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# JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

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### The Field and Farm Yard.

#### CONTEMPLATED IMPORTATION OF STOCK.

In accordance with a suggestion of the Board of Agriculture, and a recommendation of the Agricultural Committee of the House, the Legislature last session voted a sum of \$10,000, for the Importation of Stock, with a view to improve the breeds of Horses and Cattle in the Province.

The benefits to be realized from this importation will depend very much upon the judgment exercised in selecting and transporting the animals; and in order to secure as large and valuable an importation as possible, rigid economy will be required.

After much consideration it has been determined to purchase both horses and cattle in England, and to defer the final arrangements for the importation till December. It is found that there will be facilities for having the animals brought out in a comfortable manner very early next spring, in time for use next season, so that the advantages of a fall importation will to a certain extent be secured, without the risk and expense of having to keep the animals over winter in the Province.

This arrangement will afford certain other advantages. The Board of Agriculture will be enabled to add to the sum voted by the Legislature such surplus funds as can be spared, after providing for other requirements,

and Agricultural Societies desirous of expending the whole, or any portion of their funds, in the purchase of pure stock will be enabled to do so under the most advantageous circumstances, through the Agricultural Board. Every effort will be made to render this importation a permanent benefit to the province.

It is gratifying to know that in the meantime the immediate and pressing wants of societies are being met by the societies themselves, by importing rams from neighboring provinces this season.

#### HORSE RACING.

English horse racing, like other sports and amusements, has its good and its bad side. Much may be said on either. It is often said good and bad men may alike be found on the race course. The very best of men are found to be capable of admiring Shakspeare, and of appreciating the merits of a fast horse. But it seems to be with the race course as with the theatre. It constantly brings about itself an atmosphere more congenial to fast men of loose moral habits, than to the honest, hard-working, industrious class upon whom the progress of the world depends. Yet those who would shun the race course rabble read with interest an account of the race itself, and perceive in the long-tried superiority of English horses of all breeds, and the keen interest of Englishmen in racing sports, something more than an accidental coincidence. Then comes a sigh that the virtues of the race course

cannot be, or have not yet been, separated from its vices.

#### SHOULD WE RACE IN NOVA SCOTIA?

Should we ape the Derby? Should genuine English racing, with its pure blood and high betting, be gone into in Nova Scotia? That is a matter that may very well be left with those who have a taste for the pursuit, and who have the necessary means to carry it out. Racing would, no doubt, tell upon the muscles of our horses, as athletic sports tell upon the muscles of our men. If there is a waste of money in the one case, and of time in the other, the outlay is not in either without its return. The waste of morals, in the case of racing, as too often pursued, is the serious waste, yielding no adequate return, that we ought chiefly to regard. As for the American system of running a horse 100 miles, till he drops down dead (of which we read the other day in the papers,) that is a cruelty that would not be tolerated in England, and we hope will never be attempted in Nova Scotia.

At the Canadian and American Agricultural exhibitions a kind of racing has grown up within the last few years which wants the objectionable features of the English race course,—the betting and fastness which so often ruin the men of the turf, and lead them sometimes to serious crimes, and very often to a general looseness of moral life. At these exhibitions a suitable trial course is formed where the horses on exhibition may be exercised, (in harness or otherwise,) and this exercising usually resolves itself into a virtual racing, which is kept up for a day or two to the great enjoyment of spectators. The fullest opportunity is afforded for showing off the good qualities of every horse, of every driver, and of every rider. There may be a

little betting *sub rosa*, just as every transaction in life is liable to betting, but it forms no feature in the game. Now this is the kind of modified racing that is suitable to a colony, a kind of racing in which every owner of a horse may take part, under the salutary regulation that neither his own neck nor his horse's are to be endangered, no prize for mere speed given, and no temptation offered to betting or gambling. The effect is to foster in the mind of the farmer, as of the city tradesman, a pride in his horse, and to secure that care in selection and attention in keeping, without which our horses never can improve.

If we cannot have Epsom racing and English fox-hunting in Nova Scotia, we may at least have a trial course after the Canadian fashion, which would have one good effect; it would lead to fewer exhibitions of awkward and reckless driving round the street corners that are now a daily terror to the citizens of Halifax.

It will of course be argued (and justly) that those exhibition "trials" are not racing in the proper sense of the term. But it is a great mistake to suppose that they are of less interest to the horse-loving public than an actual race. Nearly all the advantages of the proper race course are secured, with others that cannot be there attained. When Elson went to New Brunswick last summer, the young men suddenly took to pedestrianism. In Halifax the desire for physical exercise has developed itself into cricketing. Who will say that cricket, without any prizes or betting, is less useful or less exciting than a walking or running foot race for 50 or 60 dollars a side?

#### THE DERBY DAY OF 1865.

The Derby day was unusually attractive this year, and the accounts of the race will be read with care, not by turf men alone, but by all who feel an interest in horses. The French horse **GLADIATEUR** carried off the palm, distancing the finest horses of England. Englishmen will not lightly let go the proud pre-eminence which English race horses have so long enjoyed as the finest in the world, and assuredly the Derby day of 1865 will not be without its effects in the stables and on the turf. We select from the English papers some of the details that are most likely to interest our readers:—

The Derby of 1865 is one which will long be remembered, and will occupy a prominent position in the history of the turf, for it will be recorded that this year—the year of the jubilee of peace between England and France, the completion of the half century since Waterloo—**Gladiator** avenged the defeat of 1815, and the splendid French horse of Count Lagrange wrested from Englishmen one of their proudest and most cherished honours, the blue riband of the turf.

To the friends of the turf it is, however, a somewhat serious matter that for the first time since Diomed won the Derby, now 86 years since, none but an English horse had attained to the highest and proudest honour of the turf. Englishmen can afford to be generous in this matter, and although many may regret, none will grudge, the enterprising Count the results of his gallant contest.

The horses about to take part in the race had been mustered in the paddock, where, as usual, persons were admitted to view them upon the payment of a special fee. The principal objects of curiosity were naturally

**Gladiator** and **Breadalbane**, though many still clung to the belief that there were points about **Wild Charley** which would render him a formidable rival. **Christmas Carol** improved as much as **Long-down** was depreciated upon close acquaintance. It was known by this time that **Mr. Jackson's** horse **Jupiter** would not be a competitor; all the others, however, were starters, and a new horse, **Kate Hampton**, was added to the list, thereby completing the original number of thirty. Leaving the paddock, the horses came in front of the Grand Stand for their preliminary canter. Among the first to show themselves were **Gladiator** and **LeMandarin**, both of whom were warmly welcomed. A considerable interval elapsed before **Breadalbane** made his appearance, but when he came forward, accompanied by **Broomielaw**, his backers likewise seemed encouraged by his appearance. There were some, of course, among the crowd who having backed particular horses concentrated their attention on them; but the great mass of the spectators had eyes or ears for nothing except the two horses accepted as representatives of the two nations. The canter up hill showed a slight but still a decided advantage of temper on the side of the French horse. **Grimshaw**, his jockey, was conversing with somebody, when **LeMandarin** started off in advance; **Gladiator** followed instinctively, and with good will. **Breadalbane**, on the contrary, when his time came, threw back his ears, and was a second or two in settling into his stride. The canter down hill was still more decidedly in favor of the French horse. His action throughout was so smooth and regular and sweeping that most persons made up their minds there and then as to the probable result of the race. The starting was attended with a considerable amount of vexation, and with one unfortunate accident, **Sharpe**, the rider of **Mr. White's Joker**, being thrown from his seat, and so much injured that, although he was able to rise from the ground, he did not attempt to take part in the race, and the horse was accordingly led back to the paddock.

At last, just as the clock was about to strike four, the horses got away together, and till the ascent, or first half mile, had been traversed, there was not a symptom of lagging on the part of any. Round the corner they swept at a tremendous pace, and then one dropped back a little, and a knot of four or five stood out a length in advance. There were fewer dark colours than usual in the group, and consequently it was not easy to distinguish the position of the favourites; but as there were two or three patches of red well to the front, and as **Gladiator's** jockey wore red sleeves and cap, while **Breadalbane's** colours were "all rose," the excitement grew absolutely feverish. In the straight run home, none of the familiar colours occupied the expected position; and, until just touching the Grand Stand, **Christmas Carol** and **Eltham**, running their very best, appeared to have matters their own way. The width of the Grand Stand, however, determined the race. With a sudden rush **Gladiator** disentangled himself from the knot of horses that concealed him from view, passed first one and then another, and finally drew abreast of the leader himself. **Grimshaw** seemed to expect that he would have to rush for it against **Christmas Carol**, and in that expectation raised his whip and gave one stroke to the favourite, who re-

sponded with a stride that, despite previous performances, seemed almost supernatural. **Christmas Carol**, on the contrary, was capable of maintaining his pace, but no more, and **Gladiator** accordingly shot in an easy winner by a couple of lengths. **Eltham** was third; **Long-down** an indifferent fourth.

The sensation produced when it was known that the French horse had actually won was something indescribable. The barriers burst like so many cobwebs, and fully half the spectators present flocked on to the racecourse, so that from the paddock well nigh to **Tattenham** corner there was one dense, swarming, excited mass of humanity. The utmost efforts of the police with difficulty sufficed to clear and keep the space requisite for unsaddling, and although there appeared to be no visible need for the precaution, **Gladiator** was escorted into this area by a force of mounted constabulary. His jockey was repeatedly and very cordially cheered, and the friends of **Count de Lagrange** applauded again and again.

**Gladiator** has been purchased for the State Stud in France.

It is said that the Emperor of the French is as proud of the victory as if his army had gained a great battle.

#### GLADIATEUR'S MASTER.

**Gladiator** was owned by **Count de Lagrange** only son of the Minister of War to **King Jerome**.

The Count has a very large hereditary property; his principal residence is the **Chateau de Danger**, in the **Vexin**. It is surrounded by magnificent farms, the land being worth 200*l.* the *arpent*. The park contains five hundred English acres. **Count de Lagrange's** purchase of the **D'Aumont** stud, which he bought as it stood, startled his friends. The present flourishing state of the French turf dates from this purchase. The Count's *haras* is eight miles from the chateau, a most picturesque road leading to it. The stables are built in the centre of 700 acres of the finest pasture land in France. They contain at this moment five horses, forty brood mares, and thirty-six one-year old colts.

#### THE PARIS RACES.

At the Paris races which took place subsequent to the Derby, **Gladiator** came in first by three lengths.

#### STEEPLE CHASE IN NEW JERSEY.

At the steeple chase in New Jersey, "**Nannie Craddock**," of Toronto, came in first, followed by three Montreal horses, over a course of 3½ miles; time, 9.24.

