

Agriculture, etc.

SOAP SUDS.—A writer in the Germantown (Pa.) Telegraph says:—The value of this article as a stimulant of vegetable life cannot be too highly appreciated. It contains the aliment of plants in a state of ready solution, and when applied, acts not only with immediate and obvious effect, but with a sustained energy which pertains to few even of the most concentrated manures. When it is not convenient to apply it in irrigation—the most economical method, perhaps, of using it—it should be absorbed by some material which may be used as an ingredient in the compost heap. Soda, muck, and other similar articles, should be deposited where the suds from the sink and laundry may find its way to them, and be absorbed, for the benefit of crops. In this way several loads of manure, suitable for the support and maintenance of any crop, may be made at comparatively small expense. The highly putrescent character of this fermentable liquid qualify it admirably for the irrigation of compost heaps of whatever material composed. Being a potent fertilizer, it must, of necessity impart additional richness to almost any material to which it may be added. Try it, and mark the results.

ARTIFICIAL CULTURE OF OYSTERS.—The plan of M. Coste, of France, for propagating oysters, which, under the auspices of the French government, is now in most successful operation, is substantially as follows:—M. Coste gets fresh oysters for propagation from the open sea; he turns to advantage those that are rejected by the trade; and lastly, he collects the myriads of empty oysters which, at each spawning season, issue from the valves of the oyster, and which are now lost to commerce for want of some contrivance to prevent their escape and inevitable destruction. Every oyster produces from one to two millions of young; out of these not more than ten or twelve attach themselves to their parent's shell; all the rest are dispersed, perish in the mud, or are devoured by fish! Now, if bundles made of the branches of trees, jagots of brushwood, or any similar objects, be let down and secured to the oyster banks by weights, the young oysters will, on issuing from the parent's valves, attach themselves to these jagots, and may, on attaining perfect growth, be taken up, with the branches and transported to places where it is desirable to establish new oyster beds. A model plan for breeding oysters may be seen in the lake of Fussero, in Italy, where mussels and oysters are cultivated with much success; and where almost the entire quantity of oysters is developed without loss.

One of the beds of oysters thus prepared by M. Coste, at the mouth of the river Auray, in France, yielded the first year after it was matured, over twenty millions of good merchantable oysters.

SEA-SICKNESS, &c., &c.—Dr. Chapman's cure for sea-sickness is the "ice treatment." He makes it quite a specific, curing blindness, dia betes, and epilepsy as well as sea-sickness. His method is the application of ice, in an India-rubber bag, to the spine. He attributes sea-sickness "to an excessive amount of blood in the nervous centres along the back." No people afflicted with that unpleasant disease have only to apply ice about the spine to rob the ocean voyage of its chief horror.

WEATHER SIGNS.—The British Board of Trade have deemed the following "signs" reliable enough to warrant their publication for the benefit of mariners:—"A bright yellow sky in the evening indicates wind; a pale yellow, wet; a neutral gray color constitutes a favorable sign in the evening; an unfavorable one in the morning. The clouds are full of meaning in themselves. If their forms are soft, undisturbed and feathery, the weather will be fine; if the edges are hard, sharp and definite, it will be foul. Generally speaking, any deep, unusual lines betoken wind or rain, while the more quiet and delicate tints bespeak fair weather."

SMUT IN WHEAT.—On this subject, "A. M. J." of Mars, writes to the Canada Farmer:—"In fifteen years' experience I have not found fifteen grains of smut in my wheat. My method is to thoroughly clean the seed wheat; if the wheat is not good, I blow away the half of it with the fanning mill; if it is good, not so much, &c. This I consider the preventive of smut, and also the best way to prevent any kind of wheat from running out, so soon in this country as it generally does. Drainage, deep ploughing and thorough manuring, are the next best preventives. Wheat growing over a stone where there is not sufficient earth to nourish the grain in its growth, is likely to become smut, although the straw will grow."

Dr. Schwartz has communicated the following simple method of preserving small quantities of ice, which he has practised with success:—Put the ice in a deep dish or jug, cover it with a plate, and place the vessel on a pillow stuffed with feathers, and cover the top with another pillow carefully—by this means excluding the external air. Feathers are well known bad conductors of heat, and in consequence, the ice is preserved from melting. Dr. Schwartz states that he had thus preserved six pounds of ice for eight days. The plan is simple, and within the reach of every household.

