surprise and disappointment, the hitherto faithful messenger did not return during the day. It afterwards appeared that he had gone to the place where the shilling was deposited, but the stone being too large for his strength to remove, he had staid howling at the place, till two horsemen riding by, and attracted by his seeming distress, stopped to look at him, when one of them alighting, removed the stone, and seeing the shilling, put it into his pocket, not at the time conceiving it to be the object of the dog's search. The dog followed their horses for twenty miles, remained undisturbed in the room where they supped, followed the chambermaid into the bedchamber, and secreted himself under one of the beds. The possessor of the shilling hung his trousers upon a nail by the bedside, but when the travellers were both asleep, the dog took them in his mouth, and, leaping out of the window, which was left open on account of the sultry heat, reached the house of his master at four o'clock in the morning, with the prize he had made free with; in the pocket of which were found a watch and money, that were returned upon being advertised, when the whole mystery was mutually unravelled, to the admiration of all parties.

A Scene of extreme horror in the Pyramids of Egypt.—Some French Travellers attempting to explore the vaults of the Egyptian pyramids, had already traversed an extensive labyrynth, of chambers and passages: they were on their return, and had arrived at the most difficult part of it, a very long and winding passage, forming a communication between two chambers; its opening narrow and low. The ruggedness of the floor, sides, and roof, rendered their progress slow and laborious, and these difficulties increased rapidly as they advanced. The torch with which they had entered became useless, from the impossibility of holding it upright, as the passage diminished its height however became so much contracted, that the party were compelled to crawl on their bellies.—Their wanderings in these interminable passages (for such in their fatigue of body and mind they deemed them,) seemed to be endless. Their alarm was very great and their patience already exhausted, when the headmost of the party cried out that he could discern a light at the exit of a passage at a considerable distance ahead, but that he could advance no further, and that in his efforts to press on, in hopes to surmount the obstacle without complaining, he had squeezed himself so far into the reduced opening, that he had, now no longer sufficient strength to recede! The situation of the whole party may be imagined; their terror was beyond the power of direction or advice; while the wretched leader, whether from terror or the natural effects of his situation, swelled so, that if it was before difficult it was now impossible for him to stir from the spot he thus miserably occupied. One of the party at this dreadful and critical moment, proposed in the intense selfishness to which vital danger reduces all, as the only means of escape from this horrible confinement the living grave, to cut in pieces the wretched being who formed the obstruction, and clear it by dragging the dismembered carcase piecemeal past them! He heard this dreadful proposal, and contracting himself in agony at the idea of this death, was reduced, by a muscular spasm, to his usual dimensions, and was dragged out, affording room for the party to squeeze themselves by, over his prostrate body. This unhappy creature was suffocated in the effort, and was left behind a corpse.—*Cabinet of Curiosities.*

STORMS IN FRANCE.—Accounts from the departments show that many parts of the kingdom have lately suffered severely from violent storms. The *Indicator* of Bordeaux states that the vineyards of Medoc, Barsac, and Portets, have sustained immense damage from a tremendous hail storm, which also has most completely devastated the commune of Garchizy near Nevers. The hay and barley, and a great portion of the wheat, are rendered fit for nothing but manure.

The Farmer.

ECONOMICAL METHOD OF KEEPING HORSES.

Having received innumerable letters from gentlemen who keep horses, requesting a description of my plan of feeding, I shall save much trouble both to others as well as myself, by laying my system before the public. Having pursued the plan above seventeen years, I am enable to appreciate its full value, and, being perfectly satisfied of its superior excellence, I hope to continue the same as long as I keep horses.

Most people who know me will allow that horses in my employ enjoy no sinecure places, and few people can boast of their cattle being in better working condition or more capable of laborious undertakings, than mine.

The loft above my stable contains the machinery for cutting chaff and grinding corn. From this loft each horse has a tunnel of communication with the manger below, and a tub annexed to each tunnel in the loft for mixing the ingredients composing the provender.

