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OLD SERIES]

*Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex aliens libamus ut apes.*

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.]

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## Agricultural Journal.

From the Albany Cultivator.  
TURNING STOCK TO GRASS.

Unless compelled by scarcity of winter food, we should not generally turn stock to pasture till the grass had started so as to afford what farmers call "a good bite." If animals only get a little grass, and that of a watery and innutritious nature, as the first growth generally is, it takes away the appetite for other food without giving much nourishment in its place. Besides, grass-lands, while in a soft or unsettled state, are injured by being trodden or poached by the stock.

This is perhaps the greatest objection to turning out early, or before the soil gets firm; though sheep from their comparative lightness, do much less injury than heavy stock.

Clover and timothy are generally much injured by early feeding. Red-top and blue-grass are more hardy, and from their habits tend to unite the soil and make a firm sod. On this account, soil set in these grasses may be pastured, if dry, at almost any season without much injury.

To check the too laxative tendency which young grass sometimes has, it is best to give stock a foddering of hay at night, for awhile after they are turned out and in case of storms, they should have the benefit of shelter.

Sheep may be pastured on rye for a short time, if it is pretty forward, without injury to the crop, and with very great advantage to the sheep, especially to nursing ewes. In a case of a scarcity of other feed they may be turned on dry meadows. If not too heavily stocked we do not think the yield of hay is much lessened by meadows being fed by sheep till the 15th or 20th of May. The crop is made later but it is usually finer and thicker. Mr M. Y. Tilden, of New-Lebanon, N. Y., an extensive wool grower, is in the practice of pasturing his meadows with sheep both spring and fall; yet he finds his crops of hay rather increase than diminish. He certainly gets a good product. In 1843, he took from 132 acres, 285 tons of well cured hay, and not more than ten acres, as he states, was mowed at all, excepting from the sheep as they grazed over it. We have known several similar instances.

It is best not to turn working oxen to grass till they have done their "spring work." They will perform labour much better when fed on good, bright soft hay, with two or three quarts of meal from Indian corn, barley, or oats and peas, with a few potatoes, carrots, and other succulent vegetables than when fed on the young grass. It takes some time for the animal system to accommodate itself to the change from dry to green food, or from hay to grass, and the first growth of grass, besides being deficient in nutriment, is likely to weaken animals by its cathartic action.

**Parsnips for Hogs.**—While carrots appear to be excellent food for horses and cattle, and very poor food for hogs, parsnips are found to be very fine for hogs. A writer in the *Prairie Farmer* says, that parsnips are preferred by hogs to all other roots, make excellent pork, and will fatten them in six weeks. A hog 22 months old, weighing when alive 750 lbs., was fattened entirely on raw parsnips and sour milk, "and finer meat was never seen."

**Preserving Sweet Potatoes.**—The difficulty of preserving sweet potatoes for seed through winter, in the northern states, is well known. C. Springer, of Ohio, succeeds perfectly by filling a nail keg with alternate layers of wheat chaff and potatoes, and enclosing the whole in a barrel of wheat bran, headed up. This was kept in a cool part of the room, which was not subjected to freezing. When the barrel was filled with wheat chaff instead of bran, the experiment did not succeed so well.

## European News.

From Willmer & Smith's *European Times*, July 19.

THE NEW MINISTRY AND ITS PROSPECTS.

The new ministry has got fairly into work, and the business of the country is again in a state of progression. All the members have been returned without opposition, save Mr. Macaulay and Lord Ebrington, and their addresses to their constituents, divested for the most part of all personal and political acrimony, read more like essays on the theory of government, than electioneering expositions. In truth, fortune has favoured the Whigs. Their star is again in the ascendant, and they possess the power, if they have the tact, to retrieve the errors of the past, and to lay up a stock of popularity for future exigencies.

Time, since the sailing of the last packet, has enabled public opinion to develop itself with reference to the new appointments. In every quarter a disposition exists to give them a fair trial. After the excitement of the past the country needs repose; and, with the exception of the Sugar Duties, there is no prominent question likely to embarrass the ministry, or test their capacity. The affairs of the session will be wound up with all possible decency, and probably by the middle of August the legislative business of this eventful year will have terminated.

