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# THE AGRICULTURIST

## AND CANADIAN JOURNAL.

Devoted to Agriculture, Literature, Education, Useful Improvements, Science, and General News.

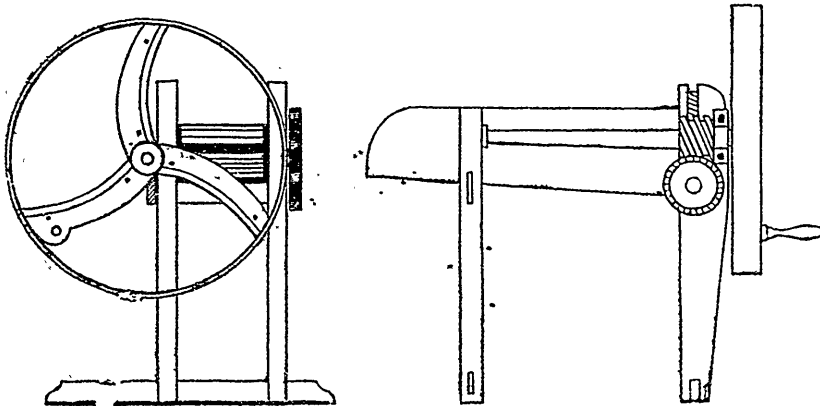
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VOL. I.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 1, 1848.

NO. 2.



STRAW CUTTER.

If there is any implement of Agriculture which, more than another, has attracted the attention of improvers and experimenters, it is the machine for cutting fodder. Knives have been made of all imaginable shapes, and hung in all possible ways. Every article of cutlery that has issued from a Sheffield manufactory seems to have been imitated in their construction. They have been attached to the arms of wheels at right angles to the axle, and to the circumference parallel to it. To levers and to frames, sometimes working perpendicularly, and at others *slantendicularly*, cutting downwards and cutting upwards, on rollers spirally and on rollers longitudinally. Sometimes the machine has undergone such fundamental changes, that it would take a man who has spent his life in the study of comparative anatomy, or rather machinery, to put it together if it should happen to fall to pieces.

We saw one the other day on the side-walk in this city, that would make a high spirited horse burst his belly-band to look at it. The *tout ensemble* was striking and picturesque.—It looked as if it might have been a frame at first constructed with the appropriate and usual features of such an article, but had unfortunately been left out in rough weather, and got blown over the barn in a whirlwind. We defy any one of ordinary attainments to tell the top from the bottom, for it is like a cat, throw it up as you please, it will be sure to come down on its feet. We understand it is the invention of an acquaintance of ours, who once very nearly found out the Perpetual Motion. He has at any rate found out the queerest cutting box of modern times. But to the engraving above. This represents one improved by a young Canadian, and manufactured at the foundry of Mr. Good, of this city. We went to see it operate a few days ago, and were certainly highly pleased with the manner it did its work. There are two points of excellence in this machine of great importance. There are

three knives as may be seen in the cut, fixed to the spokes or arms of the wheel in such a manner as to cut the straw with the least possible waste of power. In shape they resemble the first ten inches of the points of cradle scythes, but stronger. The feeding apparatus is as simple as can be made, and yet it is effectual. Two rollers, between which the straw passes, are worked by an endless screw on the shaft of the large wheel. The only fault we could detect in the machine by a hurried inspection, was the great weight of metal in the principal wheel. In other respects, it is well made, not liable to get out of repair, and will we think answer a good purpose.

FARMING AND READING.—Do you take and read an Agricultural paper? Strange that a farmer, or planter, should think of doing without one. The merchant surrounds himself with his shipping lists, price currents, and all the means that can communicate information and ensure success; the lawyer's shelves are loaded with law journals, law reports, law commentaries, and law precedents, for he is sensible that without understanding what others have done, he cannot hope for triumph at the bar; so with the other professions, they must and do read, if they hope for eminence or usefulness. All are anxious to understand their own business, the farmer excepted and too many of these are content to follow on in the beaten path, never reading, scarcely thinking, and showing no anxiety to know what science is doing for them, and what discoveries and improvements are making to accelerate their progress. No man needs extensive, varied knowledge, more than the farmer; none can turn it to more profitable account.—The whole growth of a plant from the germination of the seed to the ripening of the fruit, is purely a chemical process, and one that may be understood and known. The farmer is admirably situated to study and to interrogate nature. Let him read, observe, compare, reflect, and practice accordingly.—Never act without system, no. do a thing because others have done it.—*Cult. Almanac.*

Remember the truism—that what is worth doing at all, is worth doing well.

## Agriculturist and Canadian Journal.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 1st, 1848.

☞ All articles in this paper which are *leaded*, i. e. which have a free, open appearance, like the present and the one that follows it, are original—written either by the Editor or by contributors. Those that have a close, solid appearance, like the article on the next page, headed "HINTS FOR FEBRUARY," are either copied from other publications or written by Correspondents, in which latter case the name, real or fictitious, of the writer will appear, with date, &c. All articles not written or entirely re-modelled by the Editor, which appear as editorial, will be distinguished by a letter of the alphabet, usually the initial of the writer's name, at the end.

We make these explanations, in order that readers may not confound what *we* say with what is said by *other* people; and that they may neither give us credit nor *blame* us for what is not ours. We have heard readers speak of what they had seen in a newspaper, as if the whole of the paper were written by the Editor; and of course such people hold him responsible for the truth of every sentence in its pages. A very little reflection will convince any person of sense of the absurdity of such a notion. If we find a statement in a respectable exchange paper, or in the works of some author of established reputation, which seems plausible and worthy of notice, we insert it for *what it may be worth*, and the reader must so regard it. If we meet with a receipt which is recommended as valuable, we give it; and unless we *happen* to have proved it, and state that fact, the reader must try for himself before he relies upon its efficacy. We trust all our readers, before they find fault with the Editor, will think of the above remarks, and try to form a just and proper notion of his true position, duties and responsibilities.

We beg further to state, although it ought to be unnecessary, that we must not be identified with, or held accountable for, the opinions of our Correspondents. Our pages are open to fair and free discussion on all suitable subjects; and we here invite the friends of agriculture to assist us in diffusing among our farmers correct opinions upon all subjects of interest to them. We have but one request to make now, and that is, that they will make their communications as *short* and as much to the purpose as possible.

### AGRICULTURE, IN CONNECTION WITH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

The above is becoming a favorite movement in various parts of the United States, and it is thought that should the experiments now being made prove successful in accomplishing the results the friends of the cause anticipate, liberal provision will be made by the different State Governments, for the establishment of agricultural chairs and experimental farms, in connection with their principal collegiate Institutions. The Eastern Colleges have nobly set the example, in bringing about this truly great reform; and we learn that Professors Horsford and Norton, the former of Harvard and the latter of Yale College, have been very successful in practically applying and illustrating the science of Agriculture to the understandings of the hundreds of students who attend these richly endowed institutions. The Legislature of the comparatively small and new State of Georgia, has recently made a liberal appropriation to found and sustain an agricultural professorship in the State University.

Ireland and Scotland are both becoming alive to the importance of raising the business of agriculture to a standard which will entitle it to rank, in the lapse of a few years, with the exact sciences. England is not lagging in the work, and there is no doubt that agricultural schools, in connection with example or pattern farms, will become very general in Great Britain and Ireland, before many years. Indeed government has already made provision for the establishment of educational institutions of this description in each county of the latter

country. It properly managed they may be made nearly self-sustaining, especially if established upon the basis of those that are being put into operation in Ireland.

As agriculture is the great source of productive labour in Canada, it is important that those employed in it, should thoroughly understand the principles which govern the various operations on the farm, and be able to trace effects to their true cause. Modern philosophers have clearly illustrated the applicability of science to agriculture, and why should not the agricultural youth of the present day avail themselves of the benefits to be derived from a knowledge of the important facts that have been so clearly revealed to us by a Davy, a Liebig, a Playfair, a Johnston, and a host of other worthies, who have spent their lives, and devoted their substance in the investigation of agricultural phenomena? The discoveries made by these men have been promulgated far and wide by the press, and may be made available with a very trifling cost, by any youth who has a desire to become acquainted with them. The science of chemistry, botany, geology and mechanics, should be taught in those Academies, where our wealthy farmer's sons are being educated, and even in the common schools, we may hope that through the agency of the Normal School, a taste will be imparted to the rural population for the study of such sciences. We look to our Provincial University of King's College to set an example in this great national enterprise. It is so richly endowed that a few costly experiments in practical agriculture would not be seriously felt. A respectable farm, placed under proper management, in connection with this Institution, would have a very wholesome influence on the productive interests of this Province. The cultivation of new crops, the application of new machines to the various operations on the farm, the testing of the efficacy of the various modes of underdraining, subsoiling, and tilling the land, and not least, the careful analysis of soils and plants, would all form an important part in ameliorating and elevating the condition of the Agriculture of Canada.

Agriculture is now acknowledged on all hands to be of the greatest importance to all interests. The success of all other branches of trade, is mainly dependant upon the productiveness of the soil; it is therefore to be hoped, that the Canadian Government will look well to the matter, and at least place the educational institutions under their controul, on such a footing, that a sound practical education may be imparted to the youth of our land, calculated to further the development of the great resources of the country. We shall as soon as we can find time to digest some ideas which we entertain, with regard to a *general law* for the promotion of Agriculture, lay our scheme before the public, and we hope to be able to draw the attention of the new Parliament to a subject, which we contend is of vastly greater importance to the country than any other single measure that can be framed.

### HINTS FOR FEBRUARY.

Some of the following "hints" which we find in the *Genesee Farmer*, are well worthy the reader's notice, and will answer for February as well as the month for which they were written:—

HINTS FOR JANUARY.—This month is an important epoch in time; but whether this old beldame, Earth, first begun to buzz round on th's first day, sacred to the heathen god Janarius; or whether Adam on this day was first created and given power over all the beasts of the field, and the birds of the air, or whether it is entirely an assumption of our progenitors, we plead ignoramus. But our belief is that it is entirely arbitrary, and confess to a dread and dislike of the cold blasts of winter; that death and nonentity of all things beautiful and fair—that period of monotony—of snows, of frosts, of wind, and mud; the absence of leaf and life, of song, and the blessed invigorat-

ing rays of the glorious luminary of day. Had we, in the fulness of our human ignorance, the power of commencing time, of beginning our solar year, it would have been at a period when all things are as *verdant* as our precious *setes*—when nature in the redundant luxury of fruition makes this glorious world a paradise, a paragon of beauty and life. "But it is as it is, and can't be no 'tiser." So we must be content, and grub along with the best grace we may, on spare-rib and Johnny cake, leafless trees and cold toes. So let us turn over a new leaf; that is, all of us who are not so perfect as to be beyond amendment—for many of our old leaves are blotted and dirty, by bad acts, dog's-ears, and sins of omission and commission—and start *de novo* upon the improved knowledge and principles of a forever past year's experience.

