

REPORT OF THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Presidents and Directors, in presenting the Twenty Eighth report of this Society, conceive it of advantage among other things to offer some remarks upon the importance of Agriculture to this County, and to the Province generally, and they are led to call the attention of the Farmers, particularly at this time, to this object from the depressed state of every branch of commercial pursuit, and to bring under consideration the benefits which our resources have derived from the proper cultivation of the land, showing, that it is one true and permanent interest no longer to overlook the encouragement, it holds out to us, to produce the same results here as elsewhere, and to be stimulated to exertion under the conviction that upon agriculture the independence, stability and greatness of every country, chiefly depends. We see, that our commercial relations, with the mother country and other places from various causes, particularly become extremely depressed, and the whole Province thrown upon its own resources, and these resources are principally the products of our land—it is therefore an object of great consideration under the improved system of agriculture, to pursue this branch of industry with increased vigour in the preparation of land for the reception of seed of all kinds, to meet the present emergency.

One of the difficulties which presents itself to our Farmers, and is a matter of great complaint, is the expense of keeping stock upon hay, through a long and tedious winter, but much of this expense however, can be avoided with feeding the stock upon straw and root crops; in many countries dry stock, and even cows have been kept in this way during winter, and it is recommended that this system should be generally adopted, and its utility would in various ways soon press its own importance, and one of the advantages would be that the farmer might still feed his cattle and other stock at a time, when a remunerating price could be obtained.

As an inducement to this part of husbandry, turnips and other root crops can be raised with great ease and at a small expense, and these farmers, who live on the sea side have abundant and excellent manure at hand in the live muscle which surrounds our shores. By this means the farmer can increase his stock, and consequently his compost heaps of manure, as an ample supply of manure upon a farm is all important to its successful cultivation, and from the want of it no farming can be made available, under any circumstance in this country.

The Presidents and Directors with great concern advert to the failure of the potato crop this season; the disease of last year has been very generally destructive of that excellent root, so much so that it is apprehended, that good seed, for the next spring will be extremely scarce and dear; it is to be regretted, that heretofore too much dependence has been placed upon this crop to the neglect of a more general cultivation, but under existing circumstances of disease, it is a matter of prudence to every farmer, to meet this deficiency by an increased attention to the cultivation of grain and other root crops.

The wheat crop, the last season has been only an average crop, and among the causes of failure, the want had its share in its destruction. In order to extend the production of this valuable bread stuff for which so much money goes a foreign land yearly, every attention should be given to increase manure, by raising green crops, which experience, in all countries, especially in Great Britain has shown, are such valuable preparatory crops for the raising grain. It is well known, that clover and root crops have been principally the cause of the improved state of husbandry, and have brought it to its present perfection in other countries. But as wheat is rather an uncertain crop, more attention should be given to the cultivation of oats which generally is a sure and productive crop. The straw is good for fodder for young cattle, and the meal manufactured from the grain is found to be better for family use than any imported, and for freshness decidedly superior, and as there is a good kiln, and a mill for the manufacture of all kinds of grain erected in this place, the farmer has every encouragement for increased exertion in this branch of agriculture.

The cultivation of Barley should be attended to, as it generally produces a good return, and comes to maturity at an earlier period than either oats or wheat. When manufactured it is an article of food, either alone or mixed with wheat flour, and a very great auxiliary as breadstuffs in a family.

The Presidents and Directors finding it impossible to procure a horse from England, last spring in time to be of service to the County, authorized an experienced gentleman to proceed to the United States for that object, who succeeded in the purchase of one in the State of Vermont of the Morgan breed; and they trust the horse so purchased will prove satisfactory to the Society and to the County generally. At the last annual meeting of the Society, the President and Directors were instructed to apply to the Legislature for an

Act of the Assembly incorporating the Society, in order that the business arrangements might be conducted with more facility, and now beg leave to report that an Act was obtained, making the Society a body corporate for all necessary purposes. The annual cattle show and fair took place on the Sixteenth day of October last. The show of cattle was of various character. The sum of Forty-two pounds ten shillings was awarded as premiums to persons exhibiting specimens of stock and domestic manufacture.

The sheep, exhibited were English and half blood, of a very good quality, and showed evident improvement in this species of stock. The swine were also of a superior kind, and it is satisfactory to remark that the money expended for the improvement in this respect has been amply repaid.

Brooding mares and colts gave great satisfaction, and it is confidently expected, that from the means taken by the Society to improve the breed of horses, that their efforts will not be unavailing.