There should be no rack in the stable, because this may tempt the groom to fill it with hay, and thus be overloading the horse's stomach, endanger his wind, to say little of its expense and waste, for it is a well known fact, that if a horse has his rack constantly replenished with hay, he consumes and spoils upwards of 30lbs per day.

The manger with which the tunnel communicates, should have cross-bars of firm oak, placed at the distance of 10 or 13 inches from each other to prevent the horse from wasting his provender in search of the grain it contains, and this space between the cross bars allows the horse plenty of room to take his food.

The chaff cutter I make use of is manufactured by Mr. Wilmott. He also provides corn bruisers, of the best construction, and any person keeping three or four horses, will save the prime cost of his machinery the first year of its trial, and the horses themselves, thus fed, to use the language of horsekeepers, will always be above their work.

When the provender is thoroughly mixed in the tub, previously weighing out each ingredient, the mixture should be given in small quantities at a time, many times in a day; and at night enough is thrown into the tunnel to last till morning. This process will be found of very little trouble to the groom, who will only have to go into the loft six or eight times in a day. As the component parts of the provender are weighed separately for each horse, we are certain he has his just proportion: and I have hereunto annexed my scale of feeding: but, whatever grain is given, it should always be bruised, or coarsely ground and carefully weighed out; for by weight alone, is it possible to judge of the quantity of farinaceous substances, the horse consumes: it being well known that a peck of oats varies from 7 to 12 pounds; consequently if the provender were mixed by measure, there would be frequently an uncertainty as to quantity. Wheat varies from 16 to 12; barley from 13 to 16; peas from 17 to 15; beans from 17 to 15 per peck. And as wheat, beans, peas, barley, and oats, are equally good, and of very trifling difference in price when their specific gravity is taken into consideration, I am equally indifferent which grain I use, but I should always prefer boiled or steamed potatoes for hard working horses, to be a component ingredient, whenever they can be procured.

I call all ground or bruised grain of whatever description, *farina.*

Farina consisting of bruised or ground peas, wheat, barley, or oats, 5lbs; bran, fine or coarse pollard, 7 lbs; straw, &c. in chaff, 8lbs; malt dust, or ground oil cake, 2lbs; salt, 2 oz.

By the above it will be seen that each horse has his 30 lbs. of provender in 24 hours, which, I maintain is full as much as he can eat. The two ounces of salt will be found to be an excellent stimulus to the horse's stomach, and should on no account be omitted. When a horse returns from labour, perhaps the groom will see the propriety of feeding him from his tub more largely, in order that he may be the sooner satisfied and lie down to rest.

Whenever oat straw can be procured, it is generally preferred; and some like to have it cut into chaff without threshing out the oats; but this is a bad plan, for in preparing a quantity of this chaff, unequal proportions of oats will be found in each lot, so that one horse will have too large a portion, whilst others have less than they out, although the portions are accurately weighed.

The only certain method then is, to let the grain, of whatever deacription, be separately weighed from its straw, and the keeper of cattle will soon satisfy himself that his cattle are in want of nothing in the feeding line.

TENDERS (until further notice) of *Mexican* or *South American Dollars*, in Exchange for Bills, drawn at thirty days, upon the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, London, will be received by the Deputy Commissary General, at his office, until noon on the 15th and last day of each month.—The Tender to state the number of Pence Sterling at which the Dollar is tendered.

COMMISSARIAT, NOVA-SCOTIA,
Halifax, 28th July, 1836.

NOTE.—The number of Bills required and amount of each to be stated in the Tender.

Province.

With respect to Domestic Politics, they need say but little. The Chronicle shall always be found ready to defend the rights of the people against the undue exercise of the Prerogative; and on the other hand, whenever there may be occasion for it, to support the prerogative against any encroachments which may be attempted on the part of the popular branches of the Commonwealth. The Chronicle shall also be found open at all times for the temperate discussion of subjects of public interest.

