

THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SERIES]

Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.

NEW SERIES, VOL. IV.]

MIRAMICHI, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 19, 1846.

[NUMBER 50.

Agricultural Journal.

[We copy the following Address delivered by Professor Johnston, at the Wakefield meeting of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, from a late number of the London Farmers' Journal.]

THE USE OF LIME.

Professor Johnston, having been briefly introduced by his Lordship, came forward and observed that he believed the object of every Agricultural Society, and more especially the object of the council of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, in selecting the subject of his address, was to bring before the meeting one of those instruments by which a greater fertility of the soil which they all hoped for and believed might be attained, was to be brought about. After a few further introductory remarks, the learned Professor took a very slight glance at the ancient use of lime, tracing it to the Romans and Greeks, and from them upwards to the present date. Without dwelling upon this part of the subject, he observed he would rather draw the attention of his auditory to the improvements which had been made through a proper regard to the effects of lime upon the land in our own time, and in our own country. In Norfolk, the practice of bringing up the marl or lime from the surface, had been adopted with great success, other valuable ingredients, as manures, of course, being applied. In Scotland, too, a great deal had been done in this way. An agriculturist from that country had visited Norfolk, for the express purpose of studying the system, which had been there carried out, and on his return to his own country, he, through the application of lime to some old pasture land, was enabled to produce considerably more grass and beef and mutton than before. In some districts in Scotland the rental of land had been increased threefold by the application of lime. It must, however, at the same time, be borne in mind that there was this remarkable circumstance with regard to the application of lime, viz., that in some districts it was found to do a great deal of good, upon which the practice of using it was abandoned for a long period. If the soil were naturally deficient in lime, and lime were applied in one district while it was going on in another. After describing the properties of various kinds of lime, and the different modes of applying it in various parts of the country, Professor Johnston urged the importance of adopting the plan of using from 8 to 10 bushels of lime per year rather than that of giving the land large and repeated doses for eight or ten years, and then ceasing altogether from the application of it. With regard to the general application of lime he remarked it produced certain physical or mechanical effects. If it were used on light sandy soils it rendered them stiffer; while in the case of stiff clay soils, it had the effect of loosening and opening them out. It had also certain physical or agricultural effects; for example, it altered the kind of grasses that grew up—it removed the sour and strong grasses, and rendered the herbage more sweet and agreeable to the animals which were fed upon it. If applied to heaths and bogs it caused them to be covered with grass—it increased the quantity and improved the quality of the crops, and hastened their ripening, which was a matter of great consequence, particularly in the higher districts of the country—it removed those bad effects upon health which wet and cold and undrained lands almost universally produced, and thus offered an advantage which no humane man would ever think of neglecting. Professor Johnston here entered into an examination of what he conceived to be a very interesting practical question, viz., whether the application of lime was necessary to all soils, and he showed by reference to a geological map that in the case of certain soils, the application of lime was less indispensable than in the case of others. He said that the next question was, whether lime was less indispensable than in the case of others. He said that the next question was, whether lime was

indispensable to land altogether, or, in other words, would the crops grow on the land without lime. He answered that it was indispensable, and stated the results of certain analyses of soil to prove that position. He found that the application of lime to the soil which had not any naturally, had a good effect. As a further proof of the beneficial use of lime to the land, he showed that it was a component part of all plants, the quantity being in proportion to that contained in the land. But he had yet another practical argument to mention. Where lime had been discontinued to be applied for a long period, unless there were some natural source of lime for the land, the crops had been observed to become unhealthy. With regard to turnips, on the Yorkshire Wolds, they were seen to finger and toe occasionally, as it was called, and if the owners of the land were asked the reason, he had no doubt that the answer would be that the land wanted liming. The consequence was that lime had been applied, and it had acted very efficiently both in the case of cone and other crops. The lecturer next proceeded to discuss the questions, first, as to how the lime should be applied. He recommended that in the case of stiff land, or new land about to be reclaimed for the first time, slaked lime should be used, but that in the case of old soils it should be applied as a compost. Land reclaimed for the first time, and being deficient of lime, required the application of a large quantity. In such case the full effect would perhaps not be seen for six or eight years, and after that time the crops might be seen to fall off. Therefore, if they wanted to make lime an instrument to keep the soil in the highest state of fertility, they ought in his opinion, after it had arrived at that state to begin, year after year, rotation after rotation, to apply such a quantity of lime, along with other manures, in order to renew to the land those properties which were being removed from it by each succeeding crop and other causes. In illustration of this part of his address Professor Johnston put a case by which he showed that by keeping the land up to the maximum rate of fertility, a tenant farmer, holding a twenty years' lease would derive fifty bushels more corn, which is equivalent to a two years' crop. He proceeded to show that the over application of lime was as injurious as the non-application of it, and he suggested as a remedy for an over-dose of lime the application of a clod-crusher or some such implement to solidify the land in order that it might again be rendered capable of growing oats, clover, and other crops. He concluded by expressing the gratification he experienced in looking forward to the time when every enlightened farmer must and would, in his opinion, see the necessity of giving to the land a proper equivalent for that which it was ready to impart so liberally to him, and by observing that if there was any point which he had not sufficiently explained, he should be most happy to answer any question that might suggest itself to the gentlemen present, if that question were one to which he could give a safe answer off-hand.

