

# THE GLEANER:

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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.*

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## Agricultural Journal.

From the Old Colony Memorial.  
BARN CELLARS.

Mr. Editor:—Barn cellars have become so common and so generally praised both by scientific and practical farmers, it is doubted whether the many think there are any evils attending them, or any precautions necessary to protect stock and their food against unhealthy influences. The barn cellar is justly described as a favourable situation for composting manures; and in exact proportion to its excellence for this purpose it will send forth unhealthy influences to the animals and hay situated over it. Would any man in the exercise of reason, direct a zinc spout into the cellar of his house, or doubt the injurious influences of the air thus produced on the health of the inhabitants, and on their provisions. Very similar cases to those such an arrangement would produce, are continually ascending from the barn cellar; the animals kept there may not be quite so sensitive as human beings, nor quite so particular concerning the purity of their food, but pure air and clean food are no less necessary to their health, than that of man. It may not be possible to construct a barn in such a manner that composting manure under it will not produce some injurious effect. Much evil however, can be avoided with seasonable and suitable precaution. The floor of the barn should be double and made tight as possible. Before hay is put on the floor a coating of plaster or lime should be applied.

Lime will do very well under the hay, but under the cattle plaster should be placed and often renewed. Plaster should also be scattered in the cellar often as the manure is worked over. With these precaution the air of a barn with a cellar under it may be kept in a tolerable healthy state. And to this amount of labour, we suppose, all owners of barn cellars ought to submit, in view of personal interest and the health and comfort of those animals to which they are bound to be merciful.

It is the dictate of reason, that these "gases" if allowed to penetrate the building must injure both the cattle and their food.

"A merciful man is merciful to his beast," and ought in every way to consult its comfort.

## TO RAISE CUCUMBERS OR SQUASHES.

Take a large barrel, or hogshead, saw it in two in the middle, and bury each half in the ground even with the top. Then take a small keg and bore a small hole in the bottom. Place the keg in the centre of the barrel, the top even with the ground and fill in the barrel around the keg, with rich earth, suitable for the growth of cucumbers. Plant your seed midway between the edges of the barrel and the keg, and make a kind of arbour a foot or two high for the vine to run on. When the ground becomes dry, pour water in the keg in the evening—it will pass out at the bottom of the keg into the barrel, and rise up to the roots of the vines and keep them moist and green.

Cucumbers cultivated this way will grow to a great size, as they are made independent both of drought and wet weather—in wet weather the barrel can be covered, and in dry the ground can be kept moist by pouring water in the keg.

## EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF.

During the debate which took place some time ago in a Scottish Town Council, on a question where much diversity of opinion prevailed, a baillie, among other reasons in support of the measures stated that it would be of immense benefit to posterity. The Provost who heard the opposite party, rose in a fury and said "I am really surprised to hear any man bring forth such an argument. What reason have we to sacrifice ourselves for the good of posterity? "Point out" he said, striking the table, "point out a single instance where posterity has been at the least benefited by us!"

Some things seem as if they had been absolutely created to serve the most insignificant purpose.—For instance, if we had no corks what the plague should we stop our bottles with?

## European News.

### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—I cannot meet you for the first time after the dissolution of Parliament without expressing my deep sorrow, in which I am sure you will participate, that your deliberations can no longer be aided by the counsels of that illustrious man whose great achievements have exalted the name of England, and in whose loyalty and patriotism the interests of my Throne and of my people ever found an unflinching support. I rely with confidence on your desire to join with me in taking such steps as may mark your sense of the irreparable loss which the country has sustained by the death of Arthur Duke of Wellington.

I am happy to acknowledge the readiness with which my subjects in general have come forward, in pursuance of the act of last session, to join the ranks of the militia, and I confidently trust that the force thus raised by voluntary enlistment will be calculated to give effective aid to my regular army for the protection and security of the country.

I continue to receive from all foreign powers assurances of their anxious desire to maintain the friendly relations now happily subsisting with my Government.