#### EXTENSION OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY —A SHEEP SOCIETY.

England had its society—and a highly beneficial one it was—for the "**Improvement of British Wool**." There is no reason why we should not have something of the same kind in Nova Scotia. The idea, in fact, is likely to be acted upon. A number of persons in **Barrington**, in the county of **Shelburne**, are forming themselves into a society for the promotion of sheep husbandry. Owing to the rocky character of the soil in that section of the country, it is not adapted to extensive agricultural operations of the ordinary kind. The society is being organized, therefore, for

the special purpose of testing the capabilities of that portion of the country for sheep farming, on the plan usually adopted in Scotland. It is proposed to purchase improved breeds of sheep suitable for a rough country. We wish the project every success, and will look with interest for the result of the experiment. The office-bearers of the new society are A. C. A. Doane, *President*; O. W. Homer, *Vice-President*; R. H. Crowell, *Secretary*; F. Homer, *Treasurer*. *Directors*: S. Westwood, R. Hogg, W. Watt, A. Watson, and Jacob Kendrick.

### FARM AND GARDEN OPERATIONS IN AUGUST.

Usually by far the most important operations of this month are the mowing, curing, and housing of HAY. But this year the hay season has advanced so rapidly in July that there is not much haying left for the month of August. It is only in late localities that haying will form a prominent feature in the month's operations.

In Cape Breton and some other eastern parts of the province, haying was protracted last year to a very late period, by the prevalence of wet weather. Much of the hay had to lie on the ground for weeks, from this cause. In some wet countries a practice is in use which might advantageously be introduced in such cases. The hay is spread upon hurdles raised sufficiently above the ground to allow a free current of air to pass underneath. In this way the hay does not suffer from rain, and dries very rapidly. Hurdles such as those commonly used for the drying of fish would answer, and they might be made much simpler and more economically than those; all that is wanted is a cheap, temporary, easily handled support for the hay, which might be improvised by the use of old fence poles, or similar material. Where (as in P. E. Island) the fields are fenced by portable fences (called "flakes" in Scotland,) these might be conveniently used for curing the hay.

So soon as haying is completed, it will be necessary for the farmer to look about the fields and farm yard to see what operations, if any, have been neglected during that engrossing season. The Cows and other cattle will probably be turned into the fields to enjoy the after-math; it will be well to see that they do not suffer by the sudden change of food. Whenever an animal seems to do so, do not wait for serious illness, but give it at once a dose of Epsom salts,—say half a pound for a cow,—it can do no harm, and may save a great deal of after trouble, as well as the life of the animal. Horses will feel better of a little nitre.

Before turning the cattle into the hay field it is necessary to see that apple and other FRUIT TREES (especially young ones) are properly secured from their depredations, otherwise a scratchy cow may break down more trees before breakfast than she is worth. The most effectual protection is to drive in four stakes around the tree, each at a distance of two yards or so from it, and to connect these with horizontal rails. Less grass is lost by driving in the stakes obliquely near the root of the tree, and allowing their tops to spread out from it.

It is a good practice to TOP DRESS the grass lands as soon as possible after the hay is cut. With this view attention should be given to the compost heaps, and, where practicable

the compost may be at once carted to the fields. If not done now the probability is that wet weather will come on and prevent its being done until winter comes, with its bad weather, short days, and many cares. Lime and bone dust may also be applied at this time with good effect. Ashes, guano, superphosphate, and other manures containing much soluble matter we would prefer to apply in the spring.

ROOT CROPS should be kept clean and well hoed.

This is a good time to make plantations of STRAWBERRIES, so as to enable the plants to get well established before the approach of winter.

In the FRUIT GARDEN the principal operation of the month is the gathering of fruit; and in the FLOWER GARDEN little requires to be done beyond weeding and tidying. Dahlias and other tall autumn flowers should be tied to their stakes, and verbenas pegged down so as to cover the borders. Carnations will require to be layered, and cuttings made of pansies, pinks, &c., for flowering next season. The seeds of annuals will now begin to ripen, and should be carefully collected, and dried in the sun. Sage and savory for winter use may be tied up in bundles, and dried in the shade.

All fruit trees and bushes should be labelled as the fruit ripens, so that the varieties may be afterwards known, when cuttings or scions are required.

**NEW MEMBER OF THE AGRICULTURAL BOARD.**—His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to appoint Henry Yeomans, Esq., to be a member of the Board of Agriculture, in place of Capt. Hugonin, resigned.

**NEWPORT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—This society will hold an exhibition at the farm of Mr. Allison, the President, on Wednesday, 20th September.

**THE HORSE "SHAMROCK."**—The horse "Shamrock," called also "Challenger," from Prince Edward Island, is serving mares this season up till end of July, at the following places: Beaver Bank Station, Rawdon, Douglas Cove, and Kennetcook Corner. The horse is 5 years old, stands 16 hands high, is healthy, of good make, and is under charge of Mr. Thomas H. Lavers.

**HERD BOOK.**—A herd book will, we hope be required in Nova Scotia in course of time. Meantime we shall be glad to publish such pedigrees of animals in the province as may be sent for that purpose.

**REMARKABLE GROWTH OF INDIAN CORN IN CORNWALLS.**—At a meeting of the Central Board of Agriculture, held at Halifax on 27th June, Dr. C. C. Hamilton, M.P.P., showed a stock of Indian Corn measuring 4 feet 4 inches in length. That is a great size for Indian Corn in British America in the month of June. It had been grown in Dr. Hamilton's garden, and being under shelter of a spruce hedge, escaped the frosts we have had this season. It was of the yellow Canadian variety, which is a robust grower.

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.**—The great meeting was fixed for Plymouth 12th July. We hope to give some account of it in next number.

**ANTIGONISH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—**IMPORTATION OF SHEEP AND OTHER STOCK.**—At a recent meeting of the Antigonish society, it was decided to expend the whole, or the greater portion, of the Society's funds this year in the Importation of stock, sheep in particular. Two bulls have been obtained. This purchase of stock is to be followed up by a Fair in 1866, preparatory to the Provincial Exhibition expected to be held in 1867.

**MR. WRIGHT'S HAY FIELD.**—One of the heaviest and finest fields of hay we have seen for a long time is on the farm of Henry T. Wright, Esq., Sackville. The timothy ears reach nearly to the top of the tall fence, and there is beneath a close growth of red clover. May we hope to see the day when all the fields in Sackville will produce as heavy a crop?

**GREAT WEIGHT OF FLEECE AT WINDSOR.**—It will be recollected that the Board of Agriculture imported a few animals from New Brunswick last season, including Leicester and Cotswold rams and lambs. At the auction, one of the latter was bought by the Hon R. A. McHaffey, M. L. C., Windsor, and we are informed that in shearing this spring, the fleece, after being carefully picked and washed, weighed ten pounds! We see some heavy weights of fleeces given in the American and Canadian papers; but in order to a fair comparison they should give us the weight of clean washed wool, and not the combined weight of wool, dirt, grease, as is always done. We shall be glad to publish the weight of fleeces of the rest of the sheep imported from New Brunswick, if the owners will send them.

**SALE OF SHORT-HORNED CATTLE.**—The celebrated herd of short-horned cattle known as the Grand Duchesses and Grand Dukes, the property of the late Mr. Joseph Hegan, of Dawpool, near Birkenhead, were sold yesterday by Mr. Strafford, auctioneer, at Willis's rooms, King-street, St. James's-square. With the exception of Imperial Oxford the entire herd is descended from the celebrated cow Duchess 51st, bred by Mr. Bates, at Kirklevington, who purchased Duchess 1st, at Mr. Charles Collings's sale in 1810, the family having originally been obtained from the ancestors of the Duke of Northumberland.—Cattle of this stock have gained the highest honours in the showyard, and fetched the highest prices at public sales. The cattle remain at Dawpool, where they had been inspected by intending purchasers. The cows were sold in lots with numbers which refer to *Coate's Herd Book*. The first lot (5, 7, and 8), sold for 1,900 guineas; the second lot (9, 13, and 18), for 1,300 guineas; the third lot (10, 15, and 17), for 1,800 guineas; and the fourth lot (11, 12, and 14), for 1,200 guineas. The 12 cows thus fetched £6,510; the average price being £542 10s. They were all bought by Mr. E. L. Betts, of Preston-hall, Kent. The bulls were sold separately. Imperial Oxford was sold for 450 guineas, also to Mr. Betts; Grand Duke 6th was sold for 130 guineas to Mr. Bland, of Coleby hall, Lincoln; Grand Duke 9th, for 310 guineas, to Mr. T. Walker, of Birswell-hall, Coventry; Grand Duke 10th, for 600 guineas, to the Duke of Devonshire; and Grand Duke 13th, for 100 guineas, to Capt. Gunter, of Weatherby-grange. The five bulls thus brought £1,669 10s., their average price being £333 18s. The total price of the 17 head of cattle was £8,179 10s.—*Evening Mail*.

**HAYING.**—We understand that the first hay mown on the peninsula this season was cut on the farm of Henry Pryor, Esq., D.C.F., during the fourth week of June. Grass had been cut prior to that, but was found too succulent to be made into hay.

**ACCIDENT FROM A KICKING HORSE.**—Felix Smith, residing in Jerusalem Settlement, St. John, was kicked in the breast and shoulder by one of his own horses while passing through his stable. The injuries he received were so severe that he died in the course of an hour.

**SCARCITY OF OAK LUMBER IN CANADA.**—The quantity of oak which will find its way to the Quebec market the present season will be fully a million and a half less than was at first supposed. This information is obtained from timber colliers and others well posted in the trade. *Colonist.*

**DISEASE AMONGST CATTLE.**—The Montreal Telegraph regrets to learn that Pseudo-neumonia is prevailing to an alarming extent among the cattle in Central Canada, and threatening unless means are speedily taken to eradicate it by the isolation and destruction of the infected herds, to become a most disastrous plague.

## Communications.

### ON MANURE.

NO. IV.

Having briefly pointed out the wisdom of saving all the manure made upon the farm,—or rather in the barn-yard and stables, (for I have not yet alluded to the house, &c.) I must now be allowed to point out the wisdom of taking some little trouble to increase the quantity thus made, without deteriorating the quality.

