

## THE FARMERS DEPARTMENT.

### AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR AUGUST.

London, Sept. 1.—This has been, as it generally is, a month dedicated to the labors of the harvest. Little was done before the beginning of the month, but then the reapers went to work with the wheat in earnest, and in a short time the greater part of it in the Southern districts of Great Britain was cut and carted. The barley and oats followed, and for about three weeks all went on as prosperous as heart could wish. It was dry, sunny, and warm; without mists, without rain, and freshened by gentle breezes. But an entire change has at length come upon us. For these ten days past the weather has been threatening, and partial showers have gone about in some quarters heavy, in others light, and the progress of the harvest has been considerably impeded; but on Sunday night downright serious heavy rain commenced, which has continued, with some anxious intervals, up to the present time, with a continued heavy water-charged atmosphere. Every description of corn that is abroad is drenched and soaked; straw and grain to the very core. Unfortunately, even in the Southern parts of England, there is too much in the field out, and not enough in the barn, to be very comfortable quantities; some of the backward turnip wheat, some the produce of cold soils, and some the property of laggards. But oats and barley, particularly the latter, are very generally caught. A change of weather has been indicated for some days, the alteration had been foreseen and expected, and consequently every one has been hastening out and carry as fast as he could; but in the latter operation most have been baffled by a teasing flying showers that came drizzling over the crops, just as they were ready to be forked or carted. Some few, the fortunate cultivators of warm, forward soils—some lucky ones whom the showers, in their caprice, passed by, with none or only a few drops from their skirts have been able to secure their spring corn in time, but in general, farmers have been toiling and bustling only to nostrate their crops before this soaking rain. Where they lie without remedy, some in cock, some in swath, the barley, soddening, staining, sprouting; the pulse, of which the late sorts are still abroad, blackening, bursting, wasting; the oats resisting the wet best, but with little chance of being preserved from growing, should this weather continue; and from the long period of drought that has occurred, there is but too much reason to apprehend that it may be succeeded, by heavy and protracted rain. We pray that our fears may be groundless, and that an interval at least of dry weather, for the securing of our crops, may be vouchsafed by Him who has promised that "Seed time and harvest shall not cease." In the North, of course, the business of agriculture is not so forward, and the wheat harvest not so far advanced; it is however, a matter of consolation that through England, in general, a larger portion of wheat than usual has been secured in excellent condition. The produce of the harvest, according to appearances, and accounts from various quarters, must be large. The quality of the wheat is generally good, as is likewise the case with oats.

When a really plentiful harvest is in progress, with rumours of abundance far beyond the reality, with favourable accounts of the crops on the continent, and millions of millions of quarters of bonded grain in our warehouses, it is not surprising that prices should fall. Accordingly it appears that wheat has

very considerably declined, with the expectation of a farther depression, which, however the continuance of rainy weather may have a tendency to elevate. But then comes the serious question, *what is to be done with the millions of quarters of corn in our warehouses?* The importers have got a wolf by the ear, which they know not whether to hold or to let loose. Whenever he is liberated it is probable that both merchants and farmers may be pretty severely bitten. If this large stock be now thrown into the market, in conjunction with the supply of a plentiful harvest, it will probably lower prices to a degree that will bear hard both on the importer and British farmer, that will achieve the ruin of many now struggling with a long succession of difficulties, and will convert that plenty, which ought to prove a blessing, into a fruitful source of misery and disaster.

If the importer will not consent to pay the present high duty, he must make up his mind to keep a large capital unproductively locked up for a considerable time; or he may be compelled by and bye to submit to the payment of a still higher duty and to dispose of his commodity even on worse terms than at present. In the mean time it is a fearful thing for the farmer to have this enormous mass of grain hanging over the market, and ready to overturn him, should he have any chance to be left upon it. The Revenue would certainly receive a considerable addition by the payment of the present duty on so large a stock of grain, but it would be more than counterbalanced by the ruin of numerous individuals. On the whole the present crisis seems to demonstrate that our system of corn laws possesses too much of a speculative and gambling character to be salutary for the merchant and that it also tends to produce too great an accumulation of grain in warehouses to be safe for the British grower. Present circumstances lead to the conclusion that a permanent fixed duty would be better for all parties