Frequent and well-founded complaints on the part of my North American colonies, of infractions, by citizens of the United States, of the Fishery convention of 1818, induced me to dispatch for the protection of their interests a class of vessels better adapted to the service than those which had been previously employed. This step has led to discussions with the Government of the United States; and while the rights of my subjects have been firmly maintained, the friendly spirit in which the question has been treated induces me to hope that the ultimate result may be a mutually beneficial extension and improvement of our commercial intercourse with that great Republic.

The special mission which in concert with the Prince President of the French Republic, I deemed it right to send the Argentine Confederation, has been received with the utmost cordiality, and the wise and enlightened policy of the provisional director has already opened to the commerce of the world the great rivers hitherto closed, which afford an access to the interior of the vast continent of South America.

I have the satisfaction of announcing to you that the sincere and zealous efforts of the Government of Brazil for the suppression of the slave trade, now nearly extinguished on that coast, have enabled me to suspend the stringent measures which I had been compelled reluctantly to adopt, a recurrence to which I anxiously hope may be proved to be unnecessary.

The Government of her most faithful Majesty have fully recognised the justice of the claim which my Government have long urged for the abolition of the discriminating duties on the export of wine, and have passed a decree for giving complete effect to the stipulations of the treaty on this subject.

You will probably deem it advisable to resume the inquiries which were commenced by the late Parliament, with a view to legislation on the subject of the future government of my East Indian possessions.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons, the estimates for the ensuing year will in due time be laid before you.

The advancement of the fine arts and of practical science will be recognised by you as worthy of the attention of a great and enlightened nation. I have directed that a comprehensive scheme shall be laid before you, having in view the promotion of these objects, towards which I invite your aid and co-operation.

My Lords and Gentlemen, it gives me pleasure to be enabled, by the blessings of Providence, to congratulate you on the generally improved condition of the country, and especially of the industrious classes.—If you should be of opinion that recent legislation in contributing, with other causes, to this happy result, has at the same time

inflicted unavoidable injury on certain important interests, I recommend you dispassionately to consider how far it may be practicable equitably to mitigate that injury and to enable the industry of the country to meet successfully that unrestricted competition to which Parliament, in its wisdom, has decided that it should be subjected.

I trust that the general improvement, notwithstanding many obstacles, has extended to Ireland; and while I rely with confidence on your aid, should it be required, to restrain that unhappy spirit of insubordination and turbulence which produced many, and aggravates all the evils which afflict that portion of my dominions. I recommend to you the adoption of such a liberal and generous policy towards Ireland, as may encourage and assist her to rally from the depression in which she has been sunk by the sufferings of late years.

Anxious to promote the efficiency of every branch of our National Church, I have thought fit to issue a commission to inquire and report to me how far, in their opinion, the Capitular Institutions of the country are capable of being made more effective for the great objects of religious worship, religious education, and ecclesiastical discipline.

I have directed that the Reports of the Commissioners for inquiring into the system of education pursued at Oxford and Cambridge, should be communicated to the governing bodies of those universities for their consideration, and rely upon your readiness to remove any legal difficulties which may impede the desire of the universities at large, or of the several colleges, to introduce such amendments into their existing system as they may deem to be more in accordance with the requirements of the present time.

The system of secondary punishments has usefully occupied the labors of successive parliaments, and I shall rejoice if you shall find it possible to devise means by which, without giving encouragement to crime, transportation to Van Diemen's Land may at no distant period be altogether discontinued.

The subject of Legal Reform continues to engage my anxious attention. The acts passed in the last session of Parliament have been followed up by the orders necessary for putting them in operation; inquiries are in progress by my direction, with a view of bringing into harmony the testamentary jurisdiction of my several courts; and bills will be submitted to you for effecting further improvements in the administration of the law.

To these, and other measures affecting the social condition of the country, I am persuaded that you will give your earnest and zealous attention; and I pray that by the blessing of Almighty God, your deliberations may be guided to the well-being and happiness of my people.