I have said that the liquid manure is more easily applied to the land than the solid; and in fact, it is also more advisable (in some instances) to use it as a liquid, than to convert it into a compost. But, on the other hand, a good application of compost is invariably a desirable and necessary thing in the fall, and early spring, upon grass. By a judicious system of making composts a variety of fertilizers can be obtained, and the quantity available for different crops be not only greatly increased, but the quality also can be so regulated as to be made more effective, and useful to the particular crop, or land applied to. I will not, however, just now go into the minutiae of making compost heaps, but confine myself to the advocacy of doing that which it is in the power of almost any farmer to do; and the farmer who may have taken the steps necessary to save all his manure, will not only have it in his power to do what I recommend, but will also be willing and anxious to do so, or I am much mistaken. He will, as I said in a previous letter, be in a position to measure his future heap of manure, by the amount of skill and labour he is willing and able to bestow on it. And what a splendid compost heap will this vision expose to his views if he takes into consideration that one ton of the urine of cattle will so saturate a ton of dry bog earth, as to make it, to all intents and purposes, equal to two tons of cow dung; for, in fact, such a mixture when sufficiently moist, has not only the appearance of dung, but, by analysis, it is found to be of a like nature.

This being so, and the liquid from each animal being of greater weight than the solid, it follows that by using the liquid in the above manner (that is, by making a compost of it with dry bog earth), the compost heap will be more than twice as valuable as the solid excrement saved from the same cattle.

It is said that a man who causes two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before deserves well of his country—and so he does—but more especially so if he does this over his whole farm, and by his example sets his neighbours to do the same. Now this can only be done by sowing, making, and applying manure judiciously.

I have not said anything in these few letters on this important subject but what almost every farmer can do, or he has no right to the name of farmer, and the poorer he is in stock and the means of farming, by so much the less can he afford to lose the manure his cattle make, or lose an opportunity of increasing the quantity and quality of it. BEDFORD.

### ON THE BREEDS OF COWS, SHEEP, PIGS AND HORSES BEST ADAPTED TO CAPE BRETON.

SYDNEY, 21st June, 1865.

As many of my English friends and family have been distinguished breeders, I advise, with some degree of confidence, that sheep crossed South down and Leicester, will be found best suited to this Island. You have sufficient weight of carcass, together with as heavy a fleece as is obtainable without a degree of coarseness unsuited to our local manufacture.

In cattle in years gone by, we had the preference in the London dairies (see the Watson cows in Society's for Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, Agricultural Series) colour all red,—not so long in leg or horn,—more ruby coloured than the Devons,—they were a cross between the old Cravins and Albemarle Holderness,—crossed again with us by a son and grandson of "Comet," bought from Collins,—they milked enormously in London, from 24 to 44 or 5, when being all the time in high condition they went to Smithfield. These were said by London dairymen to be the most profitable in England, and were all the time bespoken. Something like this cow would do here, but I am very strongly impressed with the idea that for our poorer grazing districts the improved Galloways will be found useful, easily kept always in condition, as I find on trial with a very common beast; now I could not say if I were at the Board, more than Ayrshire and Shorthorns for the high grazing, and Ayrshires and Galloways for the poorer grazing districts.

With regard to pigs, the Berkshires are best suited. But about horses I am afraid to say anything, for I find farmers keep too many, and the result is the boys, instead of being at the plough and cart with a good honest Suffolk punch, or other useful beast, are "starring it" everywhere on their "bits of blood," and I feel inclined to check this vicious habit in this new and poor country. H. DAVENPORT.

### REMARKS ON THE PRESENT CONDITION OF AGRICULTURE IN LUNENBURG COUNTY, AND ON THE STATE OF THE CROPS.

During the past few weeks I have been visiting the farmers in almost every section of Lunenburg county. Feeling a deep interest in agriculture,—altho' not my profession, I make it what many might do with advantage, my recreation—believing that prosperous husbandry is the head and heart of prosperity of almost every other kind. Its ablest eulogists have not claimed too much attention, or illustrated too forcibly, the many channels through which the failure or success of agriculture affects the happiness of man,—his comforts and luxuries, trade and commerce. Even the condition of society, the advance of civilization, and the stability of institutions cannot claim to be independent of it. This county compares favourably with the best agricultural counties in the province, as a peep at the last

census returns will show, although nearly one half of the population are more or less engaged in the fisheries. All the cereals are raised here, not excepting Indian corn, which is now raised and succeeds well. The cabbage and turnip are favorite crops. They yield abundantly and are well worthy the attention bestowed on them,—being acceptable to man and beast,—and leave the land in good tillth.

Our people generally are thrifty and well-to-do, yet they are not much given to the study of agriculture, and generally keep very tenaciously to the old country methods of tillage. Buildings generally for the protection of crops and stock, and saving of manures, are very inferior, even compared to some parts of the province, although lumber is reasonable in price, and stone and lime plentiful.

We have somewhat improved in breeds of cattle, and for this much is due to the few zealous members that composed the late agricultural society in Lunenburg town, which I am informed was the oldest society in this province. It is to be hoped that the societies now organized in this county, under the Board of Agriculture, largely aided by grants of money from the government, will not be allowed to languish.

A visit to these societies this season, from our invaluable Secretary of the Board, would have a good effect, and I would suggest his visiting New Germany, our best agricultural district, from which we get superior cheese and butter, and where farming might be brought to great perfection. It ought to have an agricultural society, and be able to report to your journal good, solid, practical matter and information, which as farmers they alone can give, and with correct ideas of the capabilities of rural life aspire to the title of country gentlemen.

I have been asked to give a few notes in reference to the state and prospects of the farm crops, &c.

The spring opened very early, and continued to advance to the end of April with unusual dry weather, giving a great advantage to the early farmer. But experience has taught that with most crops May is the right seed time, but it set in and continued wet, cold and backward, which made many of our farmers to be late in getting in their crops.

June came with fine warm weather, and changed the appearance of things. The crops advanced rapidly with a good dark green color. Very heavy frosts succeeded, which, in some localities, destroyed entire fields of corn, potatoes, and other roots, obliging some farmers to plough afresh, and re-plant with other seed.

The orchards suffered to some extent from the same frost, and the prospect of fruit is not very promising.

We have from the same cause been almost entirely deprived of the delicious strawberries which our pasture lands largely produce.

Crops generally bid fair to yield well, more particularly the hay crop. The season was especially favourable to it; it will be very large and of first quality. There appears to be an unusual amount of red and white clover this season, mixed with the long grasses, which adds very much to its value and quantity. Yet many places are badly overrun with the in nutritious daisy weed, which ought to be exterminated. The scythe is now felling the grass in every direction.

I am glad to say that the Goodrich seedling potatoes sent me from the Board of Agriculture, promise well, surpassing in appearance all other sorts that I see around me.

I cannot forbear expressing the strong hope I entertain for the success of our home Journal of Agriculture. All that at present we can expect from it is, good practical matter to guide and cheer the young inexperienced tiller of the soil, and divert him from labor to refreshment in the study of nature and nature's laws, applying them to improving the soil, lightning labor and raising his standard and social position.

H. A. N. K.

Lunenburg, 14th July.

## NOTICE TO THE SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURAL SO- CETIES.

Societies organized under the Agricultural Board, desiring to participate in the government grant for Encouragement of Agriculture, require to transmit to the Secretary of the Board, *not later than 1st September*, a certificate of payment of the annual subscriptions of members for the year.

It is further provided, by the amended act, that the sum so raised annually by subscription and payment, *shall be certified by the oath of the Secretary of the Society.*

Societies neglecting to comply with these requirements will be excluded from participation in the grant for the year.

By order of the Board of Agriculture.

GEORGE LAWSON,

Secretary.

Halifax, 28th July, 1865,

## REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CROPS.

HALIFAX, 1st August, 1865.

We wrote our last report (21st June) in view of fairer prospects than are now presented. A heavy thunder shower fell on the night of 22nd and 23rd June, followed by some days of rather cloudy weather, which was favorable to rapid growth. There was a shower also on 1st July; but during the latter part of June and whole of July, up to the past two weeks the weather was dry and warm. The effect has been to stunt the growth of some crops, and render them lighter than they would have been with a continuous growing season. What the crops gained by the early start in spring, has, to some extent, been lost through the drought of summer; but there seems, from reports we have received, to have been considerable variety in the weather in different parts of the province, and there is, consequently, inequality in the crops.

The abundant showers of the past and preceding week have caught our haymakers, and urged them on to labor without offering any serious interruption or injuring the crop. All standing crops will be greatly benefited.

### THE HAY CROP.

Haying was commenced on the peninsula during the last week of June, but was not general in the northern part of Halifax county till the second week of July. Hay is ready a week earlier this year than last. In rich and drained soils the crop is heavier this year; in poor sunny uplands, rather lighter; the marshes have suffered by too much wet. In some places a good many white ears of timothy are seen, said to have been caused by the early spring frosts.

F. R. PARKER, Esq., M.P.P., (*Shubenacadie*, 18th July.) states that "in COLCHESTER there will be a good crop, not much but a little better than last year. The late frosts in June have injured it some."

SAMUEL PALMER, Esq., (WINDSOR, 13th July.) writes: "The farmers in this district generally express satisfaction with the present appearance of crops. Hay-making has commenced and the crop is likely to prove a fair average one, if the weather is favorable for securing it. Low heavy lands that were not well drained will fall short; but a full crop on rich dry lands will go far to make up any deficiency."

IN LUNenburg, H. A. N. KAULBACK, Esq., M.P.P., (14th July.) reports the season as especially favorable for hay, and notices the abundance of red and white clover, although some fields are overrun with daisy weed.

ANSELM M. COMEAU, Jr., Esq., reports that in the district of Clare, in the county of DIGBY, the grass looks well, and there is every appearance of an abundance of hay.

DR. C. C. HAMILTON, M. P. P., writes from CORNWALLIS in the following terms: "The hay crop in this county will be quite an average, not however as heavy as was anticipated early in the season. I never saw less red clover than there is this year, the principal grass being timothy, and on the dyked marshes considerable couch. It is difficult to account for this. The upland grass is quite ready for cutting, and many farmers have already begun."

A few farmers have introduced mowing machines, and on properly laid down lands they do remarkably well. I think in a few years they will be very generally used, the 'Buckeye' being the most approved."

T. D. DICKSON, Esq., writes from PARSBORO', (12th July.) that the crops there were never more promising. Hay in particular never looked better at this date. It is estimated that it will be from 25 to 50 per cent. better than last year. Haying will commence here about the 17th inst."

IN ANNAPOLIS COUNTY, AVARD LONGLEY, Esq., M.P.P., reports (15th July.) "that the hay crop which is now being gathered in, is likely to prove abundant, and I think the crops generally promise a fair yield."

W. H. HARRIS, Esq., writes from PICTOU: "The hay in many parts is nearly ready for cutting, and will, I have no doubt, form a first rate crop. I have lately been through a good many parts of the county, and have heard no complaints from the farmers about any failure, so I

take that circumstance as a sign that everything is doing well."

### GRAIN CROPS.

Many complaints are made of the unsuitability of the weather for putting in grain crops. In other cases, especially in light soils, where the farmers were able to work during the wet weather of May, there is promise of a good yield.

