

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY T. W. PEGUES.

Agricultural.

From Colman's European Agriculture.

MANURES.

I proceed to the subject of manures, as it presents itself in continental husbandry. The Flemish call manure "the god of agriculture." Of its importance not a word need be said; and the Flemish, in the pains they take in its accumulation and use, evince the estimation in which they hold it. Manure is indeed the foundation of all good husbandry.

MINERAL MANURES.

Manures divide themselves popularly into three kinds, mineral, vegetable and animal. Of mineral manures, such as lime, gypsum and marl, the use seems well understood, but, within my observation, they are not applied to so great a proportional extent as in England and Scotland. Lime, or the carbonate of lime, is employed upon lands which are clayey, cold and heavy; and in such case it answers a double purpose, to divide the soil and render it light and friable; and secondly, to warm the soil. That plants take up some portion of lime from the soil is established; but this is so small an element in their composition, that few soils are found deficient in the necessary quantity. That it should be applied to the land in a caustic or warm state seems likewise an established point. Some of the Flemish farmers advise to the mixture of lime with the earth and to its application in that form; but this seems only an increase of labor without an obvious advantage. Others advise to the mixture of lime with heaps of vegetable matter, so as to reduce it; but, in such case, it is like to destroy some of the most valuable parts of the manure. The efficacy of a dressing of lime is considered by the Flemings to endure three years; but this must obviously depend upon the quantity applied. Thirty bushels of unslacked lime after being slacked is considered by some farmers a proper application; while others advise the application of thirty bushels each year for three years in succession.

I have met with the frequent application of marl to light lands and to the surface of peat lands, where it soon forms a productive soil. The application of gypsum can scarcely be said to be general. It is sometimes applied in the ground to the seed of potatoes in the planting, in which case it is generally admitted to improve the quality of the potato; and it is applied also by being sown broadcast upon young clover; in this latter case, ordinarily with success. The philosophy of its operation is still obscure. It is difficult to say why it succeeds. It will sometimes be useful, and at other times without effect, in the same locality. A very competent farmer in the United States gives it as his opinion, and the result of his experience, that it sometimes failed of its effects from being too coarsely ground, but that it always succeeded when reduced to an impalpable powder.

Much has been said of the value and efficacy of sea salt as a manure, and in France great complaints have been made of the heavy duty, which, in fact, prevented its use in this way. A distinguished French farmer and experimenter, who has devoted much time and expense to this subject, and has furnished most exact accounts of his experiments and observations, has come fully to the conclusion that it is of no use whatever as a manure, and equally useless in the fattening of any animals. These conclusions are different from the popular notions, which seem always entitled to some respect; but they are fully borne out by the experiments repeated and varied by this indefatigable inquirer.

VEGETABLE MANURES.—Of vegetable manures I have only to say, that buckwheat and clover are often turned in by the plough, and with acknowledged advantage. The Flemish make a point of collecting every species of vegetable refuse which they can find, all vegetable matter growing upon the sides of the roads and that which is found in the canals. They are careful likewise to plough in their stubbles, excepting where there is another crop on the ground, such as clover or carrots, which are sometimes sown among the grain soon after the crop is harvested.

Under this head may likewise be placed ashes, of which the Flemish make great use. A large part of the fuel consumed in Holland is peat or turf, and the Dutch ashes are highly valued as dressing for clover. These ashes are imported from Holland into Flanders in large quantities in boats, and always find purchasers. They are applied as a top dressing to dry meadows, as well as to clover and likewise to flax. It is not well determined on what their particular efficacy depends.

The ashes of sea-coal or mineral coal are likewise used as a manure, but they are deemed very inferior to the Dutch ashes properly so called. Heath lands are sometimes lightly skimmed, and the heath burnt for the sake of the ashes; but if it is intended to plant it for trees, it is deemed hurtful to remove the ashes off the surface. Wood ashes and the ashes from the soap boilers are likewise most carefully saved and applied. Wood ashes are not easily obtained, because of their extensive use in the arts. The ashes from the soap boilers are much more esteemed by the Flemish for strong moist lands, and have a value from their containing a considerable quantity of lime. The refuse from the bleacheries, which contains a large quantity of soap, is more valued for dry and light lands; both of these manures are greatly esteemed for clover and for dry meadows. Their effects are understood to last for three years and they are more efficacious the second than the first year.