In the composition of his Cabinet, as well as in the personnel of the Government in every department, Lord John Russell is admitted to have shown judgment as well as impartiality. As regards individual capacity, the Government, as a whole, is far stronger than the one it has supplanted. In the more subordinate departments, a better class of men, whether as regards acquirements or business habits, are to be found—men far in advance of the officials who have hitherto filled such posts. The Colonial office, for instance, with Lord Grey at its head, and Mr. Hawes and Mr. Charles Buller as auxiliaries, is strong in a division of labour, and a capacity for comprehensive improvements. The remark is more or less applicable to the other departments. On the score of debating talent—the power to "make the worse appear the better reason," the new ministry is rich in brilliant names. The tone of the press, too, at all times a reflex of the popular sentiment, is kind—patronising. The leading journal takes Lord Brougham to task for the waspish anxiety he has already evinced, as regards the salary of the Judges, to assail his old colleagues; and even the *Protection papers* look upon the Russell administration rather as a necessity than an evil. It will have a fair trial and notwithstanding its weakness in the Peers, public opinion, if its measures are up to the mark, will beat down opposition there, and compel hereditary legislators to be just as well as generous.

The subjects likely to engage men's minds for years to come are precisely those with which a Government strong in public opinion can cope most effectually—measures of administrative reform and sanitary improvement. Such measures trench to no great extent on preconceived opinions, injure no influential interest. The necessity of such measures is admitted; and their practical adaptability to the end in view is the test by which they will be gauged. The credit which can be acquired in this wide field of improvement is great. It may prove, as regards ministerial, capital, if worked with the necessary care and skill, as rich as the mines of Potosi.

Those who regard party as the "madness of many for the gain of a few," will be pleased with the extraordinary change which has come over the spirit of the nation. The old badges of distinction, worn thread-bare, have been cast aside, and attention is now concentrated, not on political speculation, but on social advancement. Class interests have absorbed political dogmas—the practical has superseded the speculative. Char-

tism, the most extraordinary movement of modern days, has expired under the pressure of well-filled stomachs, and a abundance of employment for the million. The "knife-and-fork question," as it used to be termed, has ceased to alarm the timid, and with a cheap loaf is denuded all apprehension as to the future. Popular grievances, the stock-in-trade of political demagogues, like the invisible cavern, have vanished from the scene.

## DOMESTIC.

The great movement to reimburse Mr. Cobden for the loss of time, health, and money, which he has sacrificed in his devotion to a principle, is progressing apace. There seems every chance that the £100,000, which has been fixed upon as the maximum, will be raised. Two or three of the principal provincial towns have already subscribed half the amount, and some members of the Cabinet have put their hands into their pockets to reward the clever and modest member for Stockport. Now that the League is defunct, numbered with the things which were, its requiem has been sung with becoming honours by organs which assailed it in its advance to maturity with peals of most discordant music. Men, as they progress from obscurity to greatness, find auxiliaries where they previously encountered opponents. Success commands respect; and a winning cause, like a fortunate speculator, never lacks, what Macbeth in his hour of adversity deplored—troops of friends. The career of Mr. Cobden is a case in point. And yet justice has hardly been dealt impartially to his colleagues, his fellow-labourers in the vineyard of Free-trade. Mr. Bright, for instance, a more showy and not less energetic supporter of the cause, who has rolled the stone like Mr. Cobden, to the top of the hill, from the bottom, is rarely mentioned. As a mere declaimer—as a popular orator—he is Cobden's superior; but a nation's gratitude cannot afford him any substantial recognition. Fortunately, the Quaker member for Durham is beyond the reach of pecuniary necessity; and this may, in part, perhaps, account for the comparative neglect with which he is treated. There is Colonel Thompson, too, a veteran in the cause whose exertions to educate the national mind in the Free-trade theory extend a quarter of a century back. Although not overdone with the lucre which commands the world's respect, he will probably have to remain content with the credit due to a virtue with which they say pandemonium is paved—good intentions. Mr. Villiers, the member for Wolverhampton, is passed over; but his relative, the Earl of Clarendon, has a seat in the Cabinet, so that the family is honoured, if the individual is neglected—which is something to assuage pride with. By the way, it is said, that Mr. Villiers was offered a place in the new Government but having a situation in the Court of Chancery, not dependent upon the ministry, he could not afford to sacrifice it for an unstable one.