IN PICTOU County, Mr. HARRIS writes: "I have much pleasure in being able to inform you that the prospects of a good return never looked better."

Altho' the weather, during nearly the whole of May, was wet and broken, and the ground very much soaked, causing a good deal of delay in putting in the seed, still the fine growing weather which succeeded, has caused every description of farm produce to look uncommonly well."

About PARSBORO', (Mr. DICKSON,) wheat and oats have an extra growth. In DIGBY, (Mr. COMEAU,) "grain in general is poor, and it is generally said that there will be a light crop." From WINDSOR, Mr. PALMER writes: "very little wheat was sown here this season in consequence of its almost entire failure last year. What was put in is looking very well, but the crop this year will be of small account, whether it succeeds or not. A large portion of the ground that would, in more favorable circumstances, have been under wheat, is sown with barley, which is looking unusually well. Oats are looking better than common, and promise to be an extra crop." In COLCHESTER, (Mr. PARKER,) "Grain will by appearance be light, having been put in late owing to the wet spring, but a great deal will depend upon August and September; if not fine then, it will be a small crop. Less land has been sown than usual." In regard to ANNAPOLIS, Mr. LONGLEY writes: "Owing to a prevalence of wet weather it was very late before seeds were put into the ground, but favorable weather soon brought them up, and their growth has been correspondingly rapid. Fair breadths of wheat, barley and oats have been sown, and these bid fair to give a handsome return. Indian corn, which is somewhat backward, was slightly injured by the late frosts, in some places, and unless the weather proves very favorable, will probably fall below an average crop." In CORNWALLIS, Dr. HAMILTON states that "wheat and oats are looking well, but it is impossible to say how far the former may be affected with the weevil. Why don't our farmers try winter wheat? I am told that some persons in Horton have sowed it, and it has done remarkably well. Rye, especially winter, promises well; I think I never saw it look better. Early sown oats are healthy and vigorous, and are already headed; but the late sown, unless there are seasonable rains, must be a light crop. Indian corn is 'ul-



tivated to a greater extent than in past years, especially in the western part of King's, and in Annapolis, and considering all things, promises well; Some fields look remarkably well, and I know a small piece headed and in silk (18th July).

#### ROOT CROPS.

In ANNAPOLIS (Mr. LONGLEY,) potatoes look well, and are likely to be a good crop. Roots of all kinds are looking pretty well. In CORNWALLIS, (Dr. HAMILTON,) "Early planted potatoes never promised better. Some fields are already (18th July) in full bloom, and nearly cover the ground; while the late planted, although presenting a healthy appearance, must come on very rapidly to promise a fair yield. As far as I can learn the Goodrich seedlings promise well. The samples I planted are looking remarkably healthy and vigorous, although not planted very early. The leaf is large and presents a rich green color. The TURNIP crop is scarcely advanced far enough to justify an opinion. I think there are more sown than usual. Early sown fields show well." Mr. PALMER states that about WINDSOR, "Potatoes are looking healthy, although in many places they are very young, the heavy and continual rain through the month of May having kept back field operations on all heavy lands. More than the usual quantity of ground is under turnips, which have come up very well, and many fields are past injury from the turnip fly, the great enemy of that crop. From personal inspection, and such information as I have been able to obtain from reliable persons in different parts of the district, I consider myself correct in saying that the present appearance and prospect of the crop of this season, taken as a whole, is quite as encouraging as could be reasonably expected. As the bulk of the tillage crop is still in comparative infancy, much will depend upon the weather from this time forward for bringing it to maturity, and getting it safely harvested." In SHUBENACADIE (Mr. PARKER,) potatoes promise well, but very many fields are late, and if either blight or frost takes them early they will be no great of a crop. Turnips are just beginning to show themselves, and by the frequent showers may do well. In the district of CLARE (Mr. COMEAU,) the season was backward. "In the spring, on account of the quantity of rain and wet weather, the farmers got in their crops late, and on the 15th of June we had a heavy white frost, which cut down a quantity of potatoes, beans, pumpkin, squash, and flax, it retarded some, and others totally destroyed. Since then what is left looks very well, and is growing rapidly. Root crops, such as mangle-wurtzel, turnips, carrots, beets, and onions, are yet very slim." In PARRSBORO (Mr. DICKSON,) "Potatoes planted early are most flourishing. Some of those

planted late, that is from the 10th to the last of June, have missed coming up, the ground being too warm and dry for them. But the failure will not be extensive, as most farmers had their planting done before the dry weather (about the 1st June) set in. Through the rainy weeks in May a great many of our farmers went right on with their planting and sowing regardless of the rain; their farms being light dry soil admitted of it. This could not be done where the land was a heavy clay soil, consequently the seed times on these farms was later, and the potatoe crop is the chief sufferer. The season has been favorable for turnips; I have as yet heard of no depredations from the fly. Buckwheat, peas and beans, and all kinds of vegetables are doing well. Apples and plums will be a fair crop. The frosts in June, which seemed to be more frequent and more severe than ever known before in that month, have not destroyed our fruit as was feared they had. Of our wild fruits, strawberries and gooseberries are a fair crop; raspberries, blueberries and cranberries being later, it is feared are much injured by the same frosts."

#### ORCHARDS—FRUIT CROPS.

Dr. HAMILTON writes from CORNWALLIS: "I am sorry that I cannot report more favorably of the fruit crop. The trees seldom blossomed more full, and in many parts of this district the number set was abundant, but they are continually dropping, and under some trees the ground is nearly covered with apples. The apple crop must fall very far short of an average. There is one remarkable fact,—in some localities certain orchards are well loaded, while in others not very far distant, whole orchards have scarcely any apples on the trees. Most likely this irregularity is owing to the frost, striking, as it does, the sandy inland ground, where the trees are the most forward. The fine warm weather early in the spring forced the trees quite too rapidly, and when the cold damp rains set in, the check to the circulation of the sap was too sudden and great, and while the trees bloomed full the regular continuation of the flow of the sap was interrupted, and prevented the maturity of the formation of the fruit. Caterpillars, and other destructive worms, &c., in some places, especially in Annapolis county, have done much damage. Plums, like the apple, in some localities prove well, while in others scarcely any are to be found. The curculio is still plenty; I have found coal ashes put several inches thick around the trees in the spring of the year acts as a barrier to their climbing propensities. I hope the fruit crop will be sufficiently abundant to make the exhibition of the Fruit Growers' Association at Wolfville as good as last year, but of this I have my doubts. This is to be regretted, as the Royal Horticultural Society of Lon-

don have offered their gold medal for a collection of fruits and vegetables from any of the colonies, and should Nova Scotia compete, those interested would wish her to maintain the position our fruit has already obtained at previous exhibitions. As far as I can learn the scions received from the Royal Horticultural Society are doing remarkably well." [Ours have already made shoots half a yard in length.—Ed.] From ANNAPOLIS, Mr. LONGLEY writes:—"I am sorry that so good an account cannot be given of the fruit crop as of the others. The apple crop which is all important to the country, will, it is feared, fall considerably below the average, although the Nonpareil, the most valuable variety for keeping, especially promises an abundant yield. The crop of pears, plums and cherries will be light, probably." At CLARE (Mr. COMEAU,) "the apple orchards blossomed as white as snow; so also plum, cherry and pear trees. But owing to cold frost or wind there will be but a light crop of fruit this season. We have here foggy weather, rainy, wet, overcast, and dull, which has been the case nearly all the season."

In Halifax County, Fruit is much scarcer than usual.

#### DAIRY PRODUCE.

In regard to Dairy Produce favorable reports have been received. Mr. Longley states that in Annapolis the produce of the Dairy will be unusually large.

Stock has succeeded well in the pastures this season. Mr. Parker writes,—

"I am frequently enquired at about Stock. There is a great demand for good or Imported Stock, more than I ever knew. Any enquiries that you may wish to make at any time I am most ready to attend to."

#### REMARKS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF THE CROPS IN THE COUNTY OF CAPE BRETON.

Sydney, July 17th, 1865

On enquiry I find from various sections of this county the crops bid fair; the fall was an unusually wet one, and prevented farmers on heavy wet lands from making the usual preparations for spring work. We had little snow in the winter, and a cold, wet spring, the result has been delay in ploughing, and where this was done early, some partial failures in the potato. On wet lands the seed has slightly failed, and in one or two places the seed has been ploughed up and oats substituted, otherwise this crop looks very well; the Goodrich potatoes far outstrip anything I have yet seen. To insure a fair trial, the seed was divided into four or five equal parts, and placed with different growers in as many different sections,

and in each the result so far is the same.

The Hay Crop wants bottom in some places, and has been a good deal scalded where not top-dressed, from the excessive moisture, acted on by the winter's frost, but is now recovering and will prove an average crop.

Oats and Barley look well and will prove about an average.

Peas are not sown to any extent; those sent by the Board are looking well.

The very heavy frosts in May and June have seriously damaged the fruits of all kinds.

Farmers tempted by the high rate of wages at the new mines are neglecting agricultural matters, and in many instances farms are deserted altogether; produce of all kinds is in demand and prices run high.

## II. DAVENPORT.

*St. Ann's, Co. Victoria,  
July 17, 1865.*

As I have been travelling through this and our neighboring county of Cape Breton lately, to some extent, I found throughout all my travels, that the crops in general looked well, particularly potatoes and oats, which promise to yield an abundant harvest. Potatoes are in full bloom in some places, and early planting in general looks very well, and I think a full average crop will be gathered. Turnips promise to yield an abundant crop, so far as my observation goes, but I am sorry to say that the planting of turnips, as a general rule throughout this county, is very limited indeed, although I believe no country yields a better crop of that most useful root than our own. I have raised on this farm as high as 750 bushels to the acre, of turnips, and my average yield during the past fifteen years, was from 400 to 500 bushels per acre. This season the undersigned has put down the following small crop:—65 bush. early August oats, 9 bush. spring wheat, 3 bush. barley, 35 bush. split potatoes, and 2 acres of turnips,—all of which look promising, so far, and the weather has been, during the past month, all the farmer could desire.