From the same.

PREMATURE DECAY IN WHEAT.

SIR—In answer to your inquiry as to the cause of wheat dying away prematurely in the manner you state, I beg to offer the following facts as having come within my observation, and which prove to me that land will not bear so frequent a repetition of wheat as was mentioned to be the practice on the farm you instanced:—

Prior to my occupying the Spring-park farm it was farmed by the wealthy and intelligent owner, and from want of drainage and trenching was then unsuited to the growth of clover or beans, and he confined his cropping to roots, oats, rye-grass, and trefoil, or tares and wheat—frequently taking wheat after the roots. He purchased largely manure, and, besides, used on the arable land the dung from a large racing and hunting stud and from 30 to 40 brood mares, so that the winter growth of his wheat was always

luxuriant, but I noticed that soon after the wheat was in ear it became scrawled or root-fallen, and was laid by wind or light showers; the ears imperfectly filled and the appearance were as I described. For some time this was ascribed to causes such as the want of lime, the consequence of spring hoeing, the perfect rolling, and the like; but since I have changed the course of cropping, that is to say, introduced beans or peas, and red clover, into the rotation, I have not suffered, and my wheat stands perfect. I do not hesitate to ascribe the evil to want of strength in the straws from too frequent repetition of the crop; and had I had any doubt before this summer, which I had not, I should have none now, for a field of wheat of mine this year, on part of which wheat had been taken two years ago, showed the consequence of repeating this crop too often; where the wheat was two years ago the crop went off, whilst the remainder stood till harvest. In my inspection of land I frequently find districts where the wheat is more liable to be laid, and I fancy I even trace this ill to the erroneous cropping, where adopted; for it two often occurs that this crop is erroneously considered the only paying one, and that a frequent return to it is desirable; and hence it is taken till the return diminishes: and more is lost by this dependance on wheat than is imagined.

I am, Sir, yours &c.,

HEWIT DAVIS.

Spring-park, Aug. 12, 1846.

The Politician.

The British Press.

From the Liverpool Mercury.

YOUNG AND OLD IRELAND.

If, after the manner of Plutarch, we compare parallel characteristics in the history of nations, as he did in those of individuals, we know not where we could turn for lessons of greater instruction and improvement than to the histories of Scotland, Poland and Ireland. They were each ancient and independent Christian kingdoms—each was distinguished by poverty, and the semi-barbaric character which it engenders—each surrounded by powerful and envious neighbours, and each cursed with a feudal nobility, intriguing and factious. Here, however, the comparison ceases to present similarity of features. Scotland was insulated from all Europe, except her one formidable neighbour, who wanted to absorb her. Ireland was insulated from her chief enemy, and presented the barrier of the sea as her natural defence, while Poland was in immediate contact with a number of kingdoms, whose rival pretensions might neutralize the dangerous effects of the proximity and designs of each other. Scotland was poor in soil, wretched in climate, and scanty in population; while Ireland and Poland produced large crops, were inhabited by a numerous and warlike people, and enjoyed the advantages of a less vigorous climate. Yet, how different have been their fates, and, at this moment, how opposite is their actual position! With a mere handful of fighting men, Scotland has never been conquered. She has beaten the most powerful monarch, and the finest army in Europe, in a pitched battle—she has for ever vindicated her independence—she has her own municipal and national institutions—her own perfectly distinct code of laws, both civil and criminal, and totally diverse system of judicial administration—her own national system of registration and education, with five universities—above all, she has her own independent ecclesiastical establishment and theological legislature, so that the Queen is a dissenter when she crosses the border; and so powerful is her literary, scientific, industrial, political, and social influence in the now united kingdom, that the universal complaint is preferred, of her people engrossing so much of the patronage and so many of the offices of the country both public and private, that the Bank of England has passed a rule to exclude them from her offices, lest the establishment should at last become all Scotch together. With quite as brave and warlike, and a far larger population, a people chivalric, active, industrious, and acute, Poland is obliterated from the field of nations; and Ireland, with an insular, and, therefore, distinct and geographical and military position, with 1,600,000 men capable of bearing arms, and a fine soil and climate, finds herself at this moment only a conquered English province, taking her laws, her institutions, her religion, her education,