The Protectionist party is not quite extinct. Last week, sixty members of the House of Commons, and forty peers, dined at Greenwich, to talk over their position, and determine upon ulterior movements. The principal speaker was Lord Stanley. It seems to have partaken rather of the character of a private than a public gathering, as the reporters were excluded, and the only notification of the event was a brief paragraph in the daily papers.

The embers which have long been smouldering in the Repeal camp have at length broken into a conflagration, and the blaze was distinctly visible at the last meeting of the Repeal Association. Two of the "boys" from the Dublin "Nation" office presented themselves at Conciliation Hall for the purpose of confronting "Dan" himself, and the result may be expressed in that trite vulgarism—a flare-up. The lads of the "Nation" are too fiery, to impatient for "Dan's" progress; they bite the curb furiously, and even hint at the necessity of physical force for the attainment of their object.

Moral force is the leverage by which O'Connell has secured all his triumphs, and he very properly repudiates all other appliances. A split between Young and Old Ireland is now palpable—undeniable; and as the hatred of the nearest relations is said to be the most bitter, the war will be waged with fierceness on either side. The feud will be regretted by all who have observed the admirable manner in which O'Connell has worked upon the fears of official men, for the time being, in order to have the privileges of his countrymen extended. His course may be somewhat circuitous, but it has, hitherto, been successful, and it has not been without its effect in dispelling English prejudice respecting the sister country, and concentrating attention on its misery and misgovernment.

An effort is being made to raise a splendid monument to Sir Robert Peel by means of a penny subscription throughout the British empire, as an expression of the nation's gratitude. The idea is good. It will gratify the man—it will reflect honour on the country. Sir Robert is confined to his room by an accident. He lacerated his foot on a piece of china, while dressing, a day or two back, and his absence from the House of Commons for some days to come will be the result. How his pulse beats towards the new Government and its policy will, therefore, not be known until, probably, the sailing of the next packet. But anxiety on that head is not very keen, as the friendly sentiments which he used in his speech, when taking leave of office, are remembered.

The judicial appointments of the Government have given satisfaction. Poor Chief Justice Tindal, one of the purest spirits that ever was clothed in humanity, died a week too late for Peel's Attorney General, Sir F. Thesiger. The prize, a valuable one, slipped through his fingers by the abrupt destruction of the late Government, and it has been transferred to Sir Thomas Wilde, who would have been Whig Atty. Gen. if the late judge lived. This arrangement has raised Mr. Jervis to be First law officer of the Crown, & Mr. Dundas, an able lawyer to the office of Solicitor-General. Mr. Romilly was named for the office, but, as it now seems, erroneously.

Mr. Ewart, the member for Dumfries, is making an effort to abolish punishment by death, and the enlightened feeling of the country seems to be in favour of the experiment. When the criminal code was softened a few years back, and offences which were previously capital were commuted to transportation, it was found that the experiment was successful, if not in decreasing crime, in inducing juries to convict. The spirit of the age is opposed to the sacrifice of life—to desecrating, needlessly, the living temple of the divinity. If the object of punishment is to deter, as it ought to be, from the commission of crime, public executions do not certainly answer the end. To hang a man like a dog draws thousands of people round the gallows in "merrie England," who seem to gloat upon the agonies of the dying wretch. It is an exhibition, a kind of gala, which is sure at all times to attract the *canaille*. But the ribald jests of the bystanders at the extinction of a fellow-creature's life form the best commentary on the *morale* of the affair. Nevertheless, the question is one of great social interest, for as Judge Hale once said, "When I am called upon to pity a criminal, I cannot forget the pity which is due to society."

The British possessions in North America have been singularly unfortunate of late. The destructive fire at Newfoundland has been succeeded by another calamity in the devoted city of Quebec, and to ameliorate the misfortunes arising out of both events, public meetings have been called, and subscriptions entered into, in London, Liverpool, Manchester, and elsewhere. No doubt a handsome sum will be thus realised; but whatever amount it may reach, will be utterly insufficient to cover the cost, or reimburse the unhappy sufferers. Prompt sympathy has always been characteristic of the English people; but individual efforts