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Notes by the Way.

LOOK OUT FOR SQUALLS.

PROF. WIGGINS SAYS HIS STORM IS COMING.

Ottawa, Sept. 21.—Professor Wiggins states that his storm will certainly reach here to-day, when it will sweep over this part of the country at the rate of seventy miles an hour "I have no doubt," continued the doctor, "but it will arrive, and then I will be on top, and the scientists who have been disputing my contentions will not be in it."—(What English!)

"This here gentleman," said Sam, "was a prophet." "What's a prophet?" inquired Mr. Weller. "Why a man as tells what is going to happen," replied Sam.

And the unfortunate Dr. Wiggins attempts to tell what is going to happen; fails most lamentably; and whereas his predecessors in the charlatan business made lots of money and found heaps of supporters, the very Montreal papers that backed the two se' deceivers, have not a word even of pity for the deluded Wiggins. A great storm on the 21st of September! Why, do not the equinoxes generally bring gales? And did not Wiggins predict a storm in 1883, which storm actually kept its appointment? Bah! It is high time we gave up listening to this nonsense.

Here, again, is another poor creature who sends us a book all the way from Chicago, with a request that a favourable review of it may appear in this periodical. Such trash! entitled "The Cultivator's Hand-book," principally on the effect of planetary law—whatever that may be—upon crops and nations. Well may Goldwin Smith say that "we are on the eve of marvellous manifestations;" though we trust they will be more useful than those put forward in the following passages from the book we have in hand:

"Africans are black, coarse in features, and ungainly in form, because Africa is in general under Cancer and governed by the Moon."

"Large fields of potatoes, that cannot all be harvested in two or three days, should be dug during the last half of the Moon; if gathered in the new to full Moon, they will be watery, insipid, unwholesome. Sweet-potatoes dug before full Moon, will not keep.

Mr. Weekes' experiments—the same, pretty nearly as those of Mr. Cross—were an attempt to "create" a new species of insect by the action of the voltaic battery upon a saturated solution of silicate of potash. "Living insects did emerge, after every care that ingenuity could devise to exclude the possibility of a development of the insect from ova. The wood of the frames was baked, &c., &c.;" but, as Charles Kingsley says in that charming book "The Water Babies": "You may see mites (*acar*) in the Moon quite plain in a telescope, if you will only keep the lens dirty, as Mr. Weekes did his voltaic battery."

"It is a fact of common knowledge that the dead have been restored to life by electricity. A newly killed animal having the brains removed, and a substance that produced electric action placed in the cavity, digestion, that had ceased by death, was resumed and carried on, showing the absolute identity of the brain with a galvanic battery." The above will show that we cannot conscientiously recommend "The Cultivator's Handbook" to the attention of our readers.

Imports of Manures into England, in the first 6 months of 1894, were :

	Tons.	£
Bones.....	44,825	value 212,003
Guano.....	19,440	" 93,318
Nitrate of soda	83,558	" 790,574
Phosphate of		
Lime & Rock.	175,051	" 317,444
	322,874	" 1,413,339

for it shows that, both in the North and the South, British farmers are alive to the necessity of growing crops that have some chance of turning out profitable, and are giving up the old favourite wheat-crop as no longer the safe investment it used to be. The statement of the whole acreage of farmed lands, exclusive, we suppose, of the Downs of the South of England is as follows :

1895 COMPARED WITH 1894.

CROPS AND LIVE STOCK.	1895.		1894.		In-crease.	De-crease.	In-crease.	De-crease.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.				
Wheat.....	1,417,641	1,927,962	.....	510,321	.....	.....	.....	28.5
Barley.....	2,166,279	2,095,771	.....	70,508	.....	.....	.....	3.4
Oats.....	3,295,905	3,253,401	.....	42,504	.....	.....	.....	1.3
Potatoes.....	541,217	504,454	.....	36,763	.....	.....	.....	7.3
Hay :— Clover, and								
Rotation Grasses....	2,303,431	2,121,904	.....	181,527	.....	.....	.....	8.6
Hay :— Permanent								
Pasture.....	4,760,889	4,852,442	.....	91,553	.....	.....	.....	1.9
Hops.....	58,940	59,535	.....	595	.....	.....	.....	1.0

The imports in the first 6 months of this present year were somewhat less bones, but about the same of the other items; total diminution of imports 1,500 tons, value about £23,000.

