British Gleanings.

INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION.—We learn from a British exchange that "at the Great International Horticultural Exhibition and Congress, to be held in London in May next, the celebrated botanist and botanical author, M. Alphonse De Candolle, has agreed to act as President of the Botanical Congress."

A CLEVER FOX.—The *Scottish Farmer* says: "A gamekeeper on a moor at Lochgoilhead trapped a large fox a few days ago, and finding it to all appearance dead, he removed it from the trap, and threw it aside while he rebaited the trap, when, to his astonishment, the fox scampered off up the hill and escaped."

UNHOUSED IN GLASGOW.—We learn from a British exchange that "21,480 persons will be turned out of their homes should the Glasgow Improvement Bill be passed. This number does not include a goodly population who will be removed by the proposed alterations of the 12 streets to be widened. No provision is to be made for the unhoused."

CONDITION OF THE ENGLISH FARM LABOURER.—We gather from a British exchange that at the recent quarterly meeting of the Eye Farmers' Club, the subject of discussion was "Farm Labourers." The Rev. F. G. Holmes, of Denham, introduced the topic by reading an able and elaborate paper, in which he contended that "the present condition of the labourer was miserably below what it ought to be and what it might be—a blot on the fair fame of this highly-favoured country, and a disgrace to a nation standing first among all others in commercial greatness, prosperity, and wealth."

THE SEWAGE PLANT.—The *Scientific Review* has the following:—"This fungus, the production of sewage, constitutes the great difficulty experienced in the filtration. It fills up the filters, preventing the passage of the fluid through them; and it coats the sides of sewers and drains. It is never found in water which does not contain organic matter. It is globular in form—unless when attached to fatty or other organic matter, when it becomes flocculent—and varies in size from that of a small seed to several inches; and is of a drab colour, passing into black. When broken, its smell is very disagreeable; and it appears to purify the sewage by absorbing the offensive gases. When, as in summer, the sewage contains a minimum quantity of these gases, it disappears, but is produced abundantly in the cold parts of the year."

A SABBATARIAN.—The *Kelso Mail* relates the following:—"Some time ago a young man, when travelling on a border moor, one Sunday, saw a fine salmon lying in a shallow stream. Owing to the sanctity of the day, conscientious scruples would not permit him to kill the lonely and helpless fish, although he was exceedingly anxious to get it into his possession. His ingenuity, however, hit upon what he seemed to consider a very safe compromise. Seizing the salmon, he carried it away to a retired pool, and there built a dry stone dyke around it, so that it might remain secure and unmolested until he found a convenient opportunity during the week to return for his fine prize. His scheme succeeded; in a few days he returned, and, free from all Sabbatarian pangs, took possession of the much coveted salmon, which he found safe and sound."

THE USE OF SAWDUST AS A LITTER.—A correspondent writes to *The Farmer* (Scottish) as follows:—"The fear of importing the *Rinderpest* through straw carted from farms at a distance, has induced me to litter my cows with sawdust. I should be glad to know through the medium of your columns what admixture would most speedily decompose the sawdust, and thus improve the manure as a fertilizer of land." Whereupon the Editor replies:—"Sawdust in its natural state is not easily decomposed, but it is an excellent absorbent for liquid manure, and when well soaked with urine, ferments readily. It is, therefore, a valuable material for bedding cattle, and no difficulty will be experienced in getting it to decompose, provided it has been thoroughly saturated. At one time we had the command of a large quantity of sawdust, which we used with great advantage as litter, and also for mixing with the night-soil of some extensive public works, for which purpose it answered admirably in every respect. It is stated by chemists that sawdust, during decomposition, forms certain acids, which act as excellent fixers of ammonia, and that when well mixed with dilute sulphuric acid, it is one of the best materials which can be employed for fixing the ammonia given off in stables."

THE RAT INVASION AT BRAEMAR.—The rat invasion in the Braemar district, which we noticed in a recent issue, continues to engage a particular amount of public and private interest in the north. A late number of *Bell's Messenger* contains the following additional particulars:—"An incessant and universal war is everywhere waged with merciless fury against the destructive vermin; even shooting has been in many instances resorted to as a speedy expedient. The use of poison even, in several cases has hitherto proved a failure, the otherwise voracious creatures avoiding contact with the deleterious food. Trapping has met with most success, but even that, after a few trials, has proved unfeasible, from their keen sagacity and acuteness. It has been observed that mice have all but disappeared wherever rats have fixed a lodgment. A severe storm of snow and frost may possibly produce a great diminution of their numbers and ravages, but as yet there is little, if any, abatement of their progress."

DROUGHT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—A British exchange gives a sad account of the disastrous drought in the "Far North" of South Australia:—"From Port Augusta to Nuccaleena the country is destitute of either vegetable or animal life. The Kanyaka and Ediowie stations are entirely deserted. Of 12,000 sheep on Mr. Peter Ferguson's station, it is expected that not one will be alive in a month's time. The settlers generally are abandoning the country. Messrs. Dunckel and Lockit, who bought the Chambers Creek station some time since with 4000 head of cattle upon it, have only 2000 left, and they have not branded a single calf or sold a head of cattle. They have abandoned the head station, and are living under the utmost privations in a hut constructed on the sand near a well. Hay at Hokina is £20 per ton, and oats 13s 6d per bushel. Even the tufts of saltbush are reduced to mere heaps of powder, and the remains of Kangaroos starved to death are scattered about the country."