Crooked legs make straight feet; and broken bread makes whole bodies. The best mirror is an old friend.

Important Documents.

(From the Gazette.) The following Despatch, dated the 24th ultimo, and addressed to his Excellency Sir RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL, C. B., by the Right Hon. E. CARDWELL, M. P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, was this day received by his Excellency, and by his command is published, together with its enclosures, for the information of the inhabitants of the Province.

By command, J. H. THORNE, Deputy Provincial Secretary.

NOVA SCOTIA, } No. 29, } DOWNING STREET, 24th June, 1865.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you the copy of a correspondence between Viscount Monck and myself, on the affairs of British North America, which have lately formed the subject of conferences between Her Majesty's Government and a Deputation from the Canadian Government.

This correspondence having been presented to both houses of the Imperial Parliament, by command of Her Majesty, I have to direct you to communicate it also to the Legislature of Nova Scotia at its next meeting.

You will at the same time express the strong and deliberate opinion of Her Majesty's Government, that it is an object much to be desired that all the British North American Colonies should agree to unite in one government. In the territorial extent of Canada, and in the maritime and commercial enterprise of the Lower Provinces, Her Majesty's Government see the elements of power, which only require to be combined in order to secure for the Province which shall possess them all a place among the most considerable communities of the world. In the spirit of loyalty to the British Crown, of attachment to British connection, and of love for British institutions, by which all the Provinces are animated alike, Her Majesty's Government recognize the bond by which all may be combined under one government. Such a Union seems to Her Majesty's Government to recommend itself to the Provinces on many grounds of moral advantage, as giving a well-founded prospect of improved administration and increased prosperity. But there is one consideration which Her Majesty's Government feel it more especially their duty to press upon the Legislature of Nova Scotia. Looking to the determination which this country has ever exhibited to regard the defence of the Colonies as a matter of Imperial concern, the Colonies must recognize a right, and even acknowledge an obligation, incumbent on the Home Government, to urge with earnestness and just authority the measures which they consider to be most expedient on the part of the Colonies; with a view to their own defence. Nor can it be doubtful that the Provinces of British North America are incapable, when separate and divided from each other, of making those just and sufficient preparations for national defence which would be easily undertaken by a Province uniting in itself all the resources of the whole.

I am aware that a project so novel, as well as so important, has not been at once accepted in Nova Scotia with that cordiality which has marked its acceptance by the Legislature of Canada; but Her Majesty's Government trust that after a full and careful examination of the subject in all its bearings, the maritime Provinces will perceive the great advantages which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the proposed Union is calculated to confer upon them.

I have, &c., EDWARD CARDWELL, Lieutenant-Governor Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, C. B., &c. &c. &c.

Papers relating to the Conferences which have taken place between Her Majesty's Government and a Deputation from the Executive Council of Canada, appointed to confer with Her Majesty's Government on subjects of importance to the Province, presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty, 19th June, 1865.

No. 1. (The first despatch from Lord Monck to the Secretary of State, notifying the latter of the appointment of the Delegates, and the objects of the mission. These were briefly:—relative to Confederation, Defence, the Reciprocity Treaty, settlement of the North-west Territory and Hudson's Bay company's claims, and generally upon the existing state of Provincial affairs.)

No. 2. Copy of a Despatch from the Right Honorable Edward Cardwell M. P., to Governor General Viscount Monck.

(No 55.) Downing Street, 17th June, 1865.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to inform your Lordship that several conferences have been held between the four Canadian Ministers who were deputed, under the Minute of your Executive Council of March 24th, to proceed to England to confer with Her Majesty's Government, on the part of Canada, and the Duke of Somerset, the Earl de Grey, Mr. Gladstone, and myself, on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

On the first subject referred to in the Minute, that of the Confederation of the British North American Provinces, we reported on the part of the Cabinet the assurance which had already been given to use every proper means of influence to carry into effect without delay the proposed Confederation.