Hops.—This plant seems to be going up, in England, instead of down; there were 2,740 acres more in hops this year than in 1892. Curious to see how very partial the crop is as regards locality: Nottinghamshire, that used to grow a nasty, heavy-yielding, coarse hop, only fit for the "Potteries' chaps," who like their ale as red as blood, only grew 14 acres in 1892, and none at all in '93, '94, '95; Gloucester remains constant to her 38 acres; Hampshire, does not vary much from her 2,850 acres; Surrey, including her excellent Farnham's, has some 50 acres less than usual; Worcester, with her pleasant mild-flavoured hops has planted 4,024, against 3,369 in 1892; and our own natal county, Kent, has 35,018 against 34,058 in 1892; while Sussex, prolific in yield but only fit for "country ales" and porter, has 7,489 to 7,124 in 1892. The quality this season is such as has not been seen for many a year.

Acreage of wheat.—We spoke some few weeks ago of the wisdom of the Scotch in sowing so small an extent of land with wheat, seeing that their soil, and particularly their climate, is so much better adapted to the growth of oats. We have recently received the September No. of the Journal of the Board of Agriculture of England, from the Secretary, and in it we find a return of the acreage of all the crops grown in the United Kingdom in the years 1894 and 1895. In England, the extent of land in wheat, in '94, was 1,389,806 acres, of which the chief producing counties were :

Lincoln.....	139,230 acres
Norfolk.....	106,812 "
Yorkshire.....	92,969 "

And in Scotland :

Fife.....	7,075 "
Forfar.....	6,578 "

down to Aberdeen, Selkirk, and Sutherland 1 acre each; the whole extent of the Scotch wheat-crop being only 33,706 acres, in round number 11,000 acres less this year than in 1894.

This decrease of wheat-crop is very interesting to an impartial observer,

Two items in the above are important: the decrease of the Wheat-crop 510,321 acres, equal in an average of years to something like 15½ million bushels; and the increase of the Clover and Rotation-grasses, 91,553 acres, equal to about 136,000 gross tons. We are happy to add to all these statistics that since harvest, the condition of the stacked wheat that has been threshed is so excellent that the weight of the bushel is quite a pound more than the weight of a bushel of last year's wheat; consequently, millers are only too anxious to get the home-grown wheat, whereas usually, at this time of year, foreign wheat has the preference. The yield too is far better than was expected, the average per acre being calculated at, say, 28 bushels.

Apples in England are an enormous crop! Any keeping fruit is fetching a decent price, but early apples go for nothing, and in counties like Kent, where cider is rarely made, as the farmers there only grow dessert-fruit, presses are being sought for; wind-falls are quite neglected, not being considered worth picking up. The dessert-fruit will not make really good cider, but it will be better to utilise the fruit thus than to let it rot in the orchards.

Clover-seed.—In spite of the enormous second cut clover-crop, the yield of seed will be slight in England. The heads seem to have but little in them, as the sunny weather came too late to set the seed. Wherefore, we strongly advise farmers here not to be in a hurry to sell their clover seed, if they have any to spare.

Potatoes, in the old country, are like apples this year, i. e., too heavy a crop to be worth much. There is hardly any disease, and the quality is capital. In the neighbourhood of Quebec, too, we see by last night's (Sept. 28th) paper that farmers are selling at 18 cents a bushel! Well, it may be so, but the last sack we bought from a St-Catherine St. butcher's market cost us 75cts. = 50 cents a bushel, even if the sack was full weight, which it was not! At 20 cents a bushel, potatoes pay better to feed than to sell.

Splendide Mendax! is the compliment our old friend Horace pays to an illustrious lady who saved her bridegroom's life when her forty-