Look over your books, and see how you stand with the world, in the Debit and Credit scale. Pay thy creditor while thou art in his way, lest he send the sheriff, and he send thee to prison; verily thou shalt not depart until thou hast paid the utmost farthing. But, thanks to our liberal legislators, who go about the world like roaring lions, doing good, we are out of that scrape—we can't be imprisoned for civil debt; but nevertheless, dear reader, if you can pay all of your indebtedness when you lay your head upon your pillow, an independent man, Santa Claus will fill your stocking and your store—nightmare and indigestion will vanish—your wife will be kind, your children obedient, and all mankind be brethren and friends.

Don't smoke, drink cider, and dream away these long evenings. Life is short enough, and time flies fast enough, without the adventitious aid of provocatives. Settle accounts—make calculations and estimates for future use—read and digest good and profitable books—overhaul the children's progress in school, and see that they make good use of that invaluable institution, the School Library—encourage social singing in the family, of sacred music and moral and patriotic sonnets, which is a much better recreation for young and old than the chequer-board, cards, &c.

Remember in laying down pork, that a little too much salt is just enough—that lean meat is a loss, and every ounce of bone decidedly injures the flavor of the meat. Rattle up the wood, and see that the wood house is supplied, for it is enough to make a horse break his bridle to see a woman out in the snow hacking wood, she does it so awkwardly.

Litter your stables and sheds freely, and if you have straw in plenty, cover the whole yard. Feed chaff in tubs or half barrels, or troughs; it saves half. If the milch cows fall off in milk with good feed, it is a sign they want salt—a gill every other day is none too much; but above all things, see that they get plenty of water, handily and when they want it.—Look well and often to sheep; see that they keep up; a few oats or small quantity of corn are wonderful assistants.

The first good sleighing, get your plaster home. Take good care of all the house ashes, for one bushel on most land, is worth two of plaster—except perhaps for clover. House and paint the wagons, sleighs, plows, harrows, &c. One gallon of boiled oil, and six pounds of Venetian red, will save twenty-five dollars a year.

Make farm gates, and make fence with the bars. Get out your rails and stakes. Look to your potatoes—do your duty to God and man. So doing, kind reader, we wish you a Happy New Year.

#### LIMING AND BRINING SEED WHEAT.

The following remarks are by a practical Farmer. The subject is an important one, and those of our readers who may happen to think that *steeping* and *liming* are of no use, are recommended to read them attentively:—

Messrs. Editors:—I regret to see that your correspondent, N. Simons, doubts the benefits of salt and lime to prevent smut. I am so well grounded in my belief of its efficacy, that it is almost as daring an innovation on a well settled principle, as to attack my belief in holy things. As far as my experience goes, together with a multitude of others, it is a *specific* for that disease, and the only one that never fails, and when properly and faithfully applied, prevents, in all cases, its propagation. I have been in the constant use of the practice for ten years past, without even an appearance of smut, and one of my neighbors who constantly *limes* and *brines* his seed, proclaims, that he will give one dollar each for every smut head that can be found on his farm.

A very careful experiment was made in England, at great expense, under the patronage of the National Agricultural Society, in which was thoroughly tested all the popular notions in use as a preventive, with the foulest seed, and with clean seed thoroughly impregnated with the fungus known as smut, in which it was conclusively proved, that it was not only propagated by the foul seed, but that clean seed wet and rubbed with the fungus, also produced it abundantly. The prevention that succeeded best was soaking in *stale urine*, and drying with quick lime; the next best was *strong brine* and *lime*. So that I cannot but suspect that there was something wanting in your correspondent's manner of preparing his seed, or it is one of those vicissitudes of nature, that sometimes defeats an almost unerring rule.

A strong case in point happened, a few years since, under my own view and knowledge. A father and son-in-law had each a summer fallow, side by side, of equal quality, exposure, and soil. Their own seed being rather objectionable on account of foul seeds, they procured a load of forty bushels from a distance of some fifteen miles. On arriving at their homes they divided the bags according to their several wants. The father, on looking at his discovered that it was considerably smutted and immediately salted and brined it; the son-in-law was a disbeliever and omitted it. They both sowed the same day, and under precisely the same circumstances. On harvesting, one was clean and the other was foul. The father got 94 cents per bushel, while the son-in-law could only get offered 69 cents, it was so excessively smutted.

December, 1847.

L. B. LOVELAND.

—*Genesee Farmer*.

#### THE RESPECTABILITY OF AGRICULTURE.

An elegant writer on the rural industry of Holland, in the last *Edinburgh Review* says, in relation to agriculture, "that the errors of practice are corrected, and causes of failure of crops made clear by the discoveries of modern chemistry. That by it alone the rocks and shoals that lie in the way of agricultural improvement are mapped out; deeper and more direct channels brought to light, and new methods suggested, by which not only are known ends to be attained, more completely and more economically than before, but objects also realized, which have hitherto been considered unattainable.

"The doctrine, economy, composition, preparation, and skilful use of manures—how wonderfully have all these points been illustrated and developed in late years! What the plant consists of—how and with what substances it is fed—what the soil naturally contains—how it is to be improved, so that what is present in it may be made readily available to the plant, and what it lacks be in the best way supplied—where the kinds of food necessary to the plants are to be obtained most abundantly and how applied most profitably to the soil—what effects climate, situation, and tillage exercise upon the fertility of the land, and upon the fertilizing virtues of whatever is laid upon or mixed with it. These, and hundreds of similar questions, all involving or suggesting peculiar modes of practice, are arising daily, where culture is prosecuted as an advancing art—and they are solved especially by chemical research. They are all included, therefore, under what we term the chemical division of agriculture.

"Let a farmer avail himself of this knowledge, and he is unconsciously raised into the intelligent cultivator of a most interesting branch of natural science."

A knowledge of chemistry sufficient to enable a farmer to work understandingly in Nature's laboratory, his own farm, requires only that he should study the nature of about thirteen substances.

—*Genesee Farmer*.

STEAMING FOOD—GROWING MUSTARD, &c.—At a late meeting of the Ross Agricultural Association, England, several very excellent speeches were delivered, and from the whole of the proceedings it would appear that in some parts of England at least, an increasing interest in agricultural improvement is perceptible. From some accounts we have lately seen, we feared there was danger of a retrograde movement. A Mr. Batson in the course of his speech made the following remarks:—

There are two matters of a practical nature which I should like to introduce to your notice. The first is the system of steaming food.

It is impossible to state the benefits which result from an extensive practice of this system. I have been able to steam hay that has been perfectly white with mould, and have ultimately brought it into as good a state as any hay that you can get out from the middle of a rick. (Hear, hear.) I am using the system rather extensively, and find it of great benefit. I have pigs on my farm which, during the last month have been gaining weight at the rate of 20 lbs. a week. (Hear, hear.) I do not mean to say that this is very extraordinary, but it shows what the system is calculated to effect. The other matter is, the cultivation of mustard. This many persons have tried, and have found it to answer exceedingly well; but I hope to see the day when it will be as common to sow mustard after the corn is cleared off, as it is to fallow it with turnips. (Applause.) Many benefits arise from it: it keeps down the weeds, and is profitable, while the outlay upon the ground is only about 4s. to the acre.

L. F. ALLEN, ESQ.,—HIS FARM STOCK, &c.

In our first number (of the *Agriculturist*), we published a communication from Mr. Allen, of Black Rock, New York, addressed to us when Editor of the *Canada Farmer*, relative to some observations which we made in that Journal, upon his farm, buildings, stock, &c., at Grand Island. We had written a few remarks explanatory of two or three points in Mr. A.'s letter, which were intended to accompany it, but by some mistake their omission was not discovered till the *form* had gone to press, and being so far behind with our first number, we were unwilling to delay the press a single moment to make alterations, not absolutely required.

The readers of the *Farmer* will probably recollect the drift of our remarks, upon what we saw on visiting Mr. A.'s farm last fall. They will be able to understand the force of Mr. Allen's observations, and the true questions at issue between us, if we can properly be said to be at issue at all. Those who have not taken or seen the *Farmer*, will not so well appreciate the points under discussion.

There are generally two extremes to subjects like the present, into one or other of which a large proportion of those who think, talk and write about them are apt to stray. The man who has given his attention, and spent his money in selecting and breeding an improved variety of any of the domestic animals, will be very likely to think highly of them, and extol their merits a little beyond their real deserts. If he has had tolerable success he very naturally feels proud of it, and besides if he has spent much money he will be anxious to get it back again. The result is, that he wishes to make every body else take the same exaggerated view that he does himself. On the other hand, there are those who doggedly adhere to one course, because they have always followed it. They have no desire for improvement; the old way answers their purpose; tell them of any thing new that is worthy of their notice, and they regard it as a direct imputation upon their knowledge and practice; just as if they did not know every thing worth knowing, and did not do every thing in the best possible manner. Such people will never acknowledge the superiority of any thing over what they possess, and consequently they go to the other extreme. Now we have endeavoured, and in the conduct of our paper, shall always endeavor to take a straight forward, common sense, practical and just view of all subjects liable to these extremes. We may err, we may not be sufficiently acquainted with the question to argue it aright, but nevertheless we shall try. We are satisfied that no substantial good can be accomplished, in attempting to promote improvement in agriculture by misrepresentation or humbug. We shall strive to discuss every matter fairly; to examine it in all its aspects.

It was in this spirit and with this object that we made the following, among other observations on the subject of "improved breeds" of cattle, in the article to which Mr. Allen refers:—

"The truth is, the best breeds of domestic animals, as well as the best varieties of grain and vegetables, require the best management; a constant application of skill and care to maintain, and perpetuate their superior qualities. The man who lays out large sums of money to stock his farm with Durham, Devon, or Hereford cattle, Berkshire pigs, and South Down, Leicester, or Cotswold sheep, and then pursues the same old system of neglect; leaving every thing to take care of itself; or, when he does interfere, obstructing nature's efforts instead of helping or taking advantage of them; allowing the butcher to cull his flocks of the best—the conservative individuals, whose superior character would keep up the general standard, had much better invest his capital in some other way. No: but that the improved breeds will, even in bad hands and under the operation of degenerating causes, still maintain a superiority over the common kinds in like circumstances, but the difference will not be sufficient to justify their original expense. The tendency of everything of this kind is *downward*. It would seem to be a part of the "primeval curse," that those products of the animal and vegetable kingdom essential to man's existence, should demand his constant care, and the exercise of his highest skill to prevent them from 'running out.'"