The cakes from the colza or rape, which remain after the oil has been expressed, are very much used for manure; in which case they are thrown into the urine cistern, and applied thus mixed. They are supposed very much to increase the efficacy of this liquid manure. Within a few years, however, as I have learned at Courtry, these cakes have been used with advantage for the feeding of cows and swine.

In some parts of France and Belgium the stalks of the colza are ploughed in for manure, and sometimes burned upon the ground reliance being placed upon the efficacy of the ashes; and in some of the wine countries, the cuttings of the vines are dug in for manure, it is said, with singular efficacy. It is thus that that which has been taken from the earth for a growth of a plant, is returned to it as a principal element in the growth of the same kind of plant which is to follow.

Soot is likewise used as a top dressing with great advantage and is considered twice as valuable as ashes. It is applied to the young clover and to garden vegetables; and is estimated highly for its power in destroying insects. Under good management, every article capable of being converted into vegetable food, or of enriching the earth, should be saved as manure.

I have already spoken of the use of the drainings of the factory where potatoes were converted into starch; their effects upon grass land were most remarkable. I have in another place spoken likewise of the use of the water in which flax has been rotted. I have seen the most beneficial results from it; but I am not aware of its use in Flanders.

This water is conveyed from the starch factory into a basin or excavation, where, after remaining a short time, it makes a considerable deposit. This deposit is taken out and spread upon the land, or thrown into and mixed in compost; and the water is drained off, and conveyed upon the field by small ditches or rills.

Political.

From the Mobile Daily Advertiser, 14th inst.

PUBLIC MEETING—OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

On Monday night one of the largest and most respectable meetings ever assembled in Mobile, met at the Court House, to respond to the "Address of the Southern Delegates in Congress to their Constituents."

On motion of Gen. Thomas Holland, J. E. Saunders was called to the Chair.

On motion of Col. B. Boyken, Judge H. Chamberlain, Capt. James Crawford, and Charles Le Baron, were chosen Vice-Presidents.

On motion of G. F. Lindsay, J. R. Blocker, H. Ballentine, and R. Brooks, were chosen Secretaries.

The meeting being thus organized, the Chairman stated its objects, and was succeeded by J. A. Campbell, who, after an impressive speech, submitted the following Resolutions:—

1. Resolved, That we heartily approve the conduct of the Senators and Representatives in Congress of the Southern States in general, and of the State of Alabama in particular, in the adoption and signature of the "Address of the Southern Delegates" to their constituents of the South.

2. Resolved, That we fully occur in the propriety of the tone and the truth of the matter of that Address—we agree that aggression has followed aggression, and encroachment on the part of the Northern States, upon the rights, the feelings, and the interests of the Southern States, relative to the institution of Slavery, and that the time has arrived for a plain and explicit understanding between the different sections of this Confederacy as to the means of maintaining its peace and stability.

3. Resolved, That the encouragement and countenance given in the Northern States to the agitation on the subject of slavery, through the churches, organized societies, popular assemblies the public press, and the Legislatures of those States have produced a widespread alienation in the hearts of a large portion of our people from a further connection with those States, and that unless its continuance be obstructed by the sober-minded and honest of those States, inevitably render such alienation as natural as it will be universal. That these feelings of alienation have been strengthened by the efforts made on behalf of these States to impose odious and unconstitutional restrictions upon the power of our citizens to emigrate with their property to Oregon, California, and Mexico—and that when we consider that, in addition to those repeated wrongs, menacing resolutions to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, have received the sanction of a majority of Northern representatives, and that a large proportion of the same representatives deny that slaves are property under the Constitution of the United States, and may be taken from their owners without compensation—a large portion of our people have concluded that the only alternative left to them is an abolition of slavery at the demand of the North, or a total separation of all further political connection with those States.