On the second point we entered into a full

consideration of the important subject of the defence of Canada, not with any apprehension on either side that the friendly relations now happily subsisting between this country and the United States are likely to be disturbed, but impressed with the conviction that the safety of the Empire from possible attack ought to depend upon its own strength and the due application of its own resources. We reminded the Canadian Ministers that on the part of the Imperial Government we had obtained a vote of money for improving the fortifications at Quebec. We assured them that so soon as that vote had been obtained the necessary instructions had been sent out for the immediate execution of the works, which could be prosecuted with despatch; and we reminded them of the suggestion, Her Majesty's Government had made to them to proceed with the fortifications of Montreal.

The Canadian Minister, in reply, expressed unreservedly the desire of Canada to devote her whole resources, both in men and money, for the maintenance of her connection with the Mother Country; and their full belief in the readiness of the Canadian Parliament to make known that determination in the most authentic manner. They said they had increased the expenditure for their Militia from 300,000 to 1,000,000 dollars, and would agree to train that force to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State for War, provided the cost did not exceed the last-mentioned sum annually, while the question of Confederation is pending. They said they were unwilling to separate the question of the works at Montreal from the question of a naval armament on Lake Ontario. That the execution of the whole of these works would render it necessary for them to have recourse to a loan, which could only be raised with the guarantee of the Imperial Parliament. They were ready to propose to their Legislature on their return a measure for this purpose; provided that the guarantee of the Imperial Government were given now, and that they were authorized to communicate to the Parliament of Canada the assurance that, the occasion arising, England will have prepared an adequate naval force for Lake Ontario. They thought that if the guarantee were not obtained now it was probable that the Canadian Government and Parliament would think it desirable that the question of defensive works should await the decision of the Government and Legislature of the United Provinces.

On the part of Her Majesty's Government we assented to reasonableness of the proposal that if the Province undertook the primary liability for the works of defence mentioned in the letter of Lieutenant Colonel Jervis, and showed a sufficient security, Her Majesty's Government should apply to Parliament for a guarantee for the amount required; and we said that Her Majesty's Government would furnish the armaments for the works. But we said that the desire and the decision of the Provincial Legislature ought to be pronounced before any application was made to the Imperial Parliament. On the subject of a Naval Force on Lake Ontario, we said that, apart from any question of expediency, the convention subsisting between this country and the United States rendered it impossible for either nation to place more than the specified number of armed vessels on the lakes in time of peace. In case of war, it would be a matter of course, the duty of any Government in this country to apply its means of naval defence according to the judgment it might form upon the exigencies of each particular time, and the Canadian Ministers might be assured that Her Majesty's Government would not permit itself to be found in such a position as to be unable to discharge its duty in this respect. This was the only assurance that the Canadian Ministers could expect or we could give.

Upon a review of the whole matter, the Canadian Ministers reverted to the proposal which has been mentioned above, that priority in point of time should be given to the Confederation of the Provinces. To this, we, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, assented. In conformity however, with a wish strongly expressed by the Canadian Ministers, we further said, that if, upon future consideration, the Canadian Government should desire to anticipate the Confederation, and to propose that Canada should execute the works, they would doubtless communicate to Her Majesty's Government that decision; and we trusted that after what had passed in these conferences they would feel assured that any such communication would be received by us in the most friendly spirit.

On the third point, the Reciprocity Treaty the Canadian Ministers represented the great importance to Canada of the renewal of that treaty, and requested that Sir F. Bruce might be put in communication with the Government of Lord Monck upon the subject. We replied that Sir F. Bruce had already received instructions to negotiate for a renewal of the treaty, and to act in concert with the Government of Canada.

On the fourth point, the subject of the North western Territory, the Canadian Ministers desired that that territory should be made over to Canada, and undertook to negotiate to the Hudson's Bay Company for the termination of their rights, on condition that the indemnity, if any, should be paid by a loan to be raised by Canada under the Imperial guarantee. With the sanction of the Cabinet, we assented to this proposal, undertaking that if the negotiation should be successful, we, on the part of the Crown, being satisfied that the amount of the indemnity was reasonable, and the security sufficient, would apply to the Imperial Parliament to sanction the arrangement and to guarantee the amount.

On the last point, it seemed sufficient that Her Majesty's Government should accept the assurance given by the Canadian Ministers the part of Canada, that the province is ready to devote all her resources, both in men and money, to the maintenance of her connection with the Mother Country, and should assure them in return that the Imperial Government fully acknowledged the reciprocal obligation of defending every portion of the Empire with all the resources at its command.