After showing the unsoundness of the doctrine, that the difference between the "improved breeds" and the "natives," is wholly owing to blood, or ancestral and physiological superiority, and that the natives are incapable of improvement by any process, we added the following:—

"But it may be asked what need then of importing Durhams, &c., at great expense, and paying high prices for their stock? For the simple reason that in them we have ready to our hand what has cost long years of labor and skill to produce, and what can not be accomplished by any shorter method now. Their good qualities as far as they can be, are established. We have a vantage ground to start from, and thus time and expense, and an exercise of skill that very few of us have, are dispensed with. The practical conclusion that we are driving at is just this: Let us have good stock, the best we can get, because they are the most profitable. The 'improved breeds' are the best, the several kinds according to the purposes for which they are wanted. Therefore, let us procure one of the improved breeds. But without spoiling our syllogism, we must add this conclusion; where we are not able to stock our farm with Durhams, Devons or Ayrshires, let us not neglect the natives; especially let us not do so under the notion that they are incapable of improvement that between them and the former there is an 'impassible gulph.' Time and care will enable us to cross it."

We hold the same opinions still, notwithstanding the clever and apparently clinching arguments of our excellent friend. He must not speak so contemptuously of the "scrubs or natives as you call them," or when he pays us a visit, which we expect some of these days, we shall take him to see some "natives" that will "astonish" him, or if they do not we are certain he will "astonish the natives."

He gets the better of us altogether, when he asks us to tell him "by what process, and through what combinations the different breeds of the Short-horn, Hereford or the Devon cattle were produced." The noted breeder and author of the *American Herd Book* should not have imposed so "deep" a subject upon a mere amateur—upon one who can hardly say more than that he "desires to look into these things." We fear Mr. A. that as the beggar said to the gentleman of "blood," who was boasting the great exploits of his ancestors for many generations, if we go deep enough into the matter, we shall find that about the time of Noah, our ancestors were very nearly related, and so of the improved and native breeds of cattle. It surely rests upon those who assert the affirmative, to adduce the proof of it. The Short-horn writers are fond of claiming for their favorites a very high antiquity, and thence argue the inherent distinctiveness of the breed, and the absolute permanence of their superiority. Now we admit the superiority, and urge the advantage of procuring them as stock, but we deny the correctness of the arguments or proofs by which that superiority is in part made out. This is the difference, if there be any, between us and Mr. Allen; Mr. A. in his *Herd Book* (extracts from which we shall take the liberty of publishing hereafter in our paper), strives hard to make out the claim for his Short-horns, to a long line of distinguished ancestry, but when he gets beyond the time of

the Messrs. Collings, (1800, and for a few years previous) the subject changes from history to tradition. On the banks of the Tees, about the year "1740, there existed a breed of cattle resembling the Short-horns," except that their horns were not short. They were "crossed with, and probably improved by, importations from the continent," says the Rev. Mr. Berry, the earliest authentic writer on the subject. This was likely to damage the claim set up by the enthusiastic breeders, and therefore rather a fanciful idea was started, that these importations were from a branch of the same family sent into Holland a century before! This part of the subject we admit is "rather deep." The ancient record mentioned by Mr. A. in a note, that his brother *was told* existed in England, proving that the Short-horns flourished there four centuries ago, would no doubt remove some of the difficulty, if brought to light.

We shall return to this matter again, not for the purpose of *running down* the improved breeds, but to meet the false assumption as to their origin, which, if it were generally believed, would prevent all effort at improvement of the natives. We believe that the same course of treatment which *has given*, and *keeps up* the excellence of the *improved* (the very expression supports our view), will create and perpetuate excellence among the *natives*. This is an object we think of nearly as much importance to the country at large, as the breeding and improvement of the Short-horns. We hope that as it is not the first, it will not be the last time that Mr. Allen will appear in our columns.

THE GOLD MEDAL FOR THE BEST IMPROVED FARM IN THE HOME DISTRICT.

Allusion was made to the above subject in the October number of the *Provincial Advertiser*, which brought forth a lengthy communication from the pen of E. W. Thomson, Esq., the chairman of the Awarding Committee, which we would gladly have transferred to the columns of the *Agriculturist*, if the space devoted to agricultural topics would admit it. The communication in question embodies the report, as it was originally drawn up and presented to the Association, and the following may be viewed as an abbreviation of such parts as would be interesting to the readers of a widely circulated Journal like ours. Only four farms were offered for competition, and the one that was deemed the best in every respect, is owned and managed by Mr. David Smiley, and is situated in the second concession of Vaughan. No mention whatever is made of the details of Mr. Smiley's farm practice, by which the reader could follow so excellent an example as is doubtless set by Mr. S.; this omission nearly destroys the usefulness of the report, and should in future be noticed, if possible, by Awarding Committees.

The three unsuccessful competitors were George Miller, Markham; David Smith, and Mrs. Blanchard, of Toronto Township. Mention is made of Mr. Miller's mode of preparing seed wheat, which is that of dipping it in boiling ley, as a means of preventing smut. The results of this practice in the hands of Mr. Miller, have apparently proved safe and efficacious, but we fear it would be likely to destroy the vitality of the seed, and should be used with great caution.

Mrs. Blanchard's farm is highly spoken of, being fenced with English haw-thorn; and Mr. Smith's neat farm management, is adverted to in "the highest terms of commendation."

CORN MEAL CAKE.—Excellent breakfast cakes can be made in the following manner: Mix two quarts of corn meal, at night, with water, and a little yeast and salt, and make it just thin enough to stir easy. In the morning stir in three or four eggs, a little salcratus, and a cup of sour milk, so as to leave it thin enough to pour out of a pan; bake three quarters of an hour, and you will have light, rich honey-comb cake—and with a good cup of coffee and sweet butter at breakfast, one finds with *Hæmlet*, "increase of appetite to grow with what it feeds on."

HOW TO OBTAIN A NEW VARIETY OF POTATOES.—The *Ogdens-Lough Republican* says: "When the vines are done growing and turned down, the seed is ripe; then take the tubs and string them with a large needle and thread—hang them in a dry place, where they will gradually dry and mature without injury from frost. In the month of April cook the balls for several hours in water, then squeeze them to separate the seed from the pulp. When washed and dried they are fit for sowing in rows in a bed well prepared in the garden. They will sprout in a fortnight. They must be treated like other vegetables, and when about two inches high they may be transplanted into rows. As they increase in size they should be hilled. In the autumn many of them will be of the size of a walnut, and from that to a pea. In the following spring they should be planted in hills, placing the larger ones together. They will in the second year attain their full size, and will exhibit several varieties of form, and may then be selected to suit the judgment of the cultivator."

European Agricultural News.

Under this head we shall give a summary of agricultural news from our English and Foreign exchanges. We are in receipt of several Agricultural Periodicals, and shall take steps to procure more in order to make this department of our paper interesting.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL TRADE.—The quantity of wool exported from Sydney in the year 1836, amounted to 3,700,000 lbs. weight; and the annual produce has increased so astonishingly that from the same port, in 1846, 7,100,000 lbs. were exported. The celebrated wools of Australia are derived from two principal breeds of sheep, the Merino and the Saxon. To give the reader some idea of the quantity of wool exported from New South Wales, it is only necessary to state that, in the year 1843, the gross amount equalled 18,000,000 lbs. This wool was sold at remunerating prices in the British markets, and at lower rates than had been usually paid for wool of a similar quality imported from Spain and Germany.

THE TENANT-RIGHT AGITATION.—The tenant farmers of England appear to be unanimous in opinion, that the only means by which they can bear up under the operations of free trade in agricultural produce, is to secure from their landlords a certain freehold tenure, on long periods of time, by which means they would be warranted in investing their capital in draining and in making other permanent improvements. Meetings are being held in various parts of the kingdom, by tenant farmers: and in some instances the landlords have consented to the terms dictated by their tenants.

INDIAN CORN AND RYE MEAL, USED FOR FEEDING HORNED CATTLE.—A writer in the *Mark Lane Express* is of opinion that corn and rye meal are more nutritious and are better and cheaper articles of food than oil-cake.

FLAX GROWING.—At a meeting in Clonakilty, Mr. Franks states, that the quantity of land once under flax in the county of Cork, amounted to 1,700 acres—that there were 500 hogsh-heads of seed sold, and that the linen trade of Clonakilty averaged £1,200 per week.

DRAINING.—Imperfect under-draining is very common. The following may be taken as a good rule:—"If water stands on the surface of a field three hours after rain has ceased to fall, that field is not sufficiently drained for the cultivation of grain."

FRIGHTENING FOXES.—The farmers in some parts of Donegal, suppose that foxes cannot endure the smell of gunpowder, with which they consequently rub their lambs in order to secure them from becoming the prey of their vulpine enemies; and in other districts of the same county, the old women are said to endeavour to propitiate the foxes by exposing gloves and stockings as presents to them.

## CIVIL AND SOCIAL.

## PUBLIC DEBTS.

It would be deemed an extreme hardship, if in the common affairs of life, every man were held responsible for the debts of a prodigal father, especially in cases where they had swelled to such an amount, as the savings of a whole life would be inadequate to discharge. Nor would he be deemed a kind, a benevolent or a just father, who, through recklessness or prodigality, should entail upon his son the burthen of a debt, which neither that son nor his progeny for ten generations, could hope to get rid of. A nation is but a combination of families, and what they do in their associated capacity, is justly subject to the same laws, as if each unit that goes to form the whole acted in his individual capacity. There is nothing in the simple fact of association that takes away individual responsibility, that changes the law of benevolence or averts the claims of justice. If it is right that one man should abstain from contracting debts, which he knows his progeny for many generations will be unable to discharge, it is right that a hundred men or a whole nation should observe a similar course. To the violation of this simple rule, may be traced all the evils growing out of the public debts, which are now weighing down the energies and swallowing up the resources of so many countries.