The butter produced for premiums was large in quantity and of a very superior quality, showing beyond a doubt that this County is well adapted to dairy purposes; and the President and Directors are warranted, in coming to the conclusion, that upon a proper selection of stock that this branch of husbandry will well remunerate the Farmer. A most important branch of domestic industry is the manufacture of cloths, and from the samples for competition at the last fair, and the interest shown, the conclusion must be, that there is a proper spirit abroad, and that Farmers have come to know that it is all important for their interests in making cloth for their families, and thereby saving their money in this expenditure. And generally the President and Directors have pleasure in stating that a very commendable spirit of competition was manifested by all parties interested in the progressive improvement of the objects of this Society.

In conclusion, the Presidents & Directors must impress upon the members of the Society, and the farmers generally, the importance of being up and doing in matters of Agriculture, and by united exertions, to endeavor progressively to reach that independence, which a proper cultivation of the land will assuredly bestow.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. T. PAUL, Secy.
St. Andrews, Jan. 11th, 1848.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Vera Cruz, Dec. 16, 1847.

The English courier has just arrived from Mexico, and brings the following intelligence:—The Commissioners appointed by the Government of Queretaro to meet Mr. Trist on arriving at Mexico, finding that his powers had been withdrawn from him, returned to Queretaro to get further authority to go to Havana, and there meet commissioners to be appointed by the United States to treat of peace.

Mr. Trist does not come with this train on order and a General. Twigs and a Perce is was anticipated; but awaits in Mexico the return of the Mexican Commissioners.

Gen. Butler and Col. Johnson were met at Puebla with their respective commands. I have conversed with several retired volunteers from Puebla and other cities of note, and the representations they make of the sickness of the troops garrisoned in the city, is truly distressing—entire regiments have scarcely a sufficient number of able-bodied men for guard-duty.

The Mexican portion of the population of this city are said to be in a miserable condition—many of them without sustenance, or the actual necessities of life. Government alleviates much suffering, however—many of them are fed from the commissariat.

A REMARKABLE CASE.—The British Court of Queen's Bench, all the Judges assembled, has declared that to marry the sister of a deceased wife is in violation of the law of England, such marriages having been prohibited by two statutes passed in the reign of Henry the Eighth. The decision was pronounced in the case of one Ohadwick, whose wife, Harriet Fisher, having died, he married her sister, Anne, but being advised that his marriage was illegal, afterwards disregarded it and married another, Anne Fisher, being still living. For this third marriage he was indicted on the charge of bigamy, and convicted, but the conviction is now set aside, the Court holding that his marriage with Anne Fisher was no marriage at all. A hard case for poor Anne.

The Board of Trade of Montreal have addressed a memorial to His Excellency the Governor General, on the subject of the arrest of their special messenger, who was detained by the Authorities of the United States, for an alleged violation of their laws, although he offered to pay the postage and other imposts due on the letter parcels and packages he carried. Owing to this detention, the Merchants of Montreal were subjected to serious inconvenience, the steam-

ship having sailed before the messenger could reach Boston, and it may occasion serious loss and discredit to the houses in England connected with Canada, whose remittances were so arbitrarily detained by the Authorities of the United States. His Excellency was pleased to state that he would immediately communicate with the Post Master General on the subject.

St. Andrews and Woodstock Railway.—We understand that Earl Fitzwilliam, the Chairman of the London Board of this Company, has intimated his intention to give further support to the undertaking, and has requested the Company to enter on what terms they will undertake to receive one thousand families, and settle them in the vicinity of the railway line.

During the past season, Earl Fitzwilliam has sent 1200 persons from his Wicklow estates to Canada, where they were provided for, and many of them located at his lordship's sole expense. At the present time his lordship appears to be exerting himself very successfully in Ireland, as appears from the *London Daily News* of the 11th December:—

"The Earl Fitzwilliam, though an absentee, is not insensitive to the wants of the poor on his Wicklow estates, as well as to the necessity of keeping down the rates, by affording employment remunerative to the proprietor, occupier, and labourer. The noble lord, who is well seconded by his prosperous tenants, has joined with them in a voluntary rate for the support of the unemployed poor for four months. The subscription is one pound on the poor-law valuation. The rate having been collected, a list was made out of all who required support, and if were able to work. The names were then drawn by ballot, and assigned to the subscribers in proportion to their respective contributions. If a proprietor has not work he may assign his right to any person he pleases. There is a roll of all the labourers each week, which gives the subscribers a fair chance. An industrious workman one week may be replaced the next week by a better."

The Great Tunnel under the Pool.—This work is about the only one in connection with the London and North Western system, in which there are no particular appearances of suspension, the object being to connect as soon as possible, by a tunnel of 2½ miles, the goods depot at Egham with the North Docks at the water's edge, where the bulk of all the foreign shipping arrives. When completed, ships' cargoes will be taken direct to Edgworth without the present excessive cost of cartage. The tunnel is called the Victoria tunnel, and the contractors, Messrs. Higgs and McCormack, who have between 1000 and 2000 men on it at work, have already carried the railway half through. The operations are very dangerous, and in some places shake the foundations of the houses, which at many points are only at 50 to 80 feet above the level where the rails are to be laid, while in other places there is a variation of from 50 to 100 feet. This tunnel underlines in its course three or four places of worship, churches, Quakers' meeting houses, and Baptist chapels, which will be only 60 feet above the level of the locomotive. One-half the tunnel is good to work through, consisting of rock and sandstone; but as it approaches the locks, the soil is of a treacherous kind and rubbish. The railway have to pay compensation to the owners of every house and building the tunnel passes under.