J. ROBERTSON.  
*Pres. St. Ann's Agri. Socy.*

## PRESENT CROP PROSPECTS AND PRICES IN BRITAIN.

It appears from the English Agricultural papers that the season has been, so far, an unfavorable one for the farmer. There was great drought during spring time, which threatened to destroy the Root Crops completely; but during the first week of July there were acceptable rains in many parts of the country, which thoroughly soaked the soil, and the TURNIPS and SWEDES, which were at a

stand still, suddenly began to move. The grain crops seem, however, to have suffered permanently. Mr. Twynam, of Winchester, says, that on full fall the Hampshire soils the straw of WHEAT is very short, the head uneven, the ears small, but apparently well filled; on the light sands and gravels it is decidedly bad, with much poppy and other rubbish; it will not be an average crop. Barley is very indifferent, short, thin on the ground, of uneven growth, and fully one-third under the average. OATS are the worst crop remembered in Hampshire for 40 years, and many farmers are feeding off large fields with sheep. BEANS are looking well; PEAS an average; POTATOES very well, promising an abundant yield; HAY of excellent quality, but light, except Saintfoin. In Sussex, Mr. Hallett characterises the WHEAT CROP as very thin, so also other grains; MANGELS healthy, but want rain; TURNIPS destroyed by the fly; HAY a short crop, but well got. Mr. James Lynch, Midhurst, says, on the whole the crops will be deficient; WHEAT fair, bad on light grounds; BARLEY good; OATS bad, nearly a failure; BEANS under average; PEAS the same; HAY under average, well saved; ROOTS promising; POTATOES much healthier than they have been for many years. In Gloucestershire the drought had operated so seriously as to be alarming. We hope the timely rains have, ere now, brought the standing crops into better order.

Young fat lambs are selling in England at 40s. sterling each, or, 1s. sterling per lb. and mutton and beef in proportion. Hay, in towns, at £6 sterling per ton.

## PRESENT STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Through the kindness of P. Monaghan, Esq., editor of the *Abolitionist*, we have recently received the publications of the Agricultural Department at Washington, which are replete with valuable information on the condition of agriculture in the United States. There are some points touched upon in the monthly report for May, 1865, that cannot fail to interest our readers.

### DECREASE OF COWS AND CATTLE.

Passing over the politico-patriotic remarks as to "the accursed political heresy of the right of State secession," we come to matters that may be discussed in a milder spirit. The loss of cattle in California, and in some parts of Oregon, last winter, for want of sufficient food, is deplored.

Prominent notice is taken of the decrease of cattle and cows in the states. It is said that from the "immense slaughter and waste" consequent upon the supply

of animal food for the army and navy, whilst importing and home-breeding were at a stand still, the most strenuous efforts will be necessary on the part of the American farmers to prevent an absolute scarcity, particularly in the product of beef-cattle, and that beef must soon be sold at rates that but few will be able to afford. The high prices offered by butchers have tempted farmers to part with their *largest and best formed* cows, which, under different circumstances, would have been retained for breeding, and the most healthy heifer calves have been sold to them. From this cause most farms exhibit a poor ungainly stock of cattle compared to what it formerly was. Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and West Virginia, on which much reliance used to be placed for supplies, present limited resources. Some of these by derangements caused by the war, have almost ceased to breed; others do not import owing to the condition of the currency; while others have nearly exhausted the splendid herds which formerly roamed their pastures. The importance of raising more of the heifer calves, and of ceasing to kill young cows for beef is strongly urged.

### DECREASE OF EXPORTS OF BREAD STUFFS FROM THE STATES.

One of the most note-worthy results shown in the statistical tables is the remarkable decrease in the exports of bread stuffs and provisions, especially wheat and flour, from the United States to Great Britain. This is shown by a table of the imports into Britain from the United States for the period from 1st January to 1st April of the present year, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. In 1864, the United States supplied Britain with 4,199,177 bushels of wheat; this year with only 232,262 bushels! Flour, last year, barrels 371,126; this year 40,823 barrels. But the most remarkable fact, as regards Britain, remains to be noticed. The deficiency of import from the United States is not accounted for by any increase in imports from other countries. Britain imported from all parts in 1864, ten millions and a half of bushels of wheat, and in 1865, only three and a half millions; of flour, upwards of one million barrels in 1864, and scarcely 400,000 in 1865. There is an increase, however, of a million and a half bushels of indian corn.

### INCREASE OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

A great impulse was given, by the war and cotton famine, to sheep husbandry in the states. The increase of sheep between January 1864 and 1865, has been upwards of four millions, and the present estimated number is not much short of thirty millions. The fleeces are expected to average four pounds weight, and the wool clip of the Union to be 114,589,076 pounds.



## PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS.

The present season commenced in the States with an unusually wet spring, but there is promise of abundant crops.

## AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC USES OF SEA WEED.

Our extensive coasts afford abundance of sea weed, a product of nature which is not taken advantage of to such an extent as it might be. The manufacture of Iodine and of Kelp, if profitable anywhere, might surely be made so on those shores of Nova Scotia where fishermen and farmers spend a portion of the season in absolute idleness.

The beneficial use of sea weed as a manurial application to the soil is well known in many localities; and where the soil has been injured by it, the injury has no doubt resulted from the sea-weed being applied in the fresh wet state, without any previous process of composting. In dry, sandy soils, sea weed acts in two ways: first, by directly contributing foetal materials to the crop, and secondly, by the hygroscopic action of the mucilaginous tissues in maintaining a certain degree of humidity in the arid soil, a result that is no doubt aided by the presence of the sea salt accompanying the weed. The richness of the ash of the common seaweed in potash, soda, phosphates and other materials of plant growth, shows that it has a high manurial value. In Greenland specimens the ash has been found to contain ten per cent of phosphates. The proportion of water in the recent weed is so large that it cannot be profitably carried to great distances.—This ought to render its employment on sea shore farms all the more extensive.

When in Cape Breton, we were shown some fields that had been rendered nearly sterile by the use of sea weed. At first it yields great crops, but afterwards the land becomes barren. How is this to be accounted for? It may be in two ways, both resulting from an error committed in the mode of applying the weed. It is well known that whilst salt, in small quantity, is beneficial to most soils, an increase in the quantity proves detrimental to the crops. When fresh sea weed, dripping with sea water, is applied to the land, of course a large quantity of salt is carried with it, and the sandy soil, especially if subject to occasional inundation from the sea, probably contains enough already. It is likewise well known that oily and mucilaginous matter applied to the soil in too great quantities acts injuriously upon vegetation, probably by impeding absorption by the plant's tissues, in the same way as they impede the passage of fluids through filter papers. Is there any remedy, or rather, is there

any mode of avoiding these evils? The mode is indeed quite simple. By allowing the sea weed to lie on the beach to be to be washed by a few showers of rain, then dried, much of the salt will be removed. But a much more effectual plan, and one suited for rendering the mucilaginous matter non-injurious, is to compost the sea weed. After preliminary washing and drying in the way indicated, let a compost heap be formed, one layer of soil, one of sea weed, one of plaster in powder, (where obtainable), and so on, repeating the layers of soil, weed and plaster, until the compost heap is finished. Stable manure mixed with it would be a great improvement. Such a compost heap, after lying for a few months will afford valuable manure that can do no harm to any soil, but will yield an abundant and healthy crop wherever it is applied. For cabbages it is a "special" manure, but turnips and all other crops are benefitted nearly as much.

We have been led to offer a few remarks on this subject at the present time, partly on account of the conflicting opinions expressed by farmers in Nova Scotia as to the value of sea weed as a manure, and partly because the subject is gaining increased attention in other countries. A communication has just reached us from Dr. LeJolis, a distinguished French naturalist, in which he states that the Imperial Society of Natural Sciences of Cherbourg offers a Gold Medal, of the value of 500 francs, for the best Memoir on Sea Weed, considered both as regards its agricultural uses and employment in the Arts. The Society will award silver medals to the authors of Memoirs, who, without completely resolving the questions proposed, nevertheless afford information sufficiently useful to merit the distinction. The Society reserves the right of publishing the memoirs entire, or extracts from them. The memoirs are to be written in French, Latin or English, and are to be sent prior to 1st July, 1868, to M. le Dr. A. Le Jolis, Rue de la Duchee, 29, a Cherbourg (France). The chief points to which attention is called, are, the proper time for collecting the sea weed from the rocks, so as to favor their production, and, at the same time, meet as far as possible, agricultural wants, whether it should be collected twice or only once a year; whether it should be torn from the rocks, or cut, &c.; the means of reconciling, as far as possible, the requirements of the agriculturists with those of the manufacturers of iodine and of kelp; the best mode of increasing the manurial effect of sea weed; the employment of a mixture of lixiviated soda ashes with the fresh seaweed; methods of composting or maceration necessary to combine the valuable mineral matters contained in the residue with the organic substances required for vegetable nutri-

tion. It will be seen from these hints that the subject is an extensive one, and that the Cherbourg Society is desirous of having it treated in a thoroughly practical manner.

## THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

This great exhibition will be held during the week commencing 18th Sept. next. Entries of stock must be made prior to 12th August; grain, roots, &c., prior to 26th August; and horticultural produce up to the 9th September. The judges will commence their duties on Tuesday, the 19th, and visitors will be admitted to the grounds only. The exhibition building will be open to visitors on Wednesday morning. The ploughing match will take place in the neighborhood of London, on Tuesday. In the men's class, the first prize will be a clover machine, offered by the late Mr. Joseph Hall, of Oshawa, and valued at \$300; and besides this there will be other six prizes of an aggregate value of nearly \$250. In the boys' class, the first prize will be \$100, subscribed by the citizens of London and the farmers of Middlesex, and there will be other six prizes of an aggregate value of about \$120. The Canada Company will give, as in many former years, a prize of \$100 for the best 25 bushels of fall wheat, the produce of Canada West, being the growth of the year 1865; also, a prize of \$24 for the best 112 lbs. flax, scutched. The Prince of Wales prize of \$60 will be given for the best bull of any age or breed.

Everything promises well for a most successful exhibition.

## AMENDMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ACT.

We are sorry to find that some of the Secretaries of Societies have not read, with sufficient care, the amendment of the Agricultural Act printed on the first page of the June number of the Journal. It is not too late to do so now.

**BUTTERFLIES.**—There have been great swarms of butterflies during the last few days on the railway track between Four Mile House and the Prince's Lodge.—They seem to be attracted by the purple flowers of *Centaurea nigra*, an English plant which abounds on the railway embankments.

**SKUNKS** have this season become very common in the parish of Sackville, and have proved troublesome and destructive in the poultry yards.

## Orchard and Fruit Garden.

### CULTURE OF THE STRAWBERRY—WHAT SORT TO GROW.

It is remarkable that the Halifax market is still so poorly supplied with strawberries. Whenever a strawberry the size of a walnut is produced in a garden, half a dozen newspaper paragraphs appear forthwith, as if it were a white crow, or a kicking colt with three legs.

It may serve to afford useful information, if we re-produce some remarks made at a strawberry discussion before the Fruit Grower's Society of Western New York.