4. Resolved, That the adoption by the State Legislatures of the principal non-slaveholding States, of laws framed with the view of annulling the constitutional provision in regard to fugitive slaves—the steady and increasing demand made by those States for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia—the declaration of New York that the limits of Texas as a slave territory ought to be curtailed—the incessant attacks yearly becoming more bold and unscrupulous, upon the compromises of the constitution, under which slave population is represented in Congress, manifests a strong, increasing, and dangerous disposition on the part of those States to assume and exercise a complete control over the institution of slavery in the Southern States, and to dictate the terms and conditions of the relations between master and slave, to which no free and enlightened people ought to submit.

Miscellaneous.

INTERESTING LETTER.

The best letter we have yet seen from Chagres, is the one that we find in the Mercator Press, from Mr. Pritchette, Secretary of the Governor of Oregon, now on his way to his far-western destination. He says, among other things:

The coast of this portion of the continent is the most strikingly beautiful that my eye ever rested upon—a succession of hills, or miniature mountains in form and arrangement, rises range after range inland, covered to their summits with the most luxuriant vegetation, whilst the margin casts back the sea in long lines of snow-white foam from its rocky ledges.

The harbor of Chagres is not more than a mile in length, and a half a quarter in breadth, across the entrance to which is a shoal with here and there a show of a breaker. As you approach from the north a sandy beach presents itself on the left hand, with a low background of oriental magnificence, where, towering over a most luxuriant vegetation of every variety of foliage, rises in graceful pride the triumphant palm. On the right, a bold and rocky height, crowned with an extensive fortress, black with the night of ages, rears itself abruptly from the sea, said to have been built three centuries ago by the Spaniards. Immense labor has been bestowed upon the work, and the expense must have been enormous. It is now dismantled—the few pieces of ordnance which remain are of extraordinary size; one piece of brass, which I examined and in length must have exceeded ten feet.

The town of Chagres is built (it such a place can be called a town, or such structures be said to be built,) on what is called in the West a flat, in the East a piece of meadow land, through which a little tributary to the river Chagres runs. At a rough guess, the whole area of the town and the surrounding land to the hills on the left and before you, looking from seaward, and to the swamp beyond the tributary to the right, cannot exceed 100 acres. The dwellings are a single story frame of canes, placed on end, touching each other, the interstices closed with clay, which is as white as lime; the roofs are thatch of the palm leaf. They number, I am told, three hundred—two hundred, I should think would be a large estimate. The population is said to be about 1000 souls; it is negro and mulatto, the latter a cross with the native Indian.

All the peculiarities of the negro race are here apparent—idle, contented and vain—while at work (for which they cannot be sufficiently paid to satisfy them) they are naked, except a breech cloth; the little children are frequently quite naked. The women are fond of finery, and many of their dresses are costly with lace and trinkets—There is but little exposure of their persons, though I saw one sitting the other day in the creek, pouring water over her head, which she dipped from the stream with a gourd.

Buzzards on the ground, on the trees, and in the air, are innumerable—so tame are they that the children push them out of their way. The Pelican abound here also, and are wheeling in continual flight over the bay and ploughing in search of fish in its waters. Parrots, of most extraordinary size and magnificent plumage; Muscovy Ducks, called Plata by the natives, and a variety of other birds abound in the neighboring forests. Parrots and Pelicans are eaten here as I have been told that some of the natives of the coast consider a stewed Monkey their most delicious dish. Fish are abundant in the river and bay, and are of a fine quality. Lizards and Sharks are a numerous race in these "digressions." The edible Lizard (Guan) is found here, I am told, as well as Crocodiles and Alligators. The animals I have seen are a few cows, and a few hairless dogs, and some few goats.