The perpetual funding system, has enabled England to contract a debt of some £800,000,000, not one farthing of which would it have been necessary to entail upon posterity, could the system of direct taxation have been made to supply extraordinary revenue in cases of emergency. And there has scarcely been a period in the whole history of the National debt, when an amount equal to the present annual interest—some £30,000,000—would not have been amply sufficient to carry on the most vigorous war, or for the most pressing emergency through which the country has passed. But the government, refusing to try the temper of the people by direct taxation, resorted to loans, and what in the first instance would have been sufficient without contracting any debt, the nation is now compelled to raise annually to pay the interest of the debt, which, through the means of the funding system, has been created. Dr. Adam Smith says, that an annual revenue of £10,000,000 would be sufficient to carry on any war in which the country could engage. Nor is this estimate proved to be too low by the fact, that the cost of some wars has exceeded that sum. It is a necessary result of the funding system, to increase the cost of every successive war, regard being had to the magnitude of the scale on which it is carried on. The funding system, that is the system of mortgaging a special portion of the public taxes for a public debt, commenced in the reign of William III. To carry on a war a loan was contracted, and a tax on malt was mortgaged as security. At first the tax was imposed for a limited time, which was afterwards prolonged to different periods, and was at length made perpetual. New loans created the necessity for new taxes, and the burthen of the public debt continued to increase. The debt was increased in a variety of ways: sometimes by issuing Exchequer Bills and Navy Bills, which the Bank of England either discounted or agreed for a consideration to circulate. These are only a species of promissory notes, for which no specific revenue is mortgaged. In some cases, direct loans were but a means of anticipating some particular tax for one year; at the expiration of which time the tax so mortgaged was applied to the repayment of the loan with interest. In other cases the tax mortgaged was not more than sufficient to pay the interest, and the loan was not made for a limited time. Part of the public debt was borrowed upon annuities. The most ruinous way of increasing the debt appears to have been the Government borrowing from the Bank of England, in anticipation of some tax, and paying interest upon its own money.

Schemes have been formed, and attempts made at various times to pay off a part of the National debt; but they have effected so little that they must all be pronounced failures. At one time, in seventeen years of profound peace, something more than seven millions were paid off, but this ratio bears a very great disproportion to that of the accumulation in times of war.

The sinking fund—that is, a fund for sinking or paying off the debt—has at different times been made up from various sources, one of

which was the saving effected by the reduction of the interest on the debt. This fund has, however, again and again, been diverted from its legitimate purpose. Indeed a sinking fund forms a convenient source for the financial minister to draw from in time of emergency; but there is no reason to hope that it can ever be made the means of paying off a public debt like that of England.

The effect of a public debt upon the prosperity of a country, is to transfer a large amount of capital from productive to unproductive employment. The taxes necessary to pay the interest press heavily on the landlord, the farmer, and the productive class; and by rendering the two former unable to carry out extensive improvements, create competition in the labour market, which reduces the wages of those employed, and throws many out of employment altogether.

Canada has already a public debt of about £4,500,000; but it has not been thrown away upon useless or unproductive objects: it has been expended in constructing Public Works, which it is expected will, in a short time, produce a considerable revenue. The moment these works produce a sufficient revenue to pay the interest of the cost of their construction, the debt will cease to be a burthen to the country; but if they do not produce a much larger sum, or if their produce be devoted to the ordinary expenses of the state, instead of to the reduction of the public debt, the ultimate result will probably be what the public debts of every one of the old American colonies led to—public bankruptcy. We have imitated England in establishing a sinking fund; we have imitated her in misapplying that fund; and we have imitated her in mortgaging our revenue for part of our public debt; for the remainder the Home Government is responsible.

## BUILDING SOCIETIES.

The projects known by the above name, are becoming very common in all the principal cities and towns of this Province. It is a question to many, whether they offer any better terms to the borrower of money than may be had from the ordinary money lenders, even with all the difficulties and monopolies that are created by our absurd Usury Laws. By the way, we hope the new Parliament will not allow these most foolish and destructive laws to deface the statute book any longer. The question, after all the bluster that was made about it, was completely shirked during the last Session. There is little room to doubt that the man who borrows money from one of these Building Societies, at the premiums which their shares ordinarily sell for, viz.: forty, forty-five and fifty per cent. is paying sufficiently dear for his whistle. To be sure he has a long time to pay for it. We understand that in some of the Societies in this city, the Conveyancing or writings necessary to complete the securities, in the case of a single loan costs ten pounds! This is monstrous, it looks very much as if they were got up by a few hungry lawyers for the sake of the business, they would be the means of bringing. As the writer of the following article observes, "every thing good is liable to abuse." We hope, as there is clearly soundness in the principle, to see a Society set on foot in which the public may have confidence, and yet not be subjected to unnecessary charges. The following observations on this subject, from the *London (England) Builder* are worthy a perusal:—

A most important movement is about being made in building matters, which it would be well for our readers and a large class of our fellow-countrymen to look on with a scrutinizing and a calculating eye. We do not pretend to the gift of prophecy, but we could almost venture to predict that a mania is about to set in for building societies; and, though it may be urged that "it is an ill wind that blows nobody good," and that the good may possibly flow direct into the hands of the builders, yet we are sure that the patriotism of our class is not at so low an ebb as to wish to reap profit by the loss or the delusions of any section of their fellow-countrymen. We have no fear for building societies rightly constituted; but we look with suspicion upon all those where trafficking in shares is so much encouraged, and where a sort of "Derby raffle" is set on foot, with its one or two grand prizes and a hundred blanks; or where the cunning and the scheming make up "their book," and fatten upon premiums for preference, which the sanguine aspirant is induced to give, to secure an early possession of his freehold. It is always thus with every thing good—it is liable to abuse, and will be abused. Against this we warn our countrymen. Prudence is one of the cardinal virtues; but, while we say prudence, we would not, on the other hand, run into timidity;—timidity and temerity are the wide extremes. Numerous building societies are now on foot, proceeding upon a principle far advanced from the simple



usage of the building clubs of our acquaintance of late years,—proceeding, in fact, upon a great, and, we say it seriously, a grand principle,—a grand principle, in our estimation, for the good of the commonwealth.

We have before us the prospectus of a *Freehold Assurance Company* which we shall not trespass upon our readers to reprint entire, but we cannot refrain from transferring from it to our pages the *Golden Maxim*, if we may so call it, which is embraced in the second paragraph:—

“One extension of the Life Assurance principle—a most obvious one—is the securing to the tenant the ultimate freehold of the property for which for a period of years, or from year to year, he has engaged to pay an annual consideration; and thus enabling him to look forward to the absolute possession of an unburthened property, which he may bequeath to his children.”

This is it!—give us the thoroughly equitable principle of a well-calculated Life Assurance, and we will hazard our *lives* for it that the capitalist who presides over such an Institution, as well as the assurers who seek its protection, will each reap their rich and well-merited reward.

Let us state a case. The industrious thriving tenant of a small holding, say a house of the value of £300, for which he pays a rent of £20 to £25, is desirous of retaining the spot and tenement in which he is sowing the seeds of a permanent connexion—his landlord values the freehold at less to his mind than the £300 in possession—and is willing to part with it to his tenant for the sum stated. The Mutual Assurance Society will, for the annual payment of £22 10s. per annum, on a life of thirty, become the mortgagees of the property, so that the freehold rests at once in the insurer, and reverts to his family clear of all incumbrance at his death. We can imagine nothing more attractive to the man of thrift and foresight, or any thing calculated to enlist the sympathies and interest of his family, or to stimulate to greater exertion.

It has been well said by a friend to this plan—that the best interests of “OLD ENGLAND” are enlisted in it. Small freeholds are the mainstay of England’s greatness—and by a plan like this you encourage to such a state of things—you once more make it the pride and the privilege of an Englishman to possess and be prepared to defend his hearth and his home.

Be it understood, that the plan is applicable alike to freehold plots, small farms, and to houses and tenements. We have a captivating plan in our view, but we must not, while we comment on *bona fide* propositions, intimate any schemes of our own. There is, however, and in due time we have to propound it, something, based on the principle of the matter we have pointed out, forcibly attractive to every aspirant to the possession of the beau-ideal of an Englishman’s home, be his station never so humble or lowly.—*Builder, (London).*

## LITERATURE.

“SEEM NOT—BE.” (*Tycho Brahe’s Motto.*)

BY W. D. BENNETT.

Out on seeming! shall life ever  
Garb itself in hollow shows,  
But a stagnant pool, plague spreading,  
O’er which green but thinly grows—  
But a jungle through whose verdure  
Glide all shapes most foul to see?—  
Off with empty shows of virtue!  
Off with semblance! SEEM NOT—BE.

Out on all this hollow mouthing—  
Timed devotion—fashioned prayer?  
Where, while breath’s alone adoring,  
Sleeps the soul and takes no care!  
Where, through easeful self-delightment,  
Six times runs the flood of day,  
And the seventh’s feigned abasement  
Life’s great debt is held to pay.

Out on all these masques of goodness  
This our life doth vaunting wear,  
Through whose eyes the subtle evil,  
And sloth’s sleepy eyeballs glare!  
Not of forms of breath-devotion—  
For the shows of good ye see,  
Was life given, but for true working;  
Scorn thou semblance; SEEM NOT—BE.

—*London Inquirer.*

### A LEGEND OF 1745.

The following story is gathered from an interesting narrative published by Miss Porter many years ago. The incidents, to which we have confined ourselves, were told her by a lady of rank, who assured

her that every circumstance was strictly true, and well known to a member of her own family.

The scene of this remarkable adventure was a castle in Argyleshire, now in ruins, but at that time (the year 1744-5) inhabited by a Scotch Laird and his sister. This gentleman, on the death of his elder brother, had recently returned from foreign service, and returned to Scotland, bringing with him his younger sister, who had been educated in France. For some months their time passed pleasantly in scenes and habits of life new to both of them; but after this the young lady observed with concern that her brother’s spirits became depressed, and that his natural cheerfulness was changing into an expression of habitual gloom and melancholy. Herself of a remarkably timid, gentle character, she had no power to contend against his growing depression, and her spirits sank with his, till at length, to relieve her own troubled and anxious fears, as well as in the hope that another might have more skill to chase away her brother’s gloom than she had found herself to possess, she persuaded him, with some difficulty, to allow her to invite a friend to pass some months with her. This young lady, somewhat older than herself, and free to act according to her own wishes, in pity for her poor friend’s loneliness and evident anxiety of mind, consented to comply with her entreaties, and shortly after arrived on her promised visit. There was a great contrast in the character of the two friends; Miss Mackay, which is the name of our heroine, possessing in a remarkable degree the courage, energy, and strong understanding, which her young hostess wanted, but the want of which, in her case, was atoned for by great kindness of heart, and a most sweet and affectionate temper.

She was not long in confiding to her friend the change in her brother which had caused her so much uneasiness; and Miss Mackay’s keen observations very soon led her to suspect that his evident depression was owing to some painful or dangerous secret which weighed heavily on his mind. Acting on this conviction, she endeavoured, by every kind and unobtrusive attention, to win his esteem and confidence; the only means by which she could hope to be of real service. During her stay at the castle, many accidental circumstances occurred to bring out her extraordinary qualities. On one occasion especially, when the house where they happened to be visiting took fire, the Laird could not but be struck by her courage, and extraordinary presence of mind. This led him voluntarily to seek her society, instead of giving way to the habits of lonely musing which had lately grown upon him; so that his sister, rejoicing in this change, and attributing it only to one cause, began to form high hopes that the friend she loved best in the world might one day become her sister. Miss Mackay, however, understood his manner better, and being very sure that admiration, in the ordinary acceptation of the word, had no part in his feeling towards herself, she was at liberty to pursue her plan of kindness towards him.

