

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.* [COMPRIED 13 VOLUMES.

NEW SERIES, VOL. V.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 30, 1847.

[NUMBER 23.]

Agricultural Journal.

From Chambers's Edinburgh Journal
AN AMERICAN'S VISIT TO
ENGLAND.

The tourist as might be expected was also charmed with the almost universal taste for flower cultivation and embellishment. The neat flower plots before the doors of villas and cottages are the marvel of every foreigner. 'Even the labourer's humble cottage—too seldom, I am compelled to admit, anything but a picturesque object—will occasionally have its flowery shrubs adorning its doorway, and the ivy hanging its beautiful tresses over its window, forming as it were, a mirror set in a frame of the richest green. The village of Marr in Yorkshire, not far from Doncaster, and the village of Edensor in Derbyshire, near Chatsworth, and the village of Lord Brownlow in Lincolnshire, the best built and by far the handsomest village I have seen yet in England, to cottages of an excellent and picturesque construction, monuments of the liberality of their proprietors, add these beautiful rural embellishments of vines and shrubs, and flowers, and at first blush, compel a reflecting mind to admit the moral influence of such arrangements upon the character and manners of the inhabitants. Churches and ruins likewise, are often seen spread over with the richest mantles of ivy; and among many others, the venerable and magnificent remains of Hadwike Hall, for example, are covered, I may say, in the season of its flowering, with a gorgeous robe of it, matting its sides with indescribable luxuriance, climbing its lofty bartlements, and fringing its empty windows and broken arches as though nature would make the pall of death exquisitely beautiful and splendid, that she might conceal the hideousness of decay, and shut from the sight of frail mortals these affecting monuments of the vanity of human grandeur and pride.

I have said and written a great deal to my countrymen about the cultivation of flowers, ornamental gardening, and rural embellishments; and I would read them a homily on the subject every day of every remaining year of my life, if I thought it would have the effect which I desire, of inducing them to make this matter of particular attention and care. When a man asks me what is the use of shrubs and flowers, my first impulse is always to look under his hat and see the length of his ears. I am heartily sick of measuring everything by a standard of mere utility and profit; and as heartily do I pity the man who can see no good in life but a pecuniary gain, or in the mere animal indulgences of eating and drinking.

Of the landed proprietors Mr Colman is disposed to think well; and mentions, as evidences of their liberality, that they are satisfied with a return of from two and a half to three per cent. on their investments. Here he has committed a slight but natural mistake. Landlords, generally are contented with these comparatively small returns, because in the circumstances they can seldom get more. Besides capitalists invest money in land for another kind of return than rents. Land gives territorial distinction and political power; and for the latter alone, many persons seem not disinclined to forego all direct pecuniary advantages. In this, indeed, lies the true cause of the high price of land in Great Britain—the reason why a few comparatively unproductive farms are valued at fifty times the price of an equally large and much richer tract of land in the United States.

To us the most interesting part of Mr Colman's book is that in which he describes the condition of the farm labourers but as his details on this subject are extensive and varied, we must necessarily postpone them, along with other matters, till another occasion.

The condition of the rural population in Scotland seemed to the traveller to present some pleasing but also some bad

features. The practice of exclusively employing only unmarried men, and lodging them in bothies, or huts, by themselves, meets with just reprehension. 'It is not difficult to infer that where young men and others are turned into a hovel together, and without any one to look after their lodgings or prepare their meals, the style of living cannot have the advantages even of the wigwam of a North American savage; for there, at least, there is a squaw to provide food and look after the premises. A practice equally vicious, if not identical with that of the bothie system, is the putting unmarried ploughmen to sleep in stable lofts; and to this Mr Colman does not allude.

Will it be credited by Englishmen and Scottish farmers—men of capital and general intelligence, as well as professing Christians—should actually make a practice of sending their servants to sleep among cattle? Yet such is the case; and though it would be difficult to devise a more effectual means of demoralization such means are not wanting.