Mr. Herenden spoke in favor of Wilson's Albany strawberry,—it would bear twice as much as any other sort, and four times as much as any common variety,—can have for eating in the family for two weeks, (longer in Nova Scotia) and it is a berry that wears well. It is acid, to be sure, but good, and the vine is perfectly hardy; while the last berries of the season are as large as the first. Does not produce small berries if well cultivated.

For market cultivation, plant in rows four feet apart; cultivate between the rows till within two weeks of ripening, and then mulch with cut grass. In this way they will endure several years. His crops of which this year is the fourth, and they are full crops. The market men here in Buffalo were this morning selling Wilson's at three cents per quart higher than any other sort.

Mr. Coppock, of Erie Co., differed decidedly from friend Herenden as to this sort. All strawberries have locations, and they change flavor, &c., when grown in various places. Here in Buffalo it does not keep up its full size, and the popular opinion is that it is not fit to eat.—Wilson's Albany has a peculiar acid, and leaves a singular acid on the palate after eating. Won't eat it at all. Likes Scott's Seedling and Genesee very much, but the climax is Burr's New Pine. With this there is no fault to be found. Longworth's Prolific is a capital berry, and Prince's Eclipse is earlier than Jenny Lind; but a seedling called "Coppock's No. 1" is the only sort I now cultivate in any quantity, and of that have fully fifty acres in bearing.

Mr. Moodie, of Niagara Co., has planted upon a soil called a chestnut loam—cultivates some fifty sorts, and Jenny Lind is a week earlier than Wilson's Albany. Next is Peabody's Seedling, Triomphe de Gand is a fair bearer, but must be kept in hills. Hooker is very superior for flavor, and is a fair bearer. Trollope's Victoria does very well, and well cultivated is fine. Monroe Scarlet is the sixth.

Mr. Vick, of Monroe Co., spoke of the adaptation of the different varieties to different soils and climates; but so far as productiveness was concerned, Wilson's Albany must be universally conceded to have taken the lead. Scott's Seedling, Monroe Scarlet, Triomphe de Gand, Crimson Cone, which two years ago in the city of New York was cheaper than any other variety, but market gardeners for New York are getting now into Wilson's Albany. For a private garden, would cultivate in hills a foot apart, and hoe up each plant separately. Renew the hills once in three years.

Mr. Hoag, of Niagara county, cultivates upon a sandy loam with no manure. Plants in rows three and one-half feet apart, but does not like the single hill system. Wilson's Albany most productive, and after the Hooker and Chilian. Chilian has been with him more hardy than Wilson's Albany. Spring is a better time than fall to set out plants.

Mr. Glen, of Monroe county, planted Crimson Cone upon a space of sixteen square rods, (one tenth of an acre,) and the second year pickled eleven hundred quarts of berries. They had continued bearing well, and now this fifth year, had

already yielded over one thousand quarts. Wilson's Albany is an enormous bearer the first year, but afterwards diminishes very much in productiveness. The Large Early Scarlet will bear as many quarts as Wilson's Albany, and comes first into market, when the price is high, the demand great, and the sales easy, while Wilson's ripens mainly in the glut of the market. Triomphe de Gand is very productive and very fine. Hooker is perhaps somewhat tender in open winters or exposed situations, but it is of unsurpassed high flavor. Scott's Seedling is very productive, but of insipid flavor. Crimson Cone is very fine and good for preserving. When planted in hills mulching is necessary.

Mr. Chas. Dowling remarked that Wilson's Albany was the most productive plant he ever saw, but the fruit was too sour by far. Jenny Lind is a fine early sort. Triomphe de Gand was his favorite. Scott's Seedling was very handsome but possessed no flavor. Of all crops, perhaps the strawberry was the most variable known, some sorts being admirably adapted to some localities and some to others. Trollope's Victoria was of fine flavor, but not very productive. Monroe Scarlet was not as good on the banks of the Hudson as farther west, while Hooker was a berry of superior flavor, but not productive enough to satisfy the demands of many.

Mr. Beadle, of St. Catherine's, remarked that in Canada, upon a soil decidedly sandy, there was no variety for table use which was as early, or of as good size and fine flavor as the Large Early Scarlet. Hovey's Seedling did well, having a few large berries on each truss, and ripening as it did next to the Early Scarlet, and being of a good flavor, formed a capital succession crop. Burr's New Pine is, however, the best strawberry we have ever seen in all its qualities, in productiveness and in flavor. In size we have only one rival for it, and that is Triomphe de Gand: we think a good deal of that, so far. Hooker bears large berries and a good crop of the finest flavor, with a few small berries on the truss. In Canada we are obliged to protect all our strawberries in the winter. We plant in the spring, rows 2½ feet apart, and plants 1½ feet apart in the rows; let the runners fill in the spaces during the first summer, and then stop runners—we mulch with grass, have two seasons of fruit, and then dig up.

### WATERING NEWLY-SET TREES AND PLANTS.

—Where the soil is rich, deep, and well tilled, and if the planting is done in moist or showery weather, there will be seldom any need of watering. But if necessary, proceed as follows:—Just before setting out the tree or bush, prepare the hole of a generous size, pour water into it and leave it to settle gradually away. Then set in the tree, spreading out the roots and covering them with the best soil at command. This done mulch the surface with leaves or straw, laying over the whole a few flat stones. A tree or plant of any sort so managed, will seldom need any after-treatment. But if the soil is poor and light, and the season is dry and hot, it may be necessary to help the tree along. Take off the mulch, and three or four inches of the soil, and pour in as much water from which the chill is removed, as is needed to soak the ground, then put back the earth and the mulch. Once or twice during an ordinary season will be as often as this treatment will probably be needed.

If trees are watered directly on the top of the ground and with no mulch, the soil bakes hard like bricks; it is worse than no watering.—*Colonial Farmer.*

**DRESSING FOR STRAWBERRIES.**—Supposing the land to be in good condition, and deeply dug, I know no dressing which will so delight the strawberry as a heavy coat of dark forest mould. They are the children of the wilderness, force them as we will; and their little fibrous roots never forget their longing for the dark unctuous odor of mouldering forest leaves.—*Colonial Farmer.*

## The Flower Garden.

### THE JULY FLOWER SHOW.

The Summer Flower Show was held in the Horticultural Gardens on 18th July. The display of Plants and Flowers was not so large as might have been expected. The first prize for roses was voted to Mr. G. W. Bowes, and the second to Mr. Burrows, but a much superior stand, containing robust blooms of many of the newest and finest English roses was shown (for exhibition only,) by A. G. Rickards, Esq., who is by far the best informed and most enterprising amateur florist in Nova Scotia. Scotch pansies seem to do better in Nova Scotia than anywhere else on the American continent, and some good stands were exhibited. 1st prize, Mr. G. W. Bowes; 2nd, Mr. W. Frederick Petman.—1st, Mr. Burrows; 2nd, Mr. A. H. Crowe. Verbenas,—1st, Mr. Herbert Harris; 2nd, Mr. A. H. Crowe. The prize for Sweet Williams was gained by Mr. Frederick, for table bouquet by Mr. Burrows, who likewise gained the prize for Fuchsias by a set of well grown plants of excellent varieties. The full prize list has been printed in all the newspapers.

One of the principal features of the exhibition was the collection of greenhouse plants from the garden of William Cunard, Esq., (cultivated by that gentleman's gardener, Mr. Lamb.) It embraced healthy and well flowered plants of some of the finest show and fancy Pelargoniums, Fuchsias, Erica verticosa (one of the finest of heaths) and remarkably well grown plants of *Humea elegans*.

Among the exhibition plants we likewise noticed a beautiful *Clematis* and sweet *Jasmine* from the Richmond Road Nurseries (Mr. Harris') together with an elegant shade of *Icypods*. One of the most remarkable plants in the Hall was one labelled *Fuchsia Dominicana*, smulating in its foliage and upright purple flowers, a species of *Asclepias*.

We ought not to omit mention of two dishes of strawberries of great size and excellent flavor. It would add greatly to the interest and utility of these exhibitions were exhibitors required to label the articles with their proper names; otherwise it is very much of dumb show to most persons.

To many, the best part of the exhibition would be the Horticultural Garden itself. The flower borders were gay with phloxes, beds of crimson flax, rainbow portulacae, pansies, showy blue Delphiniums, nearly ten feet high, scarlet geraniums, verbenas, petunias and roses.

In the fruit quarters, the red and white currants and gooseberries were pretty well laden with fruit, and the strawberries gave evidence of robust health. There was a fine netium and other attractive greenhouse plants. In the nursery department, we noticed large quantities of healthy young horse chestnuts, larches, limes, and other trees and shrubs well worthy of the attention of those about to furnish new gardens and pleasure grounds.

We hope the amateur florists, horticulturists and nurserymen of Halifax will show more enterprise at next exhibition, which, it is understood will be held in October next.

### LONDON INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF HORTICULTURE.

It is intended to hold in London, next year, an International Horticultural Exhibition, on a very extensive scale. It will be held in May, 1866, most likely on the week falling between Epsom and Ascot races. Two thousand pounds sterling are to be awarded in prizes, and the leading botanists and horticulturists of foreign countries are to be invited to attend. There will be congenial meetings and evening conversazioni.

## KEW GARDENS,—LONDON.

We have to acknowledge Sir William Hooker's kindness in transmitting the annual report for the past year of the Royal Gardens at Kew from which it appears that the institution is in a highly efficient state. The number of visitors during the year was 473,307. Mr. Smith, who had been Superintendent for 50 years, has (owing to an affection of the eyes) retired from duty, and his services have been recognized by the Treasury in granting him the highest scale of pension. A Superintendent of the same name has been appointed. In the Garden, many improvements are being introduced in the walks, lawns, and plantations. Many donations are acknowledged from all parts of the world. About 4000 live plants and 4,600 packets of seeds have been distributed. The *Ipecacuanha* is being introduced to Ceylon and India. There are favorable reports of the *Cinchona* plantations in India under Dr. Anderson, and elsewhere. From Ascension encouraging accounts are received of the increased fertility and moisture of the island consequent on the extension of plantations. The Cook oaks sent to South Australia are thriving. One feature of the Garden is worthy of notice. The pleasure grounds are being devoted to the cultivation of a complete named collection of all the trees and shrubs that will stand the climate.—Every colony ought to have such a collection. Among the donations to the Museum we notice cones of *Pinus Peuce* from Messrs. Haage and Schmidt, which has enabled the Director to prove that this rare tree, which in Europe is confined to a single mountain in Turkey, is the same as the Himalayan *P. excelsa*. Dr. Kirk, who accompanied the Livingston expedition, has been arranging his African collections at Kew, and many other botanists have been working there.