His sister’s timidity and delicate health did not allow her to venture on horseback; but Miss Mackay was glad to be able to explore, under his escort, the neighboring country, and thus she had fresh opportunities for observing his deportment. Among the possible causes for his depression, she began to suppose him the victim of second-sight, (a belief still prevalent in Scotland,) an opinion which was one day much strengthened, when, on reaching a height which commanded a view of the sea, she heard him exclaim to himself, “I see, I see the bloody issue!”

At these words, Miss Mackay boldly stepped forward, and, allowing the nature of her suspicions to transpire, entreated him, if he could trust in her kindness and regard, and she could in any way relieve or assist him, to say what it was that weighed so heavily on his mind; adding, that though she could not claim a sister’s rights, yet, in his case, a sister’s very anxiety and affection might prevent her being an equally safe confidant.

Thus urged, he owned that he had a secret, though not of the nature she had hinted at, nor his alone; that it was one fraught with difficulty and danger, yet in which she might be of the greatest service, if, as he believed, she had courage for the part that might be assigned to her, and was willing to incur the risk to which she would render herself liable. He then asked, if she was willing to hear this secret, under the solemn promise never to reveal it to any one.

She answered, “If your secret contains nothing against the commandment of God, and the well-being of my country, I am here ready to hear it, keep it, swear to it.”

He assured her that there was nothing in it which, as a religious Scotchwoman, she might not lend her hand and heart to; but that he must not tell it then; adding, with solemnity, that there was but one place, and one hour, in which he should feel it safe to reveal it—that hour was twelve o’clock of the same night, and the place of meeting the smaller door of the last quadrangle of the castle, whence he would conduct her to the spot where the secret was to be told.

Having full reason to trust his assurances, she promised to obey these directions, though not without some apprehensions as the time appointed drew near. She succeeded, however, in concealing those feelings from her young friend. The day passed as usual; and, as the clock struck ten, they separated for the night. Resolving not to alarm herself unnecessarily, by dwelling on the singular interview which was before her, Miss Mackay sat down to read till it was time to leave her room. Then, wrapping herself in her plaid, she knelt



down for a few moments to ask a blessing on her enterprise: as the clock struck twelve she opened her door, and lightly descending the stairs, and threading the mazes of a long and intricate passage, she let herself out by a back door into one of the open courts. From thence she made her way through other deserted passages, and roofless portions of the building, till she entered the most distant quadrangle, where stood the great tower. By the light of a small lantern, which she kept carefully turned in an opposite direction from the inhabited part of the castle, she saw the Laird was waiting for her at the appointed spot. In silence he bowed his head as she came up to him, and, leading the way, proceeded to a door at the foot of the tower. This he opened with a small key, and having entered at the bottom of a spiral staircase, locked the door, and turning to her, asked, in a low voice, if, in spite of such almost awful precautions, she still adhered to her first resolution,—entreating her, if she felt any fear, to return at once. The hour, and the strange mystery, for a moment daunted her spirits; but, summoning her courage, she answered boldly, that she would go through with what she had undertaken.

From the first landing-place, they turned into a long suite of apartments, which occupied the whole of that side of the building. They were large and deserted. In some the windows were entirely shaken out, in others they were loose and shaking. In the last chamber, which was smaller than the preceding ones, and the windows of which were better secured, the Laird stopped, locked the door, and warning his companion to remember all he did, pressed his foot on the spring of a trap-door, which immediately started up. He then guided her down a steep flight of steps into a vault, evidently running far under the castle. Here he paused, and pointing to a large iron chest, begged his companion to rest upon it, while he should explain all she had seen, and try to secure her aid in a good cause.

He then told her of the projected invasion of Scotland by him whom she had been taught to consider the son of her rightful king, and that he was shortly expected to head, in person, such an army as his friends might privately collect. The Laird had been presented to the Prince abroad, and had there entered into his cause with enthusiasm. He had come to Scotland full of hope; but, in the progress of his negotiations with the different noblemen and gentlemen who were to take part in the enterprise, he had found so much lukewarmness, rashness, and folly, in those concerned, that all his bright expectations faded, and he was full of despair for the issue. It was this that had so clouded his spirits; his faculties had become bewildered, as he looked forward to the future; he foresaw a fatal end to the enterprise ere it began; and, conscious that his castle contained documents of vital importance to many, he was tormented with apprehensions for others, which he disregarded for himself. In the iron chest on which Miss Mackay sat, were deposited many deeds and bonds from the great exile, to different noblemen and gentlemen, acknowledging loans of money, and pledging himself to reward present services by future grants. These documents, if discovered, together with a correct list of all the persons contributing to the same, either by gold or men, might prove the ruin of some of the best and bravest men in Scotland.

The Laird knew that, either just before or immediately upon his royal master's landing, he would be summoned to report certain needful details; and he feared leaving the high trusts committed to him behind in the castle, within the very grasp of Argyle, without also leaving some one empowered to destroy them in his absence, should any misfortune render such a measure necessary. As Miss Mackay's character had opened upon him, he had been struck with the thought, that Providence had in her provided him with the very person he needed. Time and further observation only strengthened this opinion; when, just at this point, and while still in doubt, a summons had arrived, commanding him to repair to another staunch friend of the Stuarts, where Charles Edward's most confidential agent was expected from France. It was at this eventful moment that Miss Mackay had opened the way to confidence, and he was now in consequence disclosing to her all that had weighed so long on his mind, and asking her co-operation.

His auditor listened to all he had to tell with the deepest interest, for she had ever been taught to consider Charles Edward her rightful prince, and the thought of being in any way able to devote herself to his service brought the fire to her eye, and the warm blood into her cheek.

When the Laird, in conclusion, asked, whether she would take upon her the charge of what he must leave behind, or, refusing that, simply give him her oath never to divulge what she knew, she readily promised to do all he had asked, and, kneeling down, took an oath to this effect on the little pocket Bible the Laird had brought with him. He then opened the iron chest, and displayed its contents. There were, besides the parchments he had mentioned, several leather bags, which he told her contained money and jewels, contributed by faithful Scotchmen to the cause. He then begged her to listen carefully to the instructions he would give her. He was going instantly to join the Prince's party in Inverness, and, when gold was needed, would send a messenger she might entirely trust, to whom she must deliver it under the shadow of night. The arrival of such a messenger would be notified to her by the figure of a cross being cut on the trunk of a great ash tree which grew opposite her chamber-window; and a certain number of very small crosses cut under the

large one would notify the number of bags she should give him. If, instead of money, the messenger should have to announce defeat and disaster, a furr of an axe should be marked on the tree instead of a cross; in which case her business would be to destroy every written paper or parchment in the chest. After that, he bid her use her own discretion whether to remain in the castle or depart; he himself by that time would probably be lying a corpse on the field of battle. In conclusion, he assured her, that he did not believe himself to be bringing her into real danger by the commission he now gave her, adding further directions, that on seeing the given sign on the tree, she was to repair at night to the same spot where he had met her, go down to the vault, bring up the bags, and, before opening the door into the quadrangle (of which the messenger would have no key) one was to give the pass-word, "Bruce," to which the other would answer, "Charles Edward." She then might open the door and deliver the bags into his hands; the messenger would give a voucher in return, which she must go back to deposit in the iron chest, and her duty would be over.

If, however, the secret announcement were disaster, she might burn the documents, one by one, at the candle in her lantern. "Mark," he said, in conclusion, "mark, I pray you, all the peculiarities of the places you will have to pass through, so that nothing may embarrass you, should accident extinguish your light. Above all things, remember to leave the trap-door well settled on its supports, as it opens only from the outside. For Heaven's sake, be careful to observe this."

After some further discourse, as to what would be best to do for his sister in case of his death, they found it time to return. Miss Mackay most carefully noted all his movements; learnt the secret of the spring which opened the trap-door, and passing with her guide through the solitary chambers, found herself again in the court of the quadrangle. Here she received from him the key of the tower-door, and the more important one belonging to the chest; and they then took a solemn farewell of each other, as he was to leave early next day.

More than a fortnight passed before Miss Mackay was called upon to execute any part of her commission. At length, one morning, on going to her window, which she now always did on first rising, she observed a cross marked on the ash-tree, and two smaller ones cut below it. She could not help feeling some apprehension, as she thought of the task that lay before her. The remembrance of the large deserted chambers of the gloomy vault, to be descended at midnight, now and then appalled her; but she concealed all appearance of anxiety, and passed the day as cheerfully as usual.

Half an hour before midnight, when every one was asleep, she lighted her lantern, and wrapping herself from head to foot in her plaid, issued from the dwelling-house into the first court. The moon shone brightly, and every thing was so calm, that her confidence returned. Encouraging herself by thoughts of prayer, she reached the door of the tower, and there a faint sound made her turn towards the place whence it proceeded. A gentleman in a highland dress instantly stepped forward into the moonlight, from the archway where he had been standing, and, with an inclination of respect, whispered the word "Bruce." In the same tone, she answered, "Charles Edward," and hurrying into the tower, locked herself within it.

She had remembered every direction, so that she found no difficulty in reaching the vault. The bags were so heavy, that she found it necessary to carry each separately to the foot of the tower stairs. She then opened the door, and, without either uttering a word, the bags of gold were exchanged for the receipt; and, once again locking herself in, she returned to the vault, and from thence, when her task was done, returned to her own room. The whole had been accomplished so easily, that, after this, she felt no alarm or anxiety on her own account for any future errand of the same kind with which she might be entrusted.

The Laird's absence, meanwhile, crept on from week to week; neither by public report nor private information did any news of Charles Edward's landing reach her; and her zeal for his cause kept her in constant nervous watchfulness. Winter was now far advanced: her young friend, anxious about her brother, whose absence was unaccountable to her, and alarmed, too, at living without his protection in that lonely place, at such a season, claimed more and more of her care. Some kind friends from a distance would, every now and then, leave their homes, and spend a day or two with their timid young friend; but these meetings often more than failed in their object, from the ill-chosen nature of their topics for conversation. With long fire-side evenings came stories of murder and witchcraft, of ghosts and apparitions, all of which had a peculiar fascination for the poor young lady at the time, though they left her less fit than ever to sustain cheerfulness under adverse circumstances. Even Miss Mackay's stronger mind was not proof against the effect of these gloomy histories; and, after an evening thus spent, she did not feel her nerves in the fittest state for executing the commission she had received that morning, by the given sign on the ash-tree. She remembered, too, that the deserted chambers she had to pass through were reported to be haunted. She would not, however, suffer such imaginations to hinder her in the performance of her duty; and, at the appointed hour, she set out on her errand.

