

Agriculture, &c.

Agriculture of California.

The productions of the agricultural portions of California are as wonderful as those of the mining regions. Nature has, with a prodigal hand, lavished her favors on this State, and has given some parts of it power of production unequalled in the world.

Indeed, they have in California a machine in which is combined plough, sower and harrow; and with the use of it, drawn by six mules, one man can plough, sow and harrow in from four to five acres of grain in a day.

As in hay-making, so in harvesting wheat, the process is often conducted in such a way as to make the standing crop immediately ready for the market. Here is a performance that will astonish the largest wheat-growers, east of the Rocky Mountains.

The same soil is not adapted to all kinds of crops. For example, the fine wheat lands of Solano county will not produce potatoes, while the lands on the coast near the ocean, as at Bodega, bear that vegetable in very great abundance and excellence.

As a specimen of volunteer crops, I will cite the case of Mr. Comstock's farm, which is situated eight miles from Stockton. In 1858 one hundred acres yielded its third crop of barley, since plowing or sowing.

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This readiness of the soil to volunteer a crop is very fortunate in a country where labor is so high, and as the soil is no respecter of persons, it is as generous to the poor man, who owns only 160 acres, as to the rich one who cultivates thousands.

The great strength of California soil is exhibited in various ways; such as the large amount of grain raised from an acre; the great height of corn; two crops in one season; enormous size of product, &c.

From what I have said, one would suppose farmers would get rich very rapidly; but this is not so. There are many drawbacks to reduce his profits, the leading one being the cost of carrying his produce to market.

And then again, there is the high cost of labor. Farm hands hired by the year are paid \$30 per month and boarded; if hired only while harvesting is going on, they are paid about \$2 per day, their wages depending somewhat on their skill.

Lastly and worstly, if a farmer has to borrow money, he must pay for the use of it, two per cent. a month.—W. & R.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

European Correspondence.

VOYAGE TO ENGLAND—LIVERPOOL DOCKS—VAST COMMERCE AND RESOURCES OF ENGLAND—HORSES—AGRICULTURE—THE HARVEST—DEATH OF DR. RAFFLES AND LORD CLYDE.

London, August 22nd, 1863.

MR. EDITOR,—

When travelling from home I have sometimes written, for the readers of your widely circulated paper, a communication conveying my observations and impressions of the things I met with in my journeys.

I left Cunard's wharf at Halifax, on the morning of the 7th inst., with some 75 other passengers in the Steamer Africa. The day was throughout and the next very fine, we made rapid progress.

Our farmers would, I think, be surprised to see the powerful horses which remove the goods to and from the docks. They are very large and very fleshy, and I think would average in weight 2000 lbs., some I judged 2500 lbs.

We landed at Liverpool on a fine morning, early, the ship had gone into dock in the night whilst the passengers were quietly sleeping. On first coming on deck one is struck with the forest of masts presented by the great fleet of shipping quietly resting in the magnificent docks of the town.

The timber ships with their cargoes from Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, form no inconsiderable item in the trade of Liverpool. Acres of ground are covered with the different descriptions of the productions of the forest, and one has to go abroad to learn that the most magnificent timber and deals that can be produced, are from the forest of his own little-known Province.

The iron districts had removed their great accumulation of metals, that the salt and coal productions had been accumulating for years to disgorge at once for foreign shipments. But the day ends and these vast accumulations are safely stored in the holds of the outward-bound ships; and the next day witnesses a like proceeding.

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I left Liverpool yesterday for this place, we travelled the distance (210 miles) in 5 1/2 hours. I observed by the mile stones that we went at the rate of a mile in 50 seconds, the cars, and carriages, here are quite inferior to those used on American rail-roads.

heads, were most numerous on each side of the road. The reapers were hard at work, and where the sheaves were put up they stood on the ground thicker than I ever before saw them. The grain before being reaped stood upright, seemingly being so closely sown that it could not lodge. The fields were all evenly ripened, no green straws seen in an acre and so yellow that we would pronounce it dead ripe.

As I have only been five days on shore I cannot give you much of the current news of the country; the American conflict is not much referred to, but I found where talked about a general sympathy with the south prevailed. The "Florida" Confederate steamer, is in the channel and the American ships are terrified to leave port.

J. W. B.

For the Christian Messenger

Acadia College Agency.

Sackville, N. B., Aug. 26th, 1863.

DEAR EDITOR,

You are aware that our Convention closed yesterday. As you will give all necessary information to the public of the doings of that convocation, it is needless for me to speak thereof.

After my last communication to the friends of the College through your very valuable sheet, I resumed my labours with the Pine Grove Church under the pastoral care of our valued brother, Rev. Wm. Porter.