## THE ENGLISH SPEEDWELL.

The Speedwell (*Veronica Chamædrys*) is one of the prettiest wild flowers in England. It is not an American plant, but was recently found to be abundant in the grounds of the Prince's Lodge, Bedford Basin, where it had no doubt been originally planted. This is the plant spoken of as the Blewart in the Field Day of a Scottish Naturalists' Club. Various other garden flowers, such as the Columbine and the Black-headed Centaurea have run wild in the grounds, where the Speedwell was found. The Speedwell has been only once before observed on this continent, viz.: at Quebec.

## FORCING EARLY ROSES.

This art consists in bringing the Rose, by degrees, out of its season. We know that a Rose can be potted in January, and made to produce flowers in May; but those who wish to force should know the best way. A Rose, then, for early forcing requires three seasons to be perfect. The first season it should be put into a greenhouse, and from thence into the stove, as early as November or December. It is sure to grow, no matter what sort it is; and let it grow its best, but pluck off the buds if it have any, yet it should not be drawn; this can be managed in two or three ways, but all it requires to prevent drawing is light and air. These will have grown pretty well as large as they can grow, by the time they may be turned out and plunged in the open air. The wood will ripen well in the summer time; and in October, re-pot them into a size larger pots; prune them by taking off all the weak shoots, and all the least valuable of those in each others way; shorten the best wood to two or three eyes, thinning the inner branches all that may be necessary to give air, light, and freedom to the new wood. Take them into the greenhouse, thence, soon, into the stove. Let the bloom buds, as they appear, be plucked off, and the

growth to be perfected again, which will be earlier than the previous season, as they were set growing earlier. Be early in your attendance on them, when they commence growing, so as to remove useless buds, instead of allowing them to form useless branches. When the growth is completed, remove them into a cold frame, to be kept from the spring frosts, but where they can have all the fine weather. In this state they may remain till they can safely be put out in the open air, plunged into the ground, and properly fastened to protect them from wind. In September you may examine the balls of earth, to see if the roots have room; if matted at all, give them another change. Prune the plants well as before; removing altogether such of the present year shoots as are at all weakly, and shortening all the best to two or three eyes. Let them now be taken to the greenhouse, or conservatory, or a graperly, or all in turn, but gradually increase the temperature, till, by the end of October, they may go into the forcing-house, beginning at the temperature the house was they came from, say fifty to fifty-five, and continuing it till they are fairly growing; then increasing it to sixty, and eventually to sixty-five: rubbing off as before all useless shoots, and giving plenty of air, when it can be done without lowering the temperature. At the least appearance of greenly, syringe with water; fumigate at night, gently syringe again in the morning; fumigate gently at night, for too strong a smoke would all but destroy the plants and incipient blooms. In this way you will be clear of the pest without danger of damage, and your reward will be a fine show of blooms on every rose-tree; strong growth, healthy foliage, handsome plants, and all that can be desired.—*G. Glenn, in Scottish Gardener.*

**A COMFORT TO ROSE GROWERS.**—We cultivate the rose for ornament; and nature, as if to farther our designs, places upon the leaves the neat, prim, little caterpillar of the vaporier moth, which is a more delicate, and elegant object than the handsomest rose that ever grew.—*Fitch's Noxious Insects, page 209.*

**SIR JOSEPH PAXTON.**—It is proposed to erect a monument to the late Sir Joseph Paxton.

**ROSE SHOWS IN LONDON.**—The great rose show of the Royal Horticultural Society came off on 1st July, and that of the Royal Botanic, Regent's Park, on 5th July, both of which were very successful.

**WORKMEN'S SHOW OF WINDOW PLANTS.**—A Workman's Show of Window Plants was to come off at Kensington, on 10th July. £50 sterling was offered in prizes.

**MIDGE-PROOF WHEAT.**—Enclosed please find a sample of midge-proof wheat, imported from the State of New York by Messrs. Gooderham & Worts and Mr. H. S. Howland, and now growing on the Meadowvale Farm, belonging to the former gentlemen. There are thousands of midges hovering amongst the straw and trying to work into the grain, but to no purpose. We have examined the field carefully and cannot find a grain injured. Enclosed, also, are two samples from the farm of Wm. Elliott, Esq., adjoining the Meadowvale Farm. One is the midge-proof and is perfectly safe; the other is the Soules wheat, planted one week earlier on the same land, with nothing but the fence between, and it is almost totally destroyed by the midge. In this neighbourhood this is about the result generally. Enclosed is also a sample of flax, taken from a 32-acre field (perhaps the largest flax field in Canada); it measures about three feet long and premises well. There are about 700 acres sown in this locality.—*Gooderham & Worts, in 'Toronto Globe.'*

## Miscellaneous.

## SCIENTIFIC CONVERSAZIONE IN THE HORTICULTURAL GARDENS.

The Institute of Natural Science held a Conversazione in the Horticultural Gardens, on the evening of 6th July. There was a large attendance of members and their friends, including ladies. Through the exertions of the President, J. M. Jones, Esq., F. L. S., Capt. Hanly, Mr. Gossip, Mr. Willis, and other active members, the Hall was tastefully decorated, and many interesting collections of natural history specimens were displayed. The proceedings were opened by an address from the president, in which he set forth in a clear and happy manner the nature and objects of the Institute, and described the more interesting and useful insects inhabiting Nova Scotia. Dr. Gilpin, M.D., followed with an exposition of the natural history of the herring, and an account of the mode of manufacturing the "Dighly Chicken," which was listened to with much interest. Mr. Gossip, the society's indefatigable secretary, took up the subject of Geology, and illustrated some of the leading principles of that science in an able manner, by reference to the geological phenomena of Halifax and other parts of Nova Scotia. The proceedings were closed by Dr. Lawson's address on the periodical phenomena of Plants. But, in addition to the formal addresses there was much interesting talk on matters of natural history, interspersed with ices, strawberries and other refreshments. One of the pleasantest features of the meeting was the reading of a letter addressed to Mr. Downs, by Charles Waterton, a genial and venerable English naturalist, whose death we noticed last month.

## FIELD DAY OF A SCOTTISH NATURALISTS' CLUB.

The Berwickshire Naturalists' Club differs materially in its mode of working from most others of our scientific societies, although its aim is like theirs—the advancement of science. Its members do not assemble in the formal style of other societies, 'too wise for so great a pleasure of life as laughter,' with an array of presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, and council, to give dignity to their learning; nor are the communications generally of that abstruse character in which some of our societies take pride. There is no regular place of meeting, the club being an itinerating one, its members followers of the peripatetic school. By previous agreement, they assemble at a certain convenient point at eight or nine in the morning, are entertained to breakfast by one of their number, and then step forth to breathe the fresh air and investigate the natural productions of the locality. They take care to return in time for dinner, for naturalists like good living as well as other men. Dinner over, they toast the prosperity of the club, and forthwith proceed to the more strictly scientific business of the meeting. And thus right pleasantly is spent the meeting-day of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club.

The club was instituted on the 22nd of September 1831, and continued to go on in its quiet course, making no display before the world of science, save the modest light which its meritorious "Transactions" shed abroad. Its original aim was to encourage a taste for natural history in the district, and especially to investigate the natural history and antiquities of the eastern borders; and there is now abundant evidence to show that

both of these objects have been well carried out.

In Hume's *History of the Learned Societies of Britain*, we find the following amongst other particulars concerning the club:—"This society possesses some features of a peculiar kind, which make it very interesting especially to its own members. It meets by day, not in the evening—usually at eight or nine o'clock, A. M. It examines the specimens of natural history *in situ*, and the explanations, whether oral or written, are the more interesting. It admits ladies, and none else, as honorary members. It is itinerating within a certain district; and a number of pleasing circumstances, not directly connected with the general objects, give it a decided preference to any other of them."

Dr. Johnston's sketch of a meeting of the club and one of its rendezvous, is given with the view of indicating the nature of the discoveries and discussions with which the morning walk is beguiled:—"It was a beautiful May morning, when the club assembled at Etal, the loveliest village of our plain; and so gay and happy with its parterres and green lawn, and broad walks and trees, and ruins and Hall, that I wren a prettier village may not well be seen any where. It does one good to visit that florulent village; and the zephyr, full of fragrance, that came upon us swimming from a thousand blossoms, gave a whet to the appetite, when the call to breakfast hurried us from these aerial essences to a substantial fare. The hearty and social meal over, we again sally forth to saunter awhile, amid such wildness as modern agriculture permits—in meadows and woods, in brakes and deans, and

By shallow rivers, to whose falls  
Melodious birds sing madrigals.

And so away—all chatting, few listening—the admiration of every ruddy-cheeked lass, and the wonder of every Colin Clout—a queer group, as pined in dress and cast in as many characters as a strolling company; the clerical suit of sober black mellowed and relieved by the freckled and checkered sporting jackets, that suit so well this holiday. The village is left; and the lane leads us by an abrupt turn down to the rat-rat-rattling mill, all gray and dusty, and quite a picture, with the lusty miller leaning on the half-shut door, eyeing us complacently, while the two cats that bask at his feet seem to be half alarmed at the novel rout. How hurriedly the water runs from beneath that heavy revolving wheel, as it were glad to have escaped from thralldom and from under the wheel of torture; and the eye seeks relief from the painful image in the caek beyond, over which the river rolls itself, in a round and oily wave, into the limn beneath, where fretted by the fall, it ruffles into a white foam, and murmurs not loud, and scarcely displeased, at the accident and delay! After a short whirling play, the water goes on in a smooth and placid flow, that, after a space, quickens into a tumbling, brattling stream, as if suddenly become conscious that it had dallied here too long, and must make up the lost time. We take the hint, and we start to follow the river, leading by a pathway, which the inscription, carved on a rock in rusty fashion, informs us was made by my Lord Frederick Fitzclarence—not for our ease, who are all too regardless of a trespass. So onward we saunter, changing companions as whim and chance dictate—now in front, now lost in the

rear; now plucking a new variety of flower; and now entrapping the gorgeous insect that flit about everywhere. The air is full of life; but it 'twas unlucky to be so engaged just at this particular moment, for I cannot participate in that laugh which some story of Douglas has provoked, and I lost the fun, too, for the sake of a fly that I have not captured. Onwards a ain; and now the wood is passed, when we cross with a quicker pace the open fields, and scarcely tarry at the queer little house and mill which is sunk, as it were, in the bank, over which the road is carried. But we greet the good woman who stands there, with her infant in her arm, all awondering at the throng; and our greeting is returned with a cheerful smile, that bespeaks the good woman to be happy with her lot. And the opposite bank, covered with the bonnie broom, is sunny, and alive, too, with yur-yur-vurlings, and chirps and melody; and the river is alive with the leaping trout and the up-and-down flies; and it plays in its course with alternate streams and stills, rapids and circling deep pools; and the sun shines on all things, living and dead, and we know not what to say, but that this is beautiful and fine, and we say this to one another very often, and never dream that we repeat a twice-told tale. Now a precipitous rock, partly quarried and clothed with flowering sloes, with a golden whin or two, with hazel and budding hawthorn, with honey-suckle clambering amidst the shrubs, and with ivy that festoons the dark rock, and much varied herbage, draws us to remark with what successful art nature has grouped and mingled all this heterogeneous furniture; producing a very pleasing and picturesque effect, with materials which, separately viewed, are of a mean and regardless character.