[To be continued.]

## Legal Queries.

The question put by the following correspondent is not a difficult one, but at the same time it may frequently arise in consequence of the rapid improvements and almost daily changes that are taking place in the country. We give the query in the writer's own language, omitting the names. Our answer is appended.

To the Editors of the *Agriculturist*.

A—n, 21st January, 1848.

GENTLEMEN,—Understanding that you proposed answering legal queries, or application by your subscribers, I, as one, beg to submit the following for your consideration, and for the information of myself and one or two other subscribers in this vicinity.

This village was, until about two years since, named A—e, and I believe all deeds of land recorded or registered up to that period were entered as in A—e. I know not the particular reasons which induced some of the inhabitants to desire a change in the name of the place; but, as I am informed, a general meeting took place about the time named above, having for its object the alteration of its name. The decision of the majority was that it should be called A—n, by which name I believe it is better known than by the first. The principal if not the only opposers to the proposition were three families of the name of A—e, who were some of the very earliest settlers here, and from whom the village was originally named. What I want to know is this. Whether, in the event of my wishing to purchase a village lot, or other land, here, it would be *material* or *immaterial* as to the name of this village (which of the two) mentioned in the deed. Whether in the eye of the law it would be valid in either name? Your answer will confer a favor on

Gentlemen,

Yours, most respectfully,

J. H.

All the law requires in the description of land, or other thing conveyed by deed, is *sufficient certainty*. There is no set form of words (or from the very nature of the case that would be impossible) by which a piece of land shall be described, either as to place, township, or village, or as to metes and bounds. Even if the township were stated to be a different one from what it really was; yet, if from the remainder of the description the true place could be ascertained with certainty, the statement of the *wrong* township would be rejected as surplusage, and the deed held valid for the purpose intended. In the case mentioned above, there can be no difficulty in inserting the name by which the place is now known. If we were drawing a deed we should, to avoid all mistake, use this expression, "situate, lying and being, in the village of A—n (formerly called A—e)," &c.

J. T. S. As you did not request an answer to your query immediately, and as we have had an unusual amount of business to attend to in making the new arrangements, &c. &c., we had nearly forgotten that there were one or two legal questions from subscribers unanswered. In making the proposal to answer such questions, we only intended, and if we recollect right we so stated it, to give information on those points that were simple and uncomplicated, but which still might be very puzzling to persons who had no acquaintance with the law. It would be impossible to explain, through the medium of a newspaper, the law as applicable to a variety of facts, unless the whole case were stated by a lawyer. The omission of one circumstance, which only a lawyer would suppose important, might render all we said totally inapplicable, and thus parties would be misled. Your case is just one of this kind. If the purchaser had notice of the incumbrance, he would not be entitled to exercise the right of rescinding the bargain; nor do we think could he compel the vendor to covenant for "quiet enjoyment" against any body's acts but his own. The doctrine of notice is a very nice one. For instance, if the attorney or agent who drew the writings acted as attorney or agent for both parties, and he had notice of the incumbrance, the purchaser would be held *constructively* to have had notice also, though in fact he might be totally ignorant of it. Again if the previous titles had never been registered, the same rule would not apply as if they had been. Therefore that fact should be known. "If they" (defects in the estate or in the title) says Sir E. Sugden; "were patent (not latent) and could be discovered by a vigilant man; no relief will be granted against the vendor." All the facts of the case mentioned should be laid before a lawyer. So far as we can judge from the statement made, we should say that if the vendor or seller offers a deed with the usual covenants, the purchaser must take it;

and if the claim is made by the woman, the purchaser will have an action upon the covenants in such deed, and will recover (if the party be worth it) the amount of damage he sustains on account of such claim. The deed may be in the ordinary form; and to extinguish the claim, a simple release to the purchaser, if he be in possession, will answer.

W. A. S. You may of course detain the waggon till your claim is settled, but not sell it.

## EDITOR'S TABLE.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. N. T., Bridgport. Received papers sent.  
S. G., North Augusta. Received.  
J. R. L., Leeds. Received.  
Darlington Agr. Society. Check received. Papers were addressed.  
W. H., Mos. Received. We have sent No. 19, but fear No. 15 is not to be found; if we meet with one among our loose papers we will drop it in the Post for you.  
O. H. L., Pelham. Received.  
M. H. H., Jordan. Received.  
D. McM., Grenville. Received. Order attended to.  
J. D., Delaware. Papers sent.  
J. D., Sparta. As we have appointed a travelling agent for your district, we leave the business in his hands.  
P. B. E., Berlin. It will be time for you to speak in the tone you do when we have got the money. We have explained the cause of the delay, and we apprehend reasonable people will be satisfied.  
W. R., Elora. Some of your hints are to the point, but we must be allowed to judge what adapts our paper to general circulation.  
G. B. T., Tillsonburgh. Received.  
G. S., Norwich. Papers sent.

HYDROPATHIC INSTITUTION.—We direct the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Dr. Hunter, who has established an institution of the above character in the pleasant village of Reesorville, in the township of Markham. There is certainly something worthy of serious attention in the modern system of applying cold water to the cure of disease. At first sight it may appear to be only one of the many modern humbugs; but when we look at the results, unmistakable and convincing as many of them are, we will be apt to change our opinion. We understand Dr. H. has been eminently successful in using the cold water treatment in cases of emigrant or typhus fever in this city. We intend examining the principles upon which this new practice (though in fact it is not new) professes to be based, and shall give the results of our investigations in a future number.

OUR FIRST NUMBER.—We have been annoyed and vexed beyond endurance at the appearance of the first number of the *Agriculturist*. We found that we would have great difficulty in getting a suitable quality of paper in time, and were obliged to contract for a supply from Mr. Eastwood's Mill, where we understood there was a sufficient quantity much thicker and better than specimens that were shown to us. Although aware that it would not be so smooth as we desired, yet we supposed the sheets would, at least, be uniform. What was our surprise to find, when it was in the hands of the printer, that while some sheets were too heavy, others were like tissue paper! Then to make the matter still worse, the press being out of order, and worked by incompetent hands, the printing was wretchedly done. We scolded and stormed, but still we have no doubt that many numbers sent off are nearly unreadable. In the present, we have effected some improvement, but we are driven to the conclusion, that we shall never get the work printed to our mind, till we procure an office of our own.

TO OUR PRESENT SUBSCRIBERS.—As we were unable to publish this number on the 15th of January, (the proper day), because the first number was not published till then, we shall issue on the proper days hereafter, and make up the twenty-four numbers in the year, by giving an extra, probably at the time of the Provincial Exhibition. This we think will be more satisfactory to our readers generally, than to derange the periods of publication by an attempt to catch up now.—Our edition is so large that it takes nearly two weeks to print it.

TRAVELLING AGENTS.—We have now employed Travelling Agents for the following Districts in Upper Canada, who are authorized to canvass for this paper, and transact all business connected with it for their several Districts:—

Home District, O. Foster, Charles Palmer and John Clouston, (between them); Simcoe, H. Turner; Gore, N. M. Harris and W. A. Stephens; Niagara, J. Wilson; London, N. M. Harris; Wellington, W. A. Stephens; Victoria, L. Crosby; Midland, R. Campbell; Prince Edward, N. M. Conger; Eastern, W. S. Rose.

As soon as we can find suitable persons, we shall occupy the remaining Districts.

THE LADIES.

MY RUSSET GOWN.

BY JANE.

My russet gown is dear to me,  
 Though years have passed away  
 Since my young heart beat joyously  
 Beneath its folds of grey;  
 No jewels hung around my neck,  
 Or glitter'd in my hair,  
 With lightsome step I tripp'd along,  
 My spirit knew no care;  
 The roses near my window crept,  
 And shed their sweets around;  
 Hard was the bed on which I slept,  
 But yet my sleep was sound.

My russet gown I laid aside,  
 For one of rich brocade;  
 I thought, in my simplicity,  
 Its charms could never fade:  
 I left the cot where I had pass'd  
 My happy childhood years,  
 I left my aged father sad,  
 My mother was in tears;  
 I left them for a wealthy home,  
 To be a rich man's bride,  
 And thought that splendour would atone  
 For loss of all beside.

My russet gown, when next I gazed  
 Upon its sombre hue,  
 It brought a lesson to my heart  
 As sad as it was true;  
 Its simple meekness seem'd to mock  
 My silks and jewels gay,  
 And bore my wandering thoughts to those  
 Dear friends so far away.  
 I felt how fleeting were the joys  
 That wealth alone can buy,  
 And for my humble cottage home  
 My bosom heav'd a sigh.

My russet gown I still have kept  
 To check my growing pride,  
 A true, though silent monitor,  
 My folly to deride.  
 And when I met with faithless friends  
 Among the giddy throng,  
 Whom vice and pleasure in their train  
 Drag heedlessly along,  
 I feel how gladly I would give  
 My coach and bed of down,  
 Once more in sweet content to live,  
 And wear my russet gown.

THE LEFT EYE.

A CALMUC TALE—FROM THE RUSSIAN.

A rich old man who resided at the extremity of the camp, quite apart from the rest, had three daughters, the youngest of whom, named *Kookju*, was as much distinguished for her beauty, as for her extraordinary wisdom.

One morning as he was about driving his cattle for sale to the Chan's market-place, he begged his daughters to tell him what present they wished him to bring to them on his return. The two eldest asked him for trinkets; but the handsome and wise *Kookju*, said that she wanted no present, but that she had a request to make which it would be difficult and even dangerous for him to execute. Upon which the father, who loved her more than the two others, swore that he would do her wish, though it were at the price of his life. "If it be so," replied *Kookju*, "I beg you do as follows—sell all your cattle except the short-tailed ox, and ask no other price for it except the *Chan's left eye*." The old man was startled; however, remembering his oath, confiding in his daughter's wisdom, he resolved to do as she bade him.

After having sold all his cattle, and being asked the price of the short-tailed ox he said that he would sell it for nothing else but the Chan's left eye. The report of his singular and daring request soon reached the ears of the Chan's courtiers. At first they admonished him not to use such an offensive speech against the sovereign; but when they found that he persevered in his strange demand, they bound him and carried him before the Chan. The old man threw himself at the prince's feet, and confessed that his demand had been made by the request of his daughter, of whose motives he was perfectly ignorant; and the Chan, suspecting that some secret must be hidden under this extraordinary

request, dismissed the old man under the condition that he would bring him the daughter who had made it.