The Canadian Ministers in conclusion, said that they hoped it would be understood that present communications did not in any way affect or alter the correspondence which had already passed between the Imperial Government and the Governments of the British North American Provinces on the subject of the Intercolonial Railway. To this we entirely agreed.

I have, &c., EDWARD CARDWELL, Governor General Viscount Monck, &c.

If I were to live to the world's end and do the good that man can do, I must still have mercy. Why then should I be unwilling to die this moment, with a sense of God's pardoning love, when I can have no other claim to salvation, if I were to live forever.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ship Harbor, Strait of Canso.

DEAR BROTHER, In the providence of God, I, for the last few weeks, have been trying to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ, at Ship Harbor, Strait of Canso.

The Baptist interest there—judging according to numbers—is small. But the brethren, while they do not despise "the day of small things," are by no means content with it. Indeed, if we make works the criterion, we must conclude, that the interest is not so small, after all. The noble few, at Ship Harbor, have made, and are making efforts, for the support of the Gospel among themselves, well worthy of imitation, and which, if imitated by many of the churches in our provinces would place them in positions, far more enviable than those they now occupy. My prayer is, that these efforts may be so blessed, as to result in the enlargement of their borders, and the increase of their strength.

The place is interesting in many respects. The scenery is highly pleasing. By going West, you may see the placid serenities, and milder beauties; but if you wish to have a view of the rugged sublimities, and bolder grandeur, go East. The Marine railway—crowded with vessels for repairs—is an interesting feature in the business of the place. The large numbers of vessels passing through the Strait add much to the local beauty. In a distance of two or three miles, over a hundred vessels may sometimes be seen under sail at once; some going with the wind, and some against it. When I have looked upon these, I have thought they seemed to say to the Christian: "Keep your course; steadily go forward in the path of duty, whether the circumstances be favorable or otherwise. If the blasts of adverse winds, or winds seeming adverse beat severely in your face, let them beat, when you hear the voice of God, and his precious Spirit say, 'Fear not.' I have thought the Christian might learn, not only to press forward through difficulties, but to make these very difficulties, a means of progress; to use them as a motive power to propel him onward."

I am yours in Christ, JAMES MORRISON. Onslow, June 30th, 1865.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

Mrs. ELIZABETH FELLOWS,

Died near Bridgetown, May 28th, Mrs. Elizabeth, the beloved wife of Deacon Benjamin S. Fellows, in the 63rd year of her age. Mrs. F. cherished the conviction that many years ago she obtained converting grace; she subsequently made a public profession of faith in Christ, was baptized by that man of God—the late Rev. Richard McLearn, and united with the Baptist Church in Bridgetown, of which church she continued a worthy and faithful member till removed to join the church triumphant. Our beloved sister had been failing for three or four years past, and had become much weakened by repeated attacks of paralysis. Always gentle, humble and affectionate, she was especially so in her affliction; she loved to hear her friends converse about Christ and his great salvation, and to have them pray with her. She highly prized the ministry of the word. When in health rarely indeed did she fail to attend the house of God on the Lord's day, and the religious services of the week. Often indeed when feebleness might have pleaded exemption from the fatigue and exposure, would she come to the sanctuary to worship God, to hear the message of life, to encourage her pastor and fellow-disciples by her presence and deportment. Latterly she could not say much; but she trusted in her Saviour's word and work, and was habitually resigned, peaceful and happy. Dear Bro. Fellows and his family feel deeply their bereavement; but they mourn not as those who have no hope. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord."

May the departure of our friends remind us effectually that our own is near, and may we become more deeply convinced, that Christ alone can save us in life and in death! May God help us constantly to live and act in conformity to these growing convictions!—Communicated.

Mrs. SARAH MINER.

Died in Falmouth, on the 30th of May, 1865, aged 59 years, Mrs. Sarah, wife of Mr. Henry Miner, of that place. Very deeply do her own family, as well as the Church and the community at large, lament her death. Her very amiable disposition, sanctified by Christian principles through the grace of God given unto her, endeared her to the whole circle of her acquaintance. She made a profession of religion in March of 1836, and was baptized by Dr. J. Fyler, then principal of the Horton Institution. Subsequently the family moved to Falmouth, and she became a member of the Church there, on July 6th, 1856. In the untimely fellowship of which she continued till death removed her to the Church in Heaven. "The memory of the just is blessed."