The papers inform us that the Duchess of Montague has been deer-stalking, and shot four splendid bucks in the Marquis of Breadalbane's forest. Our own opinion is that a lady should never shoot more than one buck or one deer at a time; that the said animal should be of two-legged character, and only be fired at from her eyes. We have no fancy for sporting ladies. As Lady Macbeth says, "all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this hand which has the smell of blood upon it," although it be only the blood of the beasts of the forest. If women are angels they should confine themselves to angelic works.—*Liverpool Soap-trug.*

We learn that a Despatch has been received from Earl Grey, in answer to the Resolutions passed by the Common Council of this City, relative to the influx of pauper emigrants the past season. The Colonial Secretary regrets the additional burthen to which the Province has been subjected, and expresses his willingness to bring the subject before the Imperial Parliament, in order that this Colony may be reimbursed for the expense incurred in supporting so many destitute people.

The Resolutions were prepared and laid before the Common Council by His Worship the Mayor, who has thus brought the matter directly under the notice of Her Majesty's Government, and relieved the local Legislature from discussion on the subject. While we cordially approve of the wise policy which dictated this course of action, we cannot but feel gratified at the conduct of the home Government in determining to relieve the peo-

ple of this Province from a share in the expences incurred in the maintenance of the destitute emigrants who have landed on our shores.—*New Brunswick.*

The Number of the Stars.—By Arago.—We found in the Northern Hemisphere 3,100 stars visible to the naked eye. And for the purpose of counting, we proceed in this way: through a narrow slit, corresponding with the meridian of the place of observation, we look attentively and note the stars gradually as they appear. The following approximate calculation will give an inferior limit to the number of stars visible with the powerful instruments of which we have the use.

Observation has demonstrated that the number of the stars of the second magnitude is triple that of the first magnitude; that those of the second magnitude is triple that of the third, and so on.

Let us, then, admit this law to the 14th magnitude of stars which the most powerful instruments renders visible, as the numbers of stars of the first magnitude is eighteen, then the number of stars visible by the naked eye and with telescopes as far as the 14th magnitude, will be about twenty-nine millions; and if to these twenty-nine millions we add to those of the 13th and 12th magnitudes, &c., we obtain the number of forty-three millions of stars.

Herschel, in that part of the heavens occupied by the knee of Orion, in a band fifteen degrees long by two degrees wide, has distinctly counted fifty thousand stars. And as that band is only the three hundred and seventy-sixth part of the celestial vault, the entire surface of the heavens must contain 65,755,000 visible stars with the telescope. And as we must remark, in a great many regions of the heavens, the stars are much closer together, and that with our telescopes we only reach the least distant celestial spaces, and the stars least remote, we must recognise the fact that the first estimate of their numbers is infinitely far from the truth; and that admitting one visible star in each square minute, we must have a number distinct stars amounting to one hundred and forty-eight millions; five hundred and seven thousand, two hundred stars, and yet remain much below the truth. There are, then, 148 millions of stars, and our sun is one of them only. The mass of our earth is but the 353th million part of that of our sun; we are but an atom in relation to our earth; the place we occupy is then infinitely small, and we more than infinitely little.

CONTENT AND DISCONTENT.

Two little girls went into the fields to gather flowers. Here they found buttercups, dandelions, violets, and many other pretty blossoms. One of the children was pleased with everything, and began to pick such flowers as she met with. In a little while this girl had collected quite a bunch of flowers, and though some of them were not very handsome, yet altogether they made a beautiful bouquet. The other child was more dainty, and determined to pick no flowers but such as were very beautiful. She declined to gather the dandelions, for they were so common; and she would not pick the buttercups, for they were all of one colour, and did not take her fancy. Even the blue violets were not good enough for her. Thus the little pair wandered on through the fields till they were about to return home. By this time the dainty child, seeing that her sister had a fine collection of flowers, while she had none, began to think it best to pick such as she could get. But now the flowers were scarce; not even a dandelion, a buttercup, nor a violet was to be found. At length the little girl begged a single dandelion of her sister, and thus they returned home. When the two children went to their mother, she asked how it happened that one had so pretty a bouquet, while the other had but a single flower. The children told their story, and their mother then spoke to them as follows:—