"Turned by this rock, the river now runs in a rougher channel, banked on one side by a green pasture slope; while the steeper bank along whose base we travel, is wooded with almost impenetrable shrubberies and trees of minor rank, where the varied botany that luxuriates in their shelter calls us to frequent admiration. The primrose and violet banks, the trailing ground-ivy with its modest flowers, the tall and graceful rush, the starwort with its blossoms of vestal purity, are all beautiful, and although often seen before, their beauty comes fresh and new upon us. I do love these wild flowers of the year's spring; and on we stroll, almost palled with sweets, and almost weary with loitering, so that it is felt to be a relief when a sylvan dean that opens aside on our path, tempts us to trace its unknown intricacies and retreats. It is a dean without a name, but sunny, and odorous, and silent. Here the brae glows with whin and budding broom, there coped with gray willows and alders, and every wild shrub and trailer; here a gentle bank, with its sward pastured by a lamb or two and their dams, that have strayed from the field above; while opposite, a rough quarry contrasts, yet not disturbs, the solitude of the prickly briars and weeds, that partly conceal the defect, tell us that it has been some time unworked. Now a sloe-brake gives shelter to every little bird which is seen sitting out from its shelter stealthily, and stealthily returning; and the lark sings and soars above, and the black-bird alarms the dean with its hurried chuckle; and as we near the top, we find a grove of elms, and poplars, and willows, which hang partly over a little shallow

limn, formed by a rill that has fallen in a gentle stream over a moss-grown shelf of rock; and then the water steals, more than half-hidden, down the grassy bed of the dean. The quietness of the place begins to influence us all—the conversation assumes a subdued tone, and some are evidently meditative, when the current which the thoughts of some young dreamer amongst us has taken, is marked out visibly by the question that is asked:—"What is the blewart of Hogg?"

"No one—nor old nor young—has thought the question abrupt or out of place, but we enter upon it as if the scene had suggested it, and made our young friend its spokesman: "What is the blewart in Hogg's beautiful pastoral?"

"Why, the blewart must be the same as the blaver or blowort—the *Centaurea cygnus*."

"Nay! that cannot be: the *Centaurea* is a corn-field weed—an autumnal flower—nor is it a sleeper at eventide. Let us hear the verse."

"When the blewart bears a pearl,  
And the daisy turns a pen,  
And the bonnie lucken-gowan  
Has faulted up her o—  
Then the favrick frae the blue lift,  
Draps down, and thinks wae shame  
To wan his bonnie lassie  
When the kye come hame."

"Very well, my good fellow! the blewart grows there at your feet, and its first blossoms are giving blue eyes to that sunny hillock. The blewart is the *Veronica chamaedrys*; its blossom is the pearl when at eve the flower has closed, and turned upon us the pale glaucous underside of its petals—it is the companion of the daisy and lucken-gowan; it is the ornament of the dean without a name."

"After a little more light discussion, the demonstration appears complete; and we feel that there is more interest, and as much utility, in settling the nomenclature of our pastoral bards, as that of old herbalists and dry-as-dust botanists."

#### AGRICULTURE AMONG THE HILLS OF NORTHERN INDIA.

At the June (1865) meeting of the Edinburgh Botanical Society, Dr. Cleghorn gave an interesting account of the valleys of certain rivers tributary to the Jumna, which he visited in an excursion from Simla.

In regard to the first or most western stream (Giri), the valley is low, warm, fertile, and dotted with scattered cottages; the mountain slopes are bare. Cotton-aster microphylla, carpeted the rocks. The crops are wheat, barley, several millets, til (*sesamum orientale*), tobacco, opium, poppy, and various pulses (*vicia*, *eryum*, and *phaseolus*). There is no rule for rotation of crops; the hill men sow the same seed in the same ground in successive seasons, and if any villager changes the crop it is from his particular choice.

The valley of the Pahur is wider and more verdant than any other seen in this part of the Himalaya. Elms and horse chestnuts, walnuts and mulberries, occur near villages. Many of the trees are mutilated from the tender branches and young shoots being annually cut off to be stored as winter fodder for cattle. The dried twigs are lodged in the fork of the denuded trees, and secured with grass ropes; whence, when pasture is scarce, a bundle is taken as required. *Pistacia integerrima*, "kakkur," is frequent on the river

bank below Racepoint: many trees were seen which would yield planks 10 feet long by 2 feet broad. Apricots, peaches, and plums abound in this beautiful glen. The Himalayan alder (*alnus nipalensis*) is a large and straight tree, fringing the river banks above the junction of the Touse. In addition to these, *berberis lycium*, *prim-epia utilis* (*bekul*), and *elegans conferta* (*gelai*), are economic plants, useful in various ways.

Broad river terraces from four hundred yards to a quarter of a mile in width are devoted to rice cultivation, for which this valley is celebrated, and through these the traveller's path lies. In spring, the opium poppy is largely cultivated, but in small patches; at the date of Dr. C's visit (April), the plants were several inches above the ground. The capsules are small, the lanceol for making the incision resembles that used in the plains. Tobacco, sesamum, and vetches, including *erum hirsutum* "masur," are grown in small quantity. In warm situations, barley is sown in March; wheat and several millets are likewise extensively cultivated. There was great abundance of wild mustard (*sinapis*), used for the purpose of obtaining oil. The poppy and tobacco ground is frequently weeded, and is kept clean. Previous to its being ploughed by the men, cattle manure is carried out in kiltas (long deep baskets) by the women, upon whom all the drudgery devolves. The articles of export from the valley are wheat, barley, rice, tobacco, opium, tar, kela oil, apricot oil, ginger, hides, iron, wool, potatoes, honey, and wax. Above Sheragan, towards the Burenda Pass, the food of the people consists chiefly of buckwheat (*phapar*) *fagopyrum esculentum*; the red amaranth (*bhata*), and the smaller millets (*chimi* and *kokia*), *panicum miliaceum* and *paspalum scrobiculatum*, with mandua, *elusine corovana*. In September and October this amaranth gives rich tints of carmine, orange, and yellow to the landscape, while the buckwheat assumes a delicate pink.

**A HINT FOR THE GAME AND FISHERIES' PROTECTION SOCIETY.**—Two boys were fined the other day in the Court of Special Sessions, held in Montreal, for setting a snare over the nest of a yellow bird. This was on the mountain; and they had with them a basket specially adapted, by means of a net-work over it, for the carrying away of small birds. The boys were eluded for nearly two miles before they were taken, and the action was at the instance of the Montreal Fish and Game Protection Society who are resolved hereafter to seek for the heaviest penalty in these cases.—*Montreal Witness*.

**A SIXTY QUART COW.**—There is an extraordinary cow in Newburyport which yields sixty quarts of milk a day.

**STORM SIGNALS.**—The English system of announcing approaching storms by telegraph has been adopted in Prussia. Why not on the American lakes, and on the coasts of Nova Scotia?

**CANADIAN IMMIGRATION.**—The immigration returns for the month ending May 31, show that 226 cabin passengers arrived at the port of Quebec, and 4,192 steerage; in all 4,418 passengers. This exceeds the arrivals in the same space of time in 1854 by 228.

## DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

**TOMATO SAUCE.**—Mrs. G. Dowdeswell begs to mention a very simple mode adopted by herself for some few years past, by which she can have tomato sauce prepared by the cook as required, fresh at any time. The tomatoes are gathered perfectly ripe, free from cracks or bruises, and are gently wiped with a soft cloth, and placed in a wide-mouthed jar. Some vinegar, having been boiled and allowed to stand until cold, is then poured over them, sufficient being used to entirely cover them. The jar is then covered with wetted bladder, and the tomatoes keep perfectly fresh and good until those of the following season come in. The peasantry in the south of France keep the tomatoes in this simple manner. Their mode of making sauce Mrs. Dowdeswell, unfortunately, has not perfectly; but the tomatoes in the manner described, can be made as required into sauce by any cook.

**CHICKEN PUDDING.**—Cut one into eight pieces, half a pound of bacon cut into slices; season with one teaspoonful of salt, half of pepper, two of chopped parsley, a little thyme, and one captain's biscuit, well broken; fill the pudding with the meat, add half a pint of milk, boil for one hour and a half; serve with melted butter over, and chopped parsley on the top.

**PIGEON PUDDING.**—(*American*).—Pluck, draw, and stuff two pigeons with the stuffing, then cut some large, thin slices of beef, and some of bacon, season well; roll the pigeons in the meat and bacon, lay them in the pudding; boil four eggs hard, cut them into quarters, and fill the cavities with them; mix a teaspoonful of flour with half a pint of milk, or water, close up, and boil for one hour and a half, and serve.

**FLOAT.**—Take 1 qt. of new milk and 5 eggs, beat the whites to a stiff froth, have the milk ready boiling in a skillet and with a spoon place the whites in it, turn them over quickly, then lift them out carefully, and place them on a plate. Now beat the yolks well, add 1 large spoonful flour, 2 table-spoonfuls of sugar and some grated nutmeg or lemon, and 2 spoonfuls of cold milk; stir them all together, then pour it into the milk, stirring it to keep it smooth. Let it boil, turn it out into a deep dish, place the whites on it, and it is now ready for use. A few drops of jelly or colored sugar on the whites improves the look.

**DIRECTIONS FOR STEUING MEAT.**—The stuffing for pork, or ducks and geese, is made of bread crumbs mixed with sage and onions, chopped small, seasoned with pepper and salt. It is not easy to give the exact proportions for stuffings, but you require about twice the quantity of bread crumbs that you do of the sage and onions. The stuffing for veal and turkeys is made of bread crumbs, with suet, parsley, and thyme or majoram, chopped very fine, seasoned with pepper and salt, and made to adhere by being mixed together with a raw egg.

**EGGS AND SAUSAGES.**—Boil four sausages for five minutes; when half cold cut them in halves lengthways; put a little butter or fat in the frying-pan, and put the sausages in and fry gently; break four eggs into the pan, cook gently and serve.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications are to be addressed (pre-paid) to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Prof. Lawson, Dalhousie College, Halifax, N.S. Communications must be in the Editor's hands not later than the 15th of the month, if intended for the ensuing number.

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