her very natural university, from her conqueror, and, with half the population of England, possessing only one-fifth of the number of her representatives, and not quite that proportion even of representatives.

How is it, then, that Scotland is a nation, and independent, while Ireland is in chains and now only a province? The secret, we take it, lies in this; that the Scottish people have always been national, unanimous, firmly united against a common enemy, resolved to sink every quarrel and question of self, in the one great necessity of defending and asserting the dignity and independence of their common country, while, in Poland, and Ireland, paltry individual jealousies have lost sight of the national cause, vainglorious chiefs have divided the people into factions, they have forgotten that they had a country, and parties have, by turns, helped their oppressors to conquer them all, for the satisfaction of being revenged on each other.

We had begun to indulge a hope that the Irish people had become alive to this defect in their character, and had resolved to sink all minor differences in the common public cause. We had seen so much unanimity,—such implicit obedience,—such strict, yet voluntary, discipline,—such a noble national spirit of self-sacrifice and true patriotism,—so much real wisdom in the universality of the temperance movement,—in the resignation into the hands of their great leader of absolute authority and perpetual dictatorship for the security of the public safety,—and such practical good sense and energy in all their combined movements,—that we began to regard them with the reverence which eagerness and true patriotism inspire, and to predicate that a thorough redress of all their manifold wrongs was not far distant. Ireland began to be the Tory "chief difficulty" when monster meetings could march and counter-march without a riot,—when men could assemble, and yet keep sober,—when a complete organization could frame its network over the island,—and when a weekly parliament could discuss its affairs and collect its voluntary revenue.

It is just at this critical moment, when Ireland strong in the unanimity and moderation of her people, is about to impetrate or liberally to receive all the substantial benefits which are enjoyed by the sister kingdom, that she again inflicts on herself her primitive curse, and betrays the strength and deep seat of her political original sin. Conciliation-hall has at last, and again, become thoroughly Irish. The leaders are quarrelling among themselves. They no longer represent a united nation, but only their own miserable jealousies, and the poor rivalry of faction. The model parliament has become a bear-garden.

We have turned with anxiety to the speech of Mr O'Connell on Monday, to see if he offered peace and preached conciliation. We see only that he accuses young Ireland of treachery to repeal, and calls their followers "filthy partisans throughout the country." The breach is irremediable, and henceforth, in our apprehension, repeal can be no longer formidable to those who have never conceded anything to justice, nor refused anything to force. The main cause of quarrel cannot be the ostensible one. O'Connell's proposition that "no melioration of any human institution is worth one human drop of blood," will be considered by most people to deserve the laughter and ridicule of men, rather than their serious refutation, and must have been merely made the medium of settling a sterner conflict, and the vent of a deep and bitter resentment. We can only hope that the controversy seems but a small portion of political *debris* from the main body of Conciliation-hall, and that what O'Connell has lost in young Ireland partisanship, he may more than make up the concession of moderate and thinking men, whom the violence of the refractory members kept aloof from the movement. Expressions of renewed and devoted confidence greet him from all, especially the highest quarters, and a better test still of his power, the repeal rent of the Irish nation will sedulously preserve its unanimity and submissive devotion to its leader. Enthusiastic nationalism and compact combination on the part of the people are all that is required in order to enforce perseverance on the part of Parliament in redressing their grievances and improving their social economy. Let Young Ireland, then postpone its petulant turbulence until unanimity is no longer necessary for the enforcement of the claim of "Justice to Ireland," then let its members, if they will, emulate the Kilkenny Cats, with this only difference, that is to be hoped they will not leave behind them even their tails.

The Colonial Press.

From the S. John Colonial Advocate.

FREE TRADE PRINCIPLES.

The new and untried policy of the Whig Cabinet is mentioned by some as a thing of