A CANADIAN MARMOT IN A LONDON CELLAR.—Mr. Bartlett, the superintendant of the Zoological Gardens, lately received a note, dated from the Minories, stating that the writer had discovered a strange animal in the cellar, which was unknown to any of the naturalists in that region. Mr. Bartlett immediately dispatched two assistants from the gardens with all the appliances necessary for the capture and safe conveyance of the mysterious quadruped. "On reaching their happy hunting ground," says a correspondent of the *Field*, "the men succeeded in securing their spoil, and returned with it in triumph to the park. When there it was discovered to be a Canadian marmot. The question may be asked, how came it in a cellar in the Minories? Subsequent enquiry elicited the probable solution of the mystery. Late last autumn a sea-captain lodged in the house; he had some specimens of living animals; there is no doubt but that the marmot was amongst them, and, on escaping, found the cellars to afford comfortable winter quarters in which to hybernate. It must have had a pretty long sleep, which, perhaps, may be accounted for by the circumstance that the heat of our summer took some time to penetrate to his subterranean abode. In spite of his long trance, however, he was found in very good condition, and now appears to enjoy his quarters at the Zoological Gardens quite as well as his cellar in the Minories."

THE CAT RINDERPEST IN FORRES.—The *Forres Gazette* is responsible for the following:—"A disease has been prevalent in Forres for several weeks among the feline species, which has cut them off in every direction. The animals appear to be disinclined for food for a day or two, then they have running of water at the mouth and nose, dull bleared eyes, and great prostration of strength. They lounge about the earth or in by-corners, and do not touch food of any kind for days. They generally die on the eighth or ninth day." The *Elgin Currant*, with quiet humour, supplies the consolatory information that the fatal plague is on the decline. Thus: "It gives us very much pleasure indeed to be in a position to state that the cat plague in Forres, regarding which many paragraphs have appeared in newspapers all over the kingdom, is upon the decline. Several of the cases have terminated fatally, but the number of recoveries is now proportionably greater than was the case some ten days ago. The premonitory symptoms have changed. The pupils of the eyes have assumed quite a different aspect. The sneezing, in a great measure, has subsided, and the spasmodic motion of the fore paws has given place to a tremulous motion of the whiskers, which have an unnatural rigidity. In some cases, it has been observed that the animal, while labouring under the secondary symptoms of the pest, makes gyrations with amazing rapidity, as if in pursuit of its caudal appendage, a part of the animal often very seriously affected by the disorder."

Miscellaneous.

Agricultural Regions.

(BY J. M. DECOURTENAY.)

WEALTH OF HEAT.

A COMBINATION of unfortunate circumstances has tended to depress this country to a standard far beneath its natural position. The original system of French Colonisation was altogether military, and for the last century emigration has been drawn from climates in no way resembling our own. The Norwegian, Scotchman, or Northern Englishman, may feel at home during our winters, but no class of emigrants is prepared for the heat of our summers, and none know how to profit by the wonderful wealth of that heat, which appears to our populations only as an inconvenience to be apologised for. Had we endeavoured to obtain even a limited emigration accustomed to the broiling summers, and rigorous winters of the slopes of the Alps, Pyrenees, or Appenines, or many similar climates from Hungary to Crimea, we should long since have discovered that our lands had other resources, and other riches, than could be extracted from them by the "ne plus ultra" of our agricultural imagination, —a Scotch farmer.

Take away from France her wine, oil and silk, and imagine what would remain of her thirty-five millions of population, of her splendid army, of her Imperial Government. As long as Canada does not produce wine, oil, silk and hemp in abundance, she may be considered in comparatively the same condition of an imaginary France, reduced to the miserable resources of ordinary field crops. It appears to me to be a matter of the *greatest* importance that our meteorological position in relation to Agricultural productions should be well understood in Europe, where an appeal should be made to capital as well as to labour. It also appears to me that our great staple commodity is land, and our only hope an abundant flow of emigration, and that the question of "to be or not to be," depends upon our capacity of demonstrating that our land is equal, if not superior to any other such commodity upon this continent. Should we feel ourselves unable to solve that problem, we may in vain assure the world that we are a hard working people, enjoying a very healthy, although a very unpleasant and unprofitable climate, where a stout heart and hard muscles are required to support the apprenticeship of hardships, represented as the inevitable doom of those who must only expect to acquire a plain living in exchange for hard labour.

I do not believe that a sufficient appeal has been made to other than the most inferior class of labouring emigrants. It has certainly become a by-word in the country that *only* that class of men can succeed. A man, they say, must march against the forest—his axe upon his shoulder—and he alone can make it recoil. The result of such a system is the wilful destruction of our magnificent forests; poverty in the present, disorder, disaster and bankruptcy in the prospect; and all reason without examining the first principles of political economy, the relative position of capital and labour, and the absolute necessity of their union in order to develop our immense latent wealth, and create anything worthy of the attention of a really valuable portion of the European population. It would be our interest, I am satisfied, to demonstrate, that our Agricultural climate is *equal*, if not *superior* to any other in Europe, or upon this continent; and this I have endeavoured for years, by theory and practice to establish.

My practical efforts are known to most persons in this part of the Province, and I feel most grateful for the countenance and support I have obtained in Upper Canada, and hope to merit so much kindness by redoubling my efforts in a cause, which I am confidently persuaded will ultimately become an inexhaustible source of national prosperity and wealth.

My theories are few, and I should have hoped easily explained and understood—and are, "*That we enjoy the most favourable agricultural climate upon this Continent, or perhaps in Europe.*" My authorities are the *best* Europe can afford. The very celebrated Count de Gasperies in his "Cours D'Agriculture," vol. 4th, p. 639, declares—

"We can conclude that the climates *most* favour-