

A Sad Drowning Fatality.

A distressing case of drowning occurred at Esdraelon, on June 12th. Harry Home, a young man of Glassville, well known for his genial and amiable disposition went in company with a friend, to bathe in the pond at Gillmor's mill, on the Coldstream, and lost his life. An inquest was held by Coroner Dr. Welch, and from evidence adduced at that court it will be seen that the drowning took place under very peculiar circumstances.

From the testimony of witnesses it appears that the deceased in company with Mr. F. B. Thomas had been working on the farm of the latter, and the weather being extremely hot they went to bathe. Thomas, an expert swimmer, went some little distance up the stream, and after swimming about for a short time he looked round for his companion, not seeing him he left the water and ran to the place where he had last seen him, on looking into the water, to his surprise and horror he saw deceased lying at the bottom of the pond, he dived for him at once but was held by deceased so firmly that he had to push him off to save himself, he then made a second attempt but without success; and having his horse and gig on the bank he drove up to the house of Mr. A. Gillmor and procured further assistance. On returning a third unsuccessful attempt was made and Mr. G. W. Gillmor eventually got him out of the water with a pole and hook. The usual treatment was resorted to and Dr. Welch was sent for, and he endeavoured by artificial respiration to restore animation, but all efforts failed. The water in which he sank was some eight or ten feet deep and so clear, that he could be distinctly seen lying on the bottom. It is supposed that the unfortunate young man must have been under the water at least fifteen minutes. The jury after hearing the evidence returned a verdict: That deceased was accidentally drowned whilst bathing.

On the following day his remains were interred in the Glassville cemetery, and a large concourse of people assembled from all the surrounding districts to follow him to his last resting place, for he was well known to young and old for his kindness and amiability to all. R. I. P.

The deceased young man was second son of the Rev. John Home, a gentleman who is widely known throughout this province.

We noticed with some regret, that the cemetery is not so well kept as it might be, and we would recommend to those in power, a perusal of Robinson's "God's Acre, made Beautiful." Cemeteries, generally speaking, present unusual facility for the art of the landscape gardener and we think they should be 'beautified' as much as possible. This opinion is also endorsed by some of our oldest settlers, who think that the people of the settlement to whom the land was given, ought to employ some capable man to keep it in order, and embellish it with suitable shrubs, and plants, for the purpose of making it as beautiful and attractive as possible. The necessary funds for such a purpose ought to be easily raised in the neighbourhood. Although we are not at all anxious to occupy a corner there, we would be pleased to contribute towards so laudable an object.

THE CHEMISTRY OF THE FARM.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE CONSTITUENTS OF SOILS.—All soils, as detailed in our last chapter are originally produced from the strata on which they are superimposed, and consist primarily of the elementary bodies to be found in that strata. The soil as originally formed is only capable of supporting the lowest form of vegetable life, until sufficient organic matter is added to it, either artificially or by the process of nature. Water, and the decomposing animal and vegetable matter existing in the soil, constitute the true nourishment of plants: and as the earthy parts of the soil are useful in retaining water, so as to supply it in the proper proportions to the roots of vegetables, so they are likewise efficacious in producing the proper distribution of the animal and vegetable matter; when equally mixed with it they prevent it decomposing too rapidly; and by their means the soluble parts are supplied in due proportion.

Plants being possessed of no locomotive power, can grow only where they are supplied with food; and the soil is necessary to their existence, both as affording them nourishment, and enabling them to fix themselves in such a manner as to obey those mechanical laws by which their radicles are kept below the surface, and their leaves exposed to the free atmosphere. As the systems of roots, branches, and leaves are very different in different vegetables, so they flourish most in different soils; the plants that have bulbous roots require a looser and lighter soil than such as have fibrous roots; and plants possessing short fibrous radicles demand a firmer soil than such as have tap roots, or extensive lateral roots. These facts show the importance of a knowledge of the constituents of the soil, to guide the farmer in selecting suitable crops for the soil.

Generally speaking, the inorganic constituents are but few in number; but the relative proportions in which they are combined makes all the difference between a rich fruitful soil, and a sterile one. The ordinary constituents of soils are—Silica, Alumina, Lime, Magnesia, Oxide of Iron, with other metallic oxides and saline matter. Now, pure alumina or silica, pure carbonate of lime, or magnesia, are all incapable of supporting healthy vegetation; and, no soil is fertile that contains as much as nineteen parts out of twenty of any of these constituents. It will thus be seen that the pure earths alone will not bring forth agricultural produce, but an intimate mechanical mixture of several, or all of them in varying proportions will with the addition of organic matter, form a soil that will produce all the crops raised by the agriculturist. The analysis of a first class wheat soil, gave three parts in five of siliceous sand; and the finely divided matter consisted of—Carbonate of Lime 28 Silica 32 Alumina 29 Animal and vegetable matter and moisture 11. This soil was from a section of country noted for its fine wheat crops. Compare this with the analysis of a soil equally noted for the enormous crops of fine turnips which it produced. The analysis of this soil gave eight parts out of nine of nine of siliceous sand; and the finely divided matter consisted of—Carbonate of Lime 63 Silica 15 Alumina 11 Oxide of Iron 3 Vegetable and saline matter 5 Moisture 3.

Of these soils the first is the most coherent in its texture; and therefore better adapted for growing wheat, grasses, and fibrous rooted plants, whilst the latter being more friable and loose in character is better calculated for the growth of potatoes, turnips, and bulbous rooted plants that require a loose soil, and room for expansion, during their period of growth.

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