The Proprietors of the Chronicle would take the liberty of noticing a claim to public favour of a personal nature, which they trust will not be disregarded. The name which will appear on the title page of the Chronicle will not be exhibited in such a situation, the first time; it has been connected with the pr[illegible] Press for nearly half a century, and it is to be h[illegible] in a manner which did not disgrace it; but [illegible] contrary, which has laid the foundation of a cl[illegible] future patronage and support.

The terms of the Chronic[illegible] fifteen shi[illegible] per annum—*if paid in advan*[illegible] 6d.

St. John, July 1, 1836.

PHILADELPHIA MIRROR.

THE splendid patronage awarded to the Philadelphia Saturday Courier, induces the Editors to commence the publication, under the above title, of a quarto edition of their popular Journal, so long known as the largest family Newspaper in the United States, with a list of over 26 000 Subscribers. The new feature recently introduced of furnishing their readers with new books of the best literature of the day, having proved so eminently successful, the plan will be continued. Seven volumes of the celebrated writings of Captain Marryatt, and eighty-seven of Mr. Brooks' valuable Letters from Europe, have already been published without interfering with its news and miscellaneous reading. The Courier is the largest and cheapest Family Newspaper ever issued in this country, containing articles in Literature, Science, and Arts; Internal Improvement; Agriculture; in short every variety of topics usually introduced into a public journal. Giving full accounts of sales, markets, and news of the latest dates.

It is published at the low price of $2. For this small sum, subscribers get valuable and entertaining matter each week enough to fill a common book of 200 pages, and equal to 52 volumes a year, and which is estimated to be read, weekly, by at least two hundred thousand people, scattered in all parts of the country, from Maine to Florida, and from the seaboard to the Lakes. The paper has been now so long established as to render it too well known to require an extended prospectus.

THE QUARTO EDITION,

Under the title of the *Philadelphia Mirror*, commenced with the publication of the Prize Tale, to which was awarded the prize of $100, written by Miss Leslie, editor of the splendid Annual, the Token, and author of Pencil Sketches and other valuable contributions to American Literature. This was followed by a tale from the talented pen of Miss Sedgwick, and author of "Hope Leslie," "The Linwoods," and several other of the most popular American works. A large number of songs, poems, tales, &c. offered in competition for the $500 premiums, and procured from writers of acknowledged talent, will add value and interest to the succeeding numbers.

This approved family Newspaper is strictly neutral in religious and political matters, and the uncompromising opponent of quackery of every kind.

MAPS.

In addition to such other attractions as they may be enabled to impart to both publications, the publishers intend furnishing their patrons with a series of engraved Maps, embracing the twenty-six states of the Union, &c.; exhibiting the situation, &c. of rivers, towns, mountains, lakes, the seaboard, internal improvements, as displayed in canals, rail roads, &c., with other interesting and useful features, roads, distances, &c., forming a complete Atlas for general use and information, handsomely executed, and each distinct map on a large quarto sheet, at a expense which nothing but the splendid patronage which for six years past has been generously extended to them, could warrant.

TERMS:—The Philadelphia Saturday Courier is still continued in its large form, at the same price as heretofore. The Philadelphia Mirror, being a quarto edition of the Saturday Courier, with its increased attractions, and printed on the best fine white paper of the same size as the New-York Albion, will be put at precisely one half the price of that valuable Journal, viz: three Dollars per annum, payable in advance, (including the Maps.)

☞ Four copies will be sent for Ten Dollars.

M'MAKIN & HOLDEN, successors to
WOODBURY & CLARKE.

Sept. 10. *Philadelphia.*

Agents for the Chronicle.

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Woodstock,	J. BEDELL,
Sussex Vale,	MAJOR EVANSON,
Richibucto,	JAMES D. WETMOR, Esq

MUTILATED ISSUE