The most curious insect that I have observed is the Ant. It is of a small size, yet so numerous that they have worn paths the 16th of an inch in depth and two inches in width. I have seen them at work, carrying leaves twenty times larger than their own bulk, and as they follow each other along their track, each with a leaf, they remind you of the Roman soldier advancing to battle covered with his shield. One had a flower, bearing it erect and aloft—that must have been the standard-bearer.

The voyage hither by steam has been tedious, and the number of passengers which disembarked has quadrupled the price of everything.

The canoes of a larger class are hollered out from immense trunks of the mahogany tree, and are of considerable capacity. They were used as lighters to land the passengers and cargo from the ship, which lies a mile and a quarter from the shore—she drawing too much water to get over the bar. It will cost a passenger, with an ordinary amount of baggage, twenty-five or thirty dollars to reach Panama from this place.

EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT.—The New York Commercial Advertiser has the following statement:

DIPLOMATIC SMUGGLING.—We have seen a letter from one of the Northern European capitals, in which is disclosed a fact most humiliating to our country. It is alleged that the diplomatic representative of the United States at one of the Northern courts, having been for some time suspected, has at length been detected in smuggling British goods—laces, calicoes, &c.—to the amount of 20,000 six dollars; supposed to be a joint concern with some traders in the capital referred to.

The ten large boxes containing the goods were represented by the diplomatic gentleman to contain only supplies for his own family, such as sugars, &c; but one of them was accidentally broken open in the Custom House, and the discovery was made. The Custom House authorities took possession of the whole.

The discovery is said to have produced the deepest mortification among the American residents.

A CAPITAL THING.—We give the palm to the following, as the best specimen of an Irish compliment, that we ever did see! We copy from the Louisville, (Ky.) Democrat: "When the streets of Indianapolis were a perfect glare of ice, a lady pedestrian lost her balance and fell. A gentleman of the Green Isle, on assisting to raise the lady, exclaimed: Faith, ye must be a lovely good lady; for dont the Blessed Book teach us that it is the wicked that stand on slippery places!"

Miss Elizabeth Blackwell has received the diploma of M. D., at the Geneva Medical College. On receiving it she is reported to have said "I thank you sir. With the help of the Most High, it shall be the effort of my life to shed honor on this diploma."

THE WORSHIP OF NATURE.

BY J. G. WHITFIELD.

The ocean looketh up to heaven,
As 'twere a living thing;
The homage of its waves is given
In ceaseless worshipping.

They kneel upon the sloping sand,
As bends the human knee;
A beautiful and tireless band—
The priesthood of the sea.

They pour the glittering treasures out,
Which in the deep have birth;
And chant their awful hymns about
The watching hills of earth.

The green earth sends its incense up
From every mountain shrine—
From every flower and dewy cup
That greeteth the sun-shine.

The mists are lifted from the rills,
Like the white wing of prayer
They lean above the ancient hills,
As doing homage there.

The forest tops are lowly cast
O'er breezy hill and glen,
As in a prayerful spirit passed
On nature as on men.

The clouds weep o'er the fallen world,
Even as repentant love;
Ere, to the blessed breeze unfurled,
They fade in light above.

The sky it is a temple's arch—
The blue and wavy air
Is glorious with the spirit march
Of messengers at prayer.

The gentle moon, the kindling sun,
The many stars are given,
As shrines to burn earth's incense on—
The altar-fires of Heaven!

PRESIDENT POLK'S RETIREMENT.—The National Intelligencer, of Friday, says: "We learn that the President of the United States intends to vacate the Executive mansion on or about the 1st of March. He has engaged rooms at the Irving Hotel, where he will remain with his family until after the inauguration of Gen. Taylor; after which they will take their departure from the city."

The Taxes are, indeed, heavy—said Dr. Franklin on one occasion—and if those laid on by the government were the only ones we had to pay, we might more easily discharge them—but we have many others, and much more grievous to some of us. We are taxed twice as much by our idleness, three times as much by our pride, and four times as much by our folly; and from these taxes the commissioners cannot ease or deliver us by allowing any abatement!