My dear children, let this little event teach you a useful lesson. Jane has been the wiser of the two. Content with such flowers as came in her way, and not aiming at what was beyond her reach, she has been successful in her pursuit, and has brought back a beautiful bunch of flowers. But Laura, who could not stoop to pick up buttercups and dandelions, because she wanted something more beautiful than could be found, collected nothing from the field, and was finally obliged to beg a dandelion of her sister. Thus it will always happen, my children, in passing through life. If you are content with simple pleasures and innocent enjoyments, such as are scattered freely along your path, you will, day by day, gather enough to make you contented and happy. If, on the contrary, you scorn simple pleasures and innocent enjoyments, and reach after those who are more rare and difficult to be obtained, you will meet with frequent disappointments, and at last become dependent on others. Seek not, then, my children, for costly enjoyments, or extravagant pleasures. Be industrious in gathering those which are lawful, and which are adapted to your situation. In this way you will culti-

cate a contented spirit, and secure your own peace. If, on the other hand, you disdain enjoyments that are suited to your state and capacity, you will be hard to please, and perpetual discontent will dwell in your bosom.—Thus you see that one course will result in something better than riches, while the other will bring evils that are worse than poverty.—*Green's Axiom.*

[From the London S. S. Teachers' Magazine.]

VISIT TO RIDGELY HILL.

What a costly thing is experience. We ought all to be wiser to-day than we were yesterday. I have not yet forgotten going to Ridgely Hill. Never having been there before, and the road being a little intricate, it is no great wonder that I did not go the near way. Field after field was traversed by me, and lane after lane, and the road did certainly seem rather long.

When I came to the hill it appeared no light affair to get to the top of it, but to the top I was determined to go. No sooner had I clambered up high enough to see a little around me, than I was clear that, in my approach, a wrong turning had been made, adding, thereby, at least a quarter of a mile to my ramble. By the time I had gained the crag, half up the hill, it was equally plain that two wrong turnings had been taken by me; but when I arrived at the top, and traced the whole course of my ramble, my wrong turnings appeared to be nearer ten than two. "Thus it is with us as we journey onward in life; the older we grow, the plainer we see the errors of our earlier years, and happy may he account himself, who, in age, can discover but few wrong turnings in the days of his youth; whoever he may be, that man is not 'Ephraim Holding.' I wish that a hundred of my youthful friends would set off to Ridgely hill, that they might learn the lesson that was thus impressed on my memory.—*Ephraim Holding's' allusions.*

HUMILITY.

A girl, about to leave her Sabbath school to go into the country, informed one of the teachers; when the teacher inquired if she loved the Sabbath school? Her reply was, "Yes, sir." "And if you could do anything for the school would you do it?" "Yes," she replied, with a beam of pleasure on her countenance, "that I would." Well then, said the teacher, you can do something. What can I do, sir? Why, you can pray to God to bless your teachers and school-fellows. She answered, I can't pray. Why not pray? At this question the scene changed; the smile, which glowed a few moments before, forsok her countenance, and she burst into tears. Her reply was, I cannot pray of myself; the Spirit of God must help me. This remark was true; we ought all to feel that we need help from God to enable us to pray. Let us ask God then to teach us to pray, remembering that Jesus says, "Without me ye can do nothing."—[London Tract Society's Anecdotes.]

An Anecdote.—We cut the following from an exchange:

A young practitioner at the Scotch Bar had offended the Judges, by saying that he was surprised at a decision they had come to in some case with which he was connected. The Judges, offended with his impertinence, forbade him to plead until he had made a suitable apology. For this purpose he applied to a noted advocate, who agreed to do the needful for him. When the Court opened next morning, he accordingly arose, poured out his young friend's sorrow in very feeling terms, and concluded by saying—"My young friend is very sorry for having said, that he was surprised at your decision, and has desired me to offer his humble apology. He has not had much experience at the Bar, nor much acquaintance with your decisions, for had he known you half as long as I have done I'll be hanged if he would be surprised at anything you would do."

A kite having risen to a very great height, meted in the air as stately as a prince, and looked down with much contempt on all below. What a superior being I am now, said the kite; who has ever ascended so high as I have? What a poor grovelling set of beings are all these beneath me! I despise them! And then he shook his head in derision; and again he soared along with as much state as if every thing that was beneath him were as low as he; when suddenly the string broke, and down fell the kite with greater haste than he ascended, and was greatly hurt in the fall.

Pride often meets with a downfall. Let us beware, lest we sink with contempt on those below us, lest while we are carrying ourselves loftily, our circumstances may be changed, and we be placed as low in the world as we well can be. Little children that have rich friends to-day may have poor ones to-morrow; for such changes happen to many.—[Cobbins's Fables.]

Who were the most wonderful people of ancient Rome? The Roman historians, because they carried their faces in their hands. No doubt of it.