Once a year during harvest, there may be said to prevail a wide spread and long accredited system of breaking down all sense of virtue or decency among the labourers. We here allude to the method of lodging the large band of reapers native and Irish, men and women, of whom sometimes as many as two hundred live for a time together. 'I was curious to know,' says Mr Colman how so many people are lodged at night. In some cases they throw themselves down under stacks, or upon some straw in the sheds, or outbuildings of the farm, but in the case to which I refer above, I was shown into the cattle stalls and stables, the floors of which were littered with straw, and here the men's coats and the women's caps and bonnets upon the wall indicated that it was occupied by both parties promiscuously. This was indeed the fact. Each person, as far as possible, was supplied with a blanket, and these were the whole accommodations, and the whole support. This was not a singular instance. I am unwilling to make any comments upon such facts as these. They speak for themselves. They are matters of general custom, and seem to excite no attention. I do not refer to them as a matter of reproach to the employers, who were persons of respectable character and condition, and whose families were distinguished for their refinement, but it presents one among many instances in which habit and custom reconcile us to many things which would otherwise offend us, and lead us to view some practices, utterly unjustifiable in themselves, with a degree of complacency or indifference; and as unalterable because they have been so long established. I believe there is only one part of the United States where anything resembling such a condition of things prevails, or would be permitted; and there only among a class of beings whose claims to humanity seems not very well established in all minds, and whose degradation on account of their complexion, appears absolutely hopeless. But even here, this indiscriminating consorting is not common; nor would it be permitted by any respectable planter. We hope these remarks will not be without their due effect on the minds of our agriculturists, who erring from no deliberate purpose, will be the more inclined to remedy the evils alluded to.

The intelligent and kind hearted American feels acutely for the ignorance of letters, and consequently mental apathy, manifested by the bulk of the English rural people; and from experience, combats the false idea that education would be injurious to the labourers. Who does not know the difference between a stupid and an intelligent labourer; between a man scarcely raised above the brute which he drives, and a man whose faculties are all awake, and who is constantly upon the alert to discover and adopt the best mode of executing the task which he has undertaken; between a beast altogether the creature of instinct, or a mere machine, moving only as it is impelled, and unable to

correct its own errors, and a thinking, knowing, reasoning animal, always searching for the right way, making all his actions subservient to his judgment, and gathering continual accessions of power and facility of action from his own and the experience of others? Every one will admit that the more intelligence, the more skill, the more knowledge a man has, the better is he qualified, other things being equal, for the management of a farm. It holds equally true that the more intelligence, and more skill, the more knowledge a labourer has, the better is he qualified to assist in the management, and to perform the part which belongs to him in the working of the whole machinery. The American labourer having been educated and taught to depend on himself, to inquire, to reflect, to observe, to experiment, occupies a comparatively high station in the scale, and will push unassisted, through numberless difficulties. Let the English labourer be exposed to the same educational influences, and no longer will he be regarded as a degraded and helpless being.

Mr Colman makes mention as follows of an interesting attempt on an estate in Germany to adjust the claims of capital with those of labour:—'A German baron, with whom I have the pleasure of a friendly acquaintance, has given me an outline of his arrangements with his labourers, which, as far as it is practicable, deserves much consideration, as, according to his own account, it secures their industry, fidelity and contentment. No human arrangements are perfect, and no human laws can be framed with the ingenuity of men who will not contrive to evade; but as there appears in this plan every motive of good faith, good faith on both sides would seem to be all that is necessary to its successful operation. First from the products of the place, the customary rent is paid, and the wages employed. The surplus remaining is then divided into five equal parts. Two of these parts are claimed by the proprietor for his skill, intelligence, and care, in the superintendance and management of the property, one part is retained as an insurance upon that part of the property which is liable to loss or destruction; one part is devoted to actual improvements upon the place; and one is divided among the labourers themselves according to the rates of wages which they receive for their work.

Whether these proportions are properly adjusted or not, I shall leave to the judgment of my readers. It is obvious that any others might be adopted which should be deemed more just. It is certainly an approach to an equitable arrangement, and my friend assures me that it works well. He says he leaves his estate at any time with a perfect confidence that his interests will be cared for and protected, and that there will be no waste of time, and no squandering of property, and no neglect of duty, success is in proportion as much the interest of the labourers as of the proprietors.