*Kookju* appeared, and the Chan asked: "Why didst thou instruct thy father to demand my left eye?" "Because I expected, my Prince, that after so strange a request, curiosity would urge thee to send for me. I wish to tell thee a truth important to thyself and thy people."

"Name it!" "Prince," replied *Kookju*, "when two persons appear before thee in a cause, the wealthy and noble generally stand on thy right hand, whilst the poor and humble stand on thy left. I have heard in my solitude that thou most frequently favorest the noble and rich. This is the reason why I persuaded my father to ask for thy *Left Eye*; it being of no use to thee, since thou never seest the poor and unprotected."

The Chan, incensed and surprised at the daring of this maiden, commanded his court to try her. The court was opened, and the President, who was the eldest Lama, proposed that they should try whether her strange proceeding was the effect of malice or of wisdom.

Their first step was to send to *Kookju* a log of wood, cut even on all sides, ordering her to find out which was the root and which the top;—*Kookju* threw it into the water, and soon knew the answer, on seeing the root sinking, whilst the top rose to the surface.

From this trial the court was convinced that *Kookju* had not offended the Chan from motives of malice, but the inspiration of wisdom granted her from above. But not so the Chan: his vanity was hurt; and he resolved to puzzle her with questions, in order to prove that she was not wise. He therefore ordered her before him, and asked:

"On sending a number of maidens into the wood to gather apples, which of them will bring home most?"

"She," replied *Kookju*, "who, instead of climbing up the trees, remains below and picks up those which have fallen off from maturity or the sinking of the branches."

The Chan then led her to a fen, and asked her which would be the readiest way to get over it—and *Kookju* said, "to cross it would be the farthest, going round nearest." The Chan felt vexed at the readiness and propriety of her replies; and after having reflected for some time, he again inquired:

"Which is the safest means of becoming known to many?"

"By assisting many that are unknown."

"Which is the surest means of always leading a virtuous life?"

"To begin every morning with prayer, and conclude every evening with a good action."

"Who is truly wise?"

"He who does not believe himself so."

"Which are the requisites of a good wife?"

"She should be beautiful as a pea hen, gentle as a lamb, prudent as a mouse, just as a faithful mirror, pure as the scale of a fish; she must mourn for her deceased husband like a she camel, and live in her widowhood like a bird which has lost its wings."

The Chan was astonished at the wisdom of *Kookju*; yet, enraged at her having reproached him with injustice, he still wished to destroy her.

After a few days he thought he had found means for attaining his object. He sent for her and asked her to determine the true worth of all his treasures after which he promised to absolve her from malice in questioning his justice, and to admit that she intended, as a wise woman, merely to warn him.

The maiden consented, yet under the condition that the Chan would promise her implicit obedience to her commands for four days. She requested that he would eat no food during that time. On the last day, she placed a dish of meat before him, and said, "Confess, oh, Chan! that all thy treasures are not worth as much as this joint of meat!" The Chan was so struck with the truth of her remark, that he confessed the truth of it, acknowledged her as wise, married her to his son, and permitted her constantly to remind him to use his *Left Eye*.

TO WIVES.

The first inquiry of a woman after marriage, should be. "How shall I continue the love I have inspired? How shall I preserve the heart I have won?"

1. Endeavour to make your husband's habitation alluring and delightful to him. Let it be to him a sanctuary to which his heart may always turn from the calamities of life. Make it a repose from his cares, a shelter from the world, a home, not for his person only, but for his heart. He may meet with pleasure in other houses, but let him find pleasure in his own. Should he be dejected, sooth him; should he be silent and thoughtful, do not heedlessly disturb him; should he be studious, favor him with all practicable facilities; or should he be peevish, make allowance for human nature, and by your gentleness, sweetness, and good humor, urge him continually to think, though he may not say it, "this woman is indeed a comfort to me; I cannot but requite such gentleness and affection as they deserve."

2. Invariably adorn yourself with delicacy and modesty. These to a man of refinement are attractions the most highly captivating; while their opposite never fails to inspire disgust. Let the delicacy

and the bride be always, in a great degree, supported by the wife.

3. If it be possible, let your husband suppose you think him a good husband, and it will be a strong stimulus to his being so. As long as he thinks he possesses the reputation, he will take some pains to deserve it; but when he has once lost the name, he will be apt to abandon the reality.

4. Cultivate and exhibit with the greatest care and constancy, cheerfulness and good humor. They give beauty to the finest face; and impart charms where charms are not. On the contrary, a gloomy, dissatisfied manner, is chilling and repulsive to his feelings; he will be very apt to seek elsewhere for those smiles and that cheerfulness which he finds not in his own house.

5. In the article of dress, study your husband's taste. The opinion of others on this subject, is of very little consequence, if he approve.

6. Particularly shun what the world calls in ridicule, "curtain lectures." When you shut your door at night, endeavor to shut out at that moment all discord and contention, and look upon your chamber as a retreat from the vexations of the world, a shelter sacred to peace and affection.

How indecorous, offensive, and sinful is it for a woman to exercise authority over her husband, and to say, "I will have it so. It shall be as I like! But I trust the number of those who adopt this unbecoming and disgraceful manner, is so small as to render it unnecessary to enlarge on the subject.

7. Be careful never to join in a jest and laugh against your husband. Conceal his faults, and speak only of his merits. Shun every approach to extravagance. The want of economy has involved millions in misery. Be neat, tidy, orderly, and methodical. Rise early, breakfast early, have a place for everything, and everything in its place.

8. Few things please a man more than seeing his wife notable and clever in the management of her household. A knowledge of cookery, as well as every other branch in housekeeping, is indispensable in a female, and a wife should always endeavor to support with applause the character of the lady and the housewife.

9. Let home be your empire—your world. Let it be the stage on which, in the varied characters of wife, of mother and of mistress, you strive to shine. In its sober, quiet scenes, let your heart cast its anchor, let your feelings all be centred. Leave to your husband the task of distinguishing himself by his valour or his talents. Do you seek for fame at home, and let your applause be that of your servants, your children, your husband, your God.—*Exchange paper.*

## SCIENCE AND MECHANICS.

**IMPROVED HOISTING APPARATUS.**—There has seldom been introduced in this city a more important, practical, and perfect invention than that of an improved hoisting machine, invented by Messrs. G. Hecker and H. Waterman, of this city, and put in operation at the new Flouring Mill, No. 201 Cherry-street. Having been required to prepare the drawings and model of this invention, preparatory to an application for a patent, we have thoroughly examined its construction and operation, but would not attempt a specific description without the aid of an engraving, (which we may procure for another number); but we would say, in general terms, that the windlass-shaft, round which the hoisting rope is coiled, is connected by gear wheels to a shaft, which is occasionally connected, by a friction clutch, to another shaft, which is kept in motion by steam power. The clutch-wheel is ordinarily held fast by a brake, with a weight attached to the end of a lever, therewith connected. The clutch is applied by means of a lever, which, from a fulcrum hinge at one end, passes over the end of the pivot of the clutch shaft. A small chain is connected to the moving end of this clutch lever, and passing over the end of the brake lever, to which it is also connected, and over one or more conducting blocks of rollers, descends down the hoist way to the ground below, passing, in its course, through a hoisting car, the floor of which is six feet square, and the frame thereof seven feet high. Within this car, the chain passes between two pulleys, which are mounted on a lever, and between which is a fulcrum pivot, so that by depressing the lever, the chain is contracted. When the car is loaded, an attendant standing thereon, presses down this hand lever, whereby the brake lever is raised, and the clutch lever brought forward to connect the clutch and put the wheels in motion, which rapidly elevates the car, with its cargo and passengers. But when the attendant chooses to descend, he has only to depress the hand lever gently, sufficient to relieve the wheels from the brake without connecting the clutch, and the car descends gently and steadily by its own weight. Thus, by the one simple motion of the lever, the car is made to ascend and descend at the option of the manager thereof. We shall have something to say in a future number, on the subject of other machinery of the same establishment.—*Scientific Mechanic.*

**SYMPATHETIC INKS FOR SECRET CORRESPONDENCE.**—*Process 1.*—Dissolve muriate of ammonia in water, and write: the writing will be invisible. When you would make the writing appear, heat the paper by the fire, and the writing will become black.

*Process 2.*—Write with a solution of sulphate of iron—the writing will be invisible. Dip a feather in an infusion of nut-galls, and with it wet the paper, and the writing will become black.

*Process 3.*—Write with a dilute infusion of galls; it will be invisible. Dip a feather in a solution of sulphate of iron, and moisten the paper with it, and the writing will become black.

*Process 4.*—Write with a solution of sub-carbonate of potash; wet this writing with a solution of sulphate of iron; it will take a deep yellow color.

*Process 5.*—Write with a solution of sulphate of copper; no writing will be visible. Wash the paper with a solution of prussiate of potash; the writing will then assume a redish brown color.

*Process 6.*—Write with a solution of super-carbonate of soda; moisten the paper with a solution of sulphate of copper, and the writing will become green.

*Process 7.*—Write with a diluted nitrate of silver, and let the writing dry in the dark; it will be invisible; but expose the paper to the rays of the sun, and the writing will become black.

**UNHEALTHY EMPLOYMENT.**—It is stated that among all the unhealthy trades, that of knife and sword grinding is the most mortal. In sword-manufactories of France scarcely any of the grinders attained the age of 45, the majority dying before they reach 40. This is accounted for by the fact that they are constantly bent over the grindstone, which, if wet, saturates their clothes with showers of sandy mud and water, and which being constantly undergoing evaporation from the heat of the rooms, keeps them in atmosphere of silicious powder, which flies off the stone, either in the process of grinding, or in turning down the surface of those which have been worn unevenly; and it is a question whether deleterious gases are not generated during the operation of rapid grinding. The effects, at all events, are that all the men are afflicted with diseases of the larynx, bronchitis, and pulmonary consumption, which is transmitted from father to son.

**NEW WAGGON SPRINGS.**—We learn from an exchange, that a mechanic in Buoks Co. Pa., has constructed a waggon hung upon invisible spiral springs, which promises to be a great improvement in comfort and economy. It is said to be easy and graceful in motion, especially in crossing gullies or rough ground—it having more the motion of a light boat in gliding over the waves, than a vehicle upon wheels. The springs are made of brass wire, (iron wire is better if galvanized;) and though weighing only four pounds will carry a load of a quarter of a ton, and can easily be varied in size to support any weight desired. There is also connected with them, an invention to prevent the carriage wheels touching the body in turning, which is also a great improvement. Measures, we understand are in progress for securing a patent for this invention.