### EARTHQUAKE IN ENGLAND.

On Tuesday morning the shock of an earthquake—doubtless the lighter vibration from some serious but remote convulsion—was felt with more or less severity, throughout Liverpool and the whole of this district. The time—about which all parties are pretty nearly agreed—was half past four o'clock; and the shock was accompanied, according to several of our informants, by a rumbling noise. The sensations for the most part experienced were these:—the shaking or rocking of houses, the raising and undulating of beds, the clattering of moveable articles, the banging of doors, and the rattling of window frames. In general there was a sort of upheaving, followed by a quick vibration, similar to the shock which a ship experiences when struck by a heavy sea; and then, as it were, staggering and trembling from the concussion. One gentleman residing in Birkenhead, describes it as though a giant had entered his chamber, and seizing a post in either hand, given his bed a thorough shaking for a minute or so, and vanished. The impression of another who lives in Cloughton-park, and whose house has never been effected by the heaviest gales was that he had been awakened by some of the servants jumping with all their weight upon the floor above.

Many persons were very seriously alarmed, imagining that burglars had got into their houses, and Captain Greig, the head

constable, under this idea, called up the men on duty at the station, George's Dock, and made a thorough examination of his premises. But few, at the moment, appeared to have attributed the strange and startling sensation to the real cause; and many, particularly those residing near the spot, and having the fear of powder constantly before their eyes, concluded that the floating magazine had exploded; others that the vibrations were caused by peats of distant thunder. The latter idea, indeed, was not unreasonable; for during the last few days the temperature has been unusually oppressive, the barometer rising, notwithstanding the fall of heavy rain, at intervals, fully quarter of an inch, from six o'clock in the evening of Monday until nine on Tuesday morning.

At the Liverpool observatory, we are informed by Mr Hartnup, that the morning of Tuesday was overcast, dark, and gloomy, the barometer stood about one tenth of an inch above the average, and the temperature was about seven degrees above the average. The direction of the wind at four and a half hours, was N. W., but it was as near calm as possible; light rain fell from 6 to 8 a. m., and from one to 11 p. m. The time at which the shock took place was carefully noted by a gentleman in the neighborhood of West Derby 4h. 28m. 20s., and there appeared to be three shocks from east to west, and two from west to east.

The motion of the earthquake was from west to east, and its duration, as far as can be ascertained from various sources, about half a minute. The last shock of a similar kind experienced in this country was on Friday, the 17th March, 1843, at one o'clock a. m., the direction being from east to west. Those, however, who remember that visitation, declare that it was much milder, and less extensively felt, than the present. In fact, according to the Manchester Guardian—for the neighborhood of Manchester was also effected—a gentleman, who lives at Sale, near Altrincham, who has resided for several years at St Domingo, and who witnessed the phenomena attendant upon the great earthquake which occurred there in May, 1842, says that the earthquake of Tuesday morning was more severe than several he had there experienced, and that if it had occurred in that island, where the people are but too well acquainted with these convulsions of nature, all who had felt it would have rushed from their houses in dismay. He should think the shock a very severe one for this country.

It is stated that parties residing in those localities which have a light, dry, sandy soil, seem to have felt the shock most sensibly. With regard to the extent of country over which the vibrations have been felt, we are scarcely yet prepared to pronounce positively; but as far as present accounts go, the shock has visited Dublin and its vicinity Carlow, Conway, Holyhead, Manchester, the bathing places on the Lancashire coast, (particularly Southport, Lytham, and Fleetwood) Bolton, Bury, Ramshotton, and even in some parts of the midland counties. Several persons in Wolverhampton and neighborhood, felt a tremor or shaking of the earth. It was felt at Brewwood and in Wolverhampton some glasses and other articles of that kind were heard to make a jingling noise.

The Dublin Evening Post remarks:—This is the first shock of earthquake of which we have any authentic record in this country. In various parts of the city the shock was felt, accompanied by a rumbling subterranean noise, and the shaking of doors, windows, and furniture. On the north side, the effect of this remarkable phenomenon were still more decided. A stack of chimneys at Phibsborough was thrown down by the violence of the shock. In the vicinity of the terminus of the Dublin and Drogheda Railway some persons were led to believe, from the noise caused by the convulsion, that the mail-train was entering the station before the usual time of its arrival.

The shock was felt severely at Chester, and all along the Chester and Birkenhead line but no shock has been experienced at Bradford, Halifax, or Birmingham; although the temperature at Bradford was very hot and oppressive during Tuesday morning.

THREE MEN BURIED ALIVE.—The fate of three men, who on Friday afternoon last