This gentleman, who has three hundred men in his employment, says the system works well; and that every year's experience gave him greater confidence in its justness and advantages. First, his work is done; secondly it was done in the best manner in which his labourers are able to execute it, because it is the interest of all that it should be done, and done well. The labourers have a system of rules and fines among themselves, always subject to his approbation, and after being once approved, always rigidly enforced. They inquire, of their own accord, into the best methods of doing what is to be done; they point out mistakes which have been committed, and improvements which may be made, subject always to his judgements. If men are found unskilful or incompetent in the particular branch of duty assigned them, he is advised of it, and persons more suitable are selected by their judgement who best understands the capacities of their fellow labourers for the work. They are held jointly responsible for any injury to the property, unless the offending person is found.

An individual guilty of any neglect of duty, or any improper conduct, or any violation of the established rules, is mulcted as a pecuniary fine. The names of the offenders are always announced at the close of the year; and these fines go towards a general entertainment and festivity. The proprietor himself hears all complaints; and a labourer whose bad habits are judged incorrigible, is discharged.

The Politician.

The British Press.

From the London Morning Chronicle.

EMIGRATION—A RESOURCE FOR IRELAND.

(Extracts from the Parliamentary papers of the Session.)

Sir,—Thus writes the government emigrant agent from Upper Canada, in December last, on this now vital subject:—

'During my visit to the western agencies in September last, I was agreeably surprised to find very few emigrants unemployed, nor do I apprehend any difficulty in finding work for a much greater number next year, [1847] if the means to scatter them be placed at the disposal of the agents [which Lord Grey says will be done], for the province is steadily advancing in wealth and population, and is capable of sustaining in comfort almost any number of labourers, provided they can be transported to places where their services are required.'

By emigration, tens of thousands who are now suffering or will soon suffer death and every variety of woe, may be saved, if the Government can be induced to avail themselves of the vast means which they possess. Unhappily, the Colonial Minister has announced to the Governor of Canada that he intends to do nothing this year in aid of emigration. If the people can find their way to that colony, then the agent will be allowed to disperse them among the farms. A great disposition to go there now prevails in Ireland, which is reported by the commissariat officers; 700 persons in one single district have petitioned for the petty advances of £3 a head, but their petition will not be complied with; indeed, cannot, after the declaration of Lord Grey, who in a long despatch to Lord Elgin, gives his reasons for refusing the emigrants assistance. It may therefore be feared that many thousands will linger at home, a burden on the land, who might be transported abroad where their labour would furnish supplies for the coming year, Canada be cultivated, and Ireland fed.

Twenty eight thousand persons last year were happily settled in Canada alone, and are living in comfort, with labour at 3s. a day, who would not be now earning 3d. a day at home. They came out in unusual distress, and unusual numbers, yet the province absorbed them all, and could have received more—indeed almost any number.

The passage cost but £3 each, and as much more for provisions. From one childling to six shillings carries them to the most distant parts and even to Albany, near New York, so great is the competition among the steamboats. Forty days is the average passage; and far better treatment is secured to the emigrants in the vessels than they have ever known before, through the due execution of the Passengers' Act. Not less than 119,000 tons of shipping were employed in this intercourse, and almost 5,000 seamen.

The mortality however, was greater than usual, almost double, owing to the distressed condition in which these poor people left their homes; still it was but 272, one third of these children. Several shipmasters were fined for contravening the regulations. Hardly any lives were lost, though there were three ships wrecked. Earl Fitzwilliam and the Marquis of Ormond sent out in comfort, many of their labourers; the poor law commissioners a mere handful. Ninety eight miners proceeded to the lead and copper mines. The whole expense of sending forward to Montreal 32,700 persons has amounted to only £8,000, so frugally has this important matter been managed by these excellent agents, and yet it included the charge of free passages to no less than 6,000 Irish, English, Scotch, and Germans. From Montreal not less than 9,000 free passages were granted, and an issue of provisions, which nevertheless cost, including medical care, only £4,126.

'Among this multitude there had been no distress, unless the consequence of their own folly. Employment is generally to be procured at remunerative wages, and provisions and necessaries are plentiful.' The season begins in March and lasts till nearly November.