A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.—Officer Farrington, of the 17th ward police, related the following circumstances, yesterday, at the chief's office, respecting a trick played by a thieving rascal, under the pretence of being a minister of the gospel. The individual is described as being a very decently dressed man, with a very ministerial appearance, who called at the residence of the Rev. Mr. Mead, belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 7th street, and inquired of the servant girl who opened the door, if brother or sister Mead were in. The girl replied that neither was in at present. "Then," said he, "give me some paper and ink, and I will leave a note for him, as I wish to exchange pulpits." [This exchanging appears to be often done by preachers.] Upon being furnished with the ink and paper he then said, "Will you oblige me with a little salt, as my palate is down." The salt was brought, accompanied with a silver salt spoon. He then said, "bring me another spoon, larger." This was done by bringing a silver ten spoon. "Oh," said he, "this spoon is not large enough; bring me a table spoon." A table spoon was brought. He then asked for a tumbler of water; the girl went into the entry to call for some water, when the reverend gentleman pocketed the three spoons, requested the girl to open the front door, and, as he left, requested the girl to tell brother Mead that he would call the next day and see him. It is needless to say that the gentleman did not call.

PLANK ROADS.—This recent invention is growing rapidly in public favor, and roads which have been constructed have proved cheap and eligible. There are a number of bills now before the Legislature, for the incorporation of companies to construct these roads, and a general plank road law has already been passed. Among other projects in contemplation, is a road from Pittsburgh to Erie—Erie to Waterford—Meadville and Klecknerville to Edinboro'—Erie to Wattsburg—Erie to Edinboro'—Meadville to Waterford, &c. &c. Throughout Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa also, there is a very general movement in favor of these roads. The Monroeville road in Huron county, Ohio, 10 miles in length, and costing \$14,650, yielded in December, 1848, \$317,26 net over cost of collecting, &c., being at the rate of 28 per cent. per annum, and the Milan and Richland road, 7 miles in length, for the last six months at the rate of 28 per cent. per annum.

WRITE IN MY ALBUM.—A beautiful and accomplished lady gave her album to a dry old bachelor, with the above request, with which he complied in the following felicitous manner:

Through all the varied scenes of life,
Of sorrow pain and woe,
The little pigs run through the woods,
Up to their eyes in snow.

THE TARIFF.—The N. Y. Herald says that a number of Eastern manufacturers have been in conclave in Washington, for the purpose of submitting to Congress, or at least to the Committee of Ways and Means, information concerning the working and operation of the tariff of 1846; and that having presented this information, the committee have authorized their chairman to prepare a report to the House of Representatives on the subject. The purport of this report will, we are informed, be a review of the protective system, and a recommendation to change the rate of duties now in force, and adopt a higher scale, and that the duties ought to be specific, instead of ad valorem.

What are you going to give me for a Christmas present?" remarked a gay damsel the other day. We weekly replied that we had nothing to offer but our humble self. "The smallest favors gratefully received," was the merry response.

COTTON.

The accounts by the Niagara, commercially, are highly favorable. In the language of a writer, "altogether, present appearances are very encouraging, and a splendid trade during the ensuing spring and summer is expected." The demand for Cotton continues extensive and prices gradually improving. The sales for the fortnight ending 20th January, in Liverpool amounted to 95,610 bales, almost entirely of American. The consumption is going on at an increasing rate, but less in all other kinds. In fact every thing seems favorable for a gradual advance in prices. This, too, on the supposition that our crop will go to 2,500,000 to 2,600,000. The present great excess of receipts at the different ports, over those of the last year, cannot as yet be deemed conclusive that the crop must go beyond, or even to the above estimate. There was nothing in the prices of last year, to induce a more extended culture of Cotton, on the contrary, every thing was against it. We see nothing, therefore, to warrant any great excess beyond a full average crop. Whatever excess may take place, we are confident the increasing consumption will more than compensate. We annex the following Report from the Manchester Annual Trade Report, in illustration of our opinion, that the ratio in the increase of consumption, is greater than that of the production. The consumption of Cotton in Great Britain, it will be observed, in pounds, millions and tenths, from 1830 to 1848, has nearly doubled, and in the United States it has gone on even in a greater ratio. But we give the extract as highly interesting:

The importance of the Cotton manufacture to this country has become very great, and is every year increasing. The exports of Yarn and Goods according to official returns amount in value to about one-half, and that of other textile fabrics to about a fourth of the whole of our exports. During the present century no other branch of industry has made so rapid progress or been of so great importance. The consumption of cotton has gone on in the following ratio annually, in lbs. millions, and tenths:

1815.	1820.	1825.	1830.	1834.	1838.
80.0	120.3	166.8	247.6	453.3	676.9

From returns made at various periods, we calculate that there are at present about 300,000 persons directly engaged in cotton factories independent of the large number of mechanics and others who indirectly derive their means of subsistence from the same source. Looking also to the future we do not think any trade is likely to advance in a greater ratio, as there is no material for clothing likely to compare in cheapness or utility with cotton cloth, and its consumption will be augmented not only in proportion to the increase of population, but of civilization throughout the world. A reference to the progress of our shipments to some of the principal markets in the past confirms this.

For example:
To India and China, millions of yards—
1831. 1836. 1842.
And in the same years our exports were \$7,300,000 \$9,000,000 \$10,000,000

Connected with this subject it is of importance to look at the progress of manufacturing in other countries. America is our most formidable rival, and her estimated annual consumption may now be set down at 600,000 bales; the quantity generally stated is 530,000, but it is calculated by well informed parties that about 70,000 bales are worked up which do not pass the ports, and are therefore not embraced in the usual computation. It is worthy of remark taking into account the increased weight of the packages, that America has now arrived at what was the consumption of Great Britain previous to the year 1830. During the years that have intervened the progress made in the States is even greater than that in this country. In 1833 the population of Lowell (its principal seat of the manufacture,) was only 3500; by the last return (1848) it was 29,000; and a year ago there was in this, the Manchester of America, 301,000 spindles; 8749 looms, and they were consuming weekly 637,000 lbs. cotton, which approximates the present consumption of Scotland. The Manufacturing of cotton goods seems, also, to be progressing rapidly in Russia, judging from the quantity of the raw material exported thence from Liverpool and Hull, which is as follows: 1846, 51,500 bales; 1847, 60,100 bales; 1848, 95,300 bales. Increased supplies are also being sent there from other quarters.—Char. Mercury.

NE PLUS ULTRA OF IMPUDENCE.—The Washington Globe translates the following from a letter in German, which we find in the National Democrat of the first instant. "The occurrence took place at Philadelphia in January, and is as cool a piece of rascality as we have heard of lately, though our researches in the newspapers have been pretty extensive this winter:

A night or two ago a house in a rather retired part of the city was broken open without the least disturbance being given to the inmates. They were greatly surprised, though, when they entered the parlor next morning to find it lighted up. The gas lights were burning brilliantly, and the candles about the angles of the room were in full blaze. On the table was empty wine decanters and glasses, and among them lay the family Bible open, with the following passage in Isaiah, strongly underlined: Chapter 56, verses 10, 11 and 12.

"His watchman are blind; they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber."
"11. Yes, they are greedy dogs, which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand; they all look to their own way, every one from his gain, from his quarter."
"12. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to-morrow shall be as this day and much more abundant."

It is carrying impudence to great length, says the letter, when thieves do their stealing with the holy prophet in their hands, and in our pious city of Brotherly Love, were, on the Sabbath, a cock would be punished for crowing too loud.

THE UNION.—Professor Chevalier, in the course of an article in one of the leading French papers, thus briefly and forcibly notices the spirit of our people and the value of the Union:—"The American people, in their discussions, possess the rare and meritorious wisdom of abstaining watchfully from extreme measures. The utility of the Union for every body—its most prolific, universal utility—is present to all minds. Disputants grow hot and angry; the agitation of parties rises high; but sooner or later, all is settled by one of those compromises which appertain to the essence of representative government."