**ASSAYING METALS.**—This process is very often spoken of in the papers, but many persons, perhaps, who did not know yet would like to know how it is managed. A correspondent of the Boston Post, writing from Charlotte, in North Carolina, gives an account of the process, as he obtained it from one of the officers of the mint there. He says:

The miners have to grind the gold rock fine, keeping it wet constantly; and as it becomes fine, it washes off. They have a kind of hard stone for grinding. They then mix quicksilver with it, and that collects the gold dust. It is washed out, dried, and goes through some heating process. The gold dust is then usually sold to the superintendent of the mint. Sometimes the miners melt the dust and cast it into a bar before offering it at the mint. To find the value, each parcel has to be assayed. The assaying is the most curious and scientific of all the business in the mint. The melter takes the gold dust, melt it, and cast it into a bar, when it is weighed accurately, and a piece is cut off the assayer. He takes it, melts it with twice its weight of silver and several times its weight of lead. It is melted in small cups made of bone-ashes, which absorb all the lead; a large part of the silver is extracted by another process, and the sample is then rolled out to a thin shaving, coiled up and put in a sort of glass vial called a matras, with some nitric acid.

The matrasses are put on a furnace and the acid is boiled some time, poured off, a new supply put in, and boiled again. This is done several times, till the acid has extracted all the silver and other mineral substances, leaving the sample pure gold. The sample is then weighed, and by the difference between the weight before assaying and after the true value is formed. All the silver over and above five penny weights for each lot is paid for by the mint at its value. The miner calls at the mint after his lot of gold has been assayed, and gets its full value in gold coin, the government charging him nothing for coining. That is what one of the officers of the mint here told me, though I had always understood that the government got five per cent for coining.

The gold, after it has been assayed, is melted, refined, and being mixed with its due proportion of alloy, (equal parts of silver and copper) is drawn into long strips, in shape not unlike an iron hoop for a cask; the sound pieces cut out with a sort of punch, each piece weighed, and brought to the right side by a file, if too heavy, when it is milled, or the edge raised, and put into a stamping press, where it comes forth a perfect coin.—*Exchange paper.*

## THE TORONTO MARKETS.

The markets have been well supplied latterly with every description of agricultural produce. Wheat, the leading staple, has been brought forward by the farmers in quantities barely sufficient for home consumption, and at the present time there is no stock in the market for exportation. The highest price paid for the best samples of wheat is 3s. 10d. per bushel, and the best brands of flour will readily bring 20s. per barrel. Pork of the very best quality ranges in price from 17s. 6d. to 20s. per 100 lbs.; and even at these low rates but few are prepared to advance the cash. Owing to the high prices that were paid for the leading articles of export last year, the great mass of the farmers of the Home District are able to hold on to their products until the opening of navigation, or until the prices become established for the season. On the other hand, our merchants and speculators, in many instances, lost heavily on their operations, and consequently are unprepared to engage extensively in purchasing for export till the foreign markets have assumed a more healthy and settled condition. These influences are pressing very severely upon all classes; and there can be little doubt that the value of the principal articles of export will be low in the spring, unless an almost entirely new set of buyers be found, who are prepared to advance money freely for our produce, with a view of shipping it to Europe and the United States. The latter country will doubtless afford the best market for both wheat and flour, in consequence of the shortness of the crop in many of the best wheat growing districts, and the thorough exhaustion of the old stock for exportation to Europe. Indeed, wheat buyers are already in the Canada market, purchasing for the Rochester and Oswego mill owners; and if it were not for the duty exacted upon Canadian wheat, good samples would have been worth, in the Canadian markets, from 5s. to 5s. 6d. per bushel, since the close of the past harvest.

At Buffalo, Rochester and Oswego, wheat of good quality will readily bring from 6s. to 6s. 6d. Halifax currency, which, it will be observed, by our quotations, is exactly 33½ per cent. higher than the article is worth in Toronto.

**THE MEXICAN WAR.**—Rumours are afloat of peace negotiations, through the mediation of England. The United States army is being augmented, and fresh arrivals of troops are daily pouring into Mexico from different quarters. The tariff laws of the United States, exacted by the military government, are very severe; and the whole of the duties formerly levied on the articles of gold and silver are now appropriated for the sustenance of the American army. The Guerrillas, in various parts of Mexico, are very much annoying the American army; and a party of the former recently succeeded in capturing an American train, and obtained \$90,000 in specie, besides 300 mules and other property, in all worth over \$100,000. General Cass, in the senate, stated positively that General Scott has been suspended from chief command, and General Worth relieved from arrest; and that General Butler has taken command of the U. S. army, as senior officer.

**MONEY MATTERS.**—In France, a great change has taken place for the better in commercial affairs. The banks have declared large dividends to their stockholders, and the actual amount of specie in their vaults equals \$32,000,000. The rates of discount have recently been much reduced, and business of all kinds is improving. The Bank of England has £12,000,000 sterling of specie in her vaults, and the amount is constantly increasing. The rate of discount has been reduced to 5 per cent.; and private capitalists are freely investing their money, upon good security, at from 3½ to 4 per cent. The failures seem to be nearly over, and confidence is pretty generally restored.

**IMPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN.**—From a return recently made to the British Parliament, it appears, from the 26th of June, 1846, to the 5th of November, 1847, there was imported into the United Kingdom, of wheat and flour, 5,281,814 quarters; of which only 672,480 quarters were the growth of British Colonies. Of Indian corn and meal the quantity imported was 4,200,427 quarters; of which only 8,559 quarters were the product of British Colonies. Of barley, oats, peas, beans, buckwheat, &c., 14,000,000 quarters were imported.

**IRELAND.**—This unhappy country is still in a very unsettled condition. The Act for the Prevention of Crime and Outrage went into force from and after the 29th day of December last. Special commissions have been appointed in various parts of the island; and at Limerick alone there are 100 prisoners who are expected to be brought before the commission previous to trial. In some districts, matters were carried with such a high hand by the populace, that neither life nor property were safe. Several notices have been put up in various parishes, threatening any person who would dare pay poor rates.

**ENGLAND.**—The influenza has been raging to an alarming extent throughout the length and breadth of the British Isles, as well as in most parts of the continent of Europe. In London, nearly one half of the persons employed in public and private establishments have been laid up. On one day alone, there were 180 clerks and others employed in the post office, off duty. The rate of mortality is frightfully on the increase.

The British army will shortly be considerably augmented. The last, made about 18 months since, amounted to 10,000 men. The great Cobden has retired from commercial business, and purposes to devote himself exclusively to legislation and statesmanship.

**ANOTHER STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.**—The sad and heavy catalogue of steamboat disasters in American waters, appears to be not yet filled up. To this list is now to be added the total destruction of the steamer *Blue Ridge*, by the bursting of her boiler on the Ohio river, by which accident between twenty and thirty lives have been destroyed. She blew up at about one o'clock at night while under way between Wheeling and Cincinnati—having left the former place but a few minutes. The tale of suffering and misery is truly lamentable.

We are informed that in a number of years, merchants and dealers have not experienced so much of a pressure in the money market as at present. Drafts upon New York are selling at six per cent., while money at Toronto commands two per cent. per month. The banks are doing nothing in the way of discounts, refusing even the best paper offered at their counters. The pressure in the money market, and the excitement of the election, absorbs all other subjects, and completely deranges the business of the Province.—*Rochester Daily Advertiser.*

Accounts from Barbadoes states, that the West Indian Bank of Issue has suspended payment for want of specie to meet the demands upon it.

**FREE TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.**—In consequence of the important movement in the United States House of Representatives, to which we referred in our last, the American merchants have begun to establish Agencies for purchasing grain in different towns of Canada, under the expectation that it will be admitted duty free into the United States, in a short time.—*Examiner.*

A Mr. Turner, of Hamilton, lately had his carpet-bag cut open at a Hotel in Woodstock, and £1,000 in Gore Bank Bills taken from it. Suspicion rests on a person named Mark Long, who fled from the village about that time. Fifty Pounds reward is offered for the discovery of the thief and the money. F. M. Long was arrested in this city on Friday. The greater part of the money has been recovered.

## ARRIVAL OF THE CAMBRIA.

*Buffalo, January 19, 1848.*—The steamer *Cambria* arrived at New York, from Liverpool, last night; which port she left on the 1st inst. and Halifax on the 15th. Her advices are fourteen days later.

*Liverpool, January 1.*—Breadstuffs improved. Best Corn, 37s.; Flour, 31s.; Meal, 16s. a 17s.; Wheat is up 1s. Last market day the trade was dull. The *Cambria* had a very rough passage. The following is from Dennison & Co.'s Circular:—Flour and Grain—We had a good demand in our Corn Market, during the greater part of the past fortnight, and prices have advanced from 6d. a 1s. on Flour and 3d. a 6d. on Wheat. Indian Corn and Corn Meal are in moderate demand; prices unchanged.

*Havre Market.*—Wheat and Flour—Nothing doing in Western Flour, which, in fact, may now be said to be totally neglected. The average of some wheat, at last Montvilliers market, was 57s. 6d. per sack of 2000 kilogrammes.

The following items are from the *Liverpool Times* of the 30th ult. The *Manchester Guardian* says, we are happy to state that no failures of moment have recently taken place, either in this town, Liverpool, or the metropolis; and mercantile confidence appears to be slowly and gradually reviving. There is still, however, as we understand, considerable monetary pressure and distrust at Glasgow, where, in proportion to the extent of business, the failures have been more numerous and extensive than in any other part of the kingdom.

## HOME MARKETS.

The following table gives the highest average prices at each of the three places:—

	Toronto, Jan. 31.	Hamilton Jan. 29.	Montreal Jan. 28.
Flour, per barrel	£1 0 0	£1 3 9	£1 0 0
Wheat, per bushel	0 3 9	0 3 9	0 5 9
Barley, per 48 lbs.	0 2 3	0 4 0	0 4 6
Rye, per 56 lbs.	0 3 4	0 4 0	0 3 9
Oats, per 34 lbs.	0 1 2	0 1 3	0 2 6
Peas, per 60 lbs.	0 2 0	0 0 0	0 5 0
Oatmeal, per barrel	1 0 0	0 0 0	1 10 0
Potatoes, per bushel	0 4 6	0 3 9	0 3 6
Hay, per ton	2 0 0	1 10 0	0 0 0
Beef, per 100 lbs.	1 0 0	0 17 0 p.	2 0 0
Pork, per 100 lbs.	0 17 0	1 0 0	1 5 0
Lard, per lb.	0 0 5	0 0 0	0 0 7
Butter (fresh) per lb.	0 0 9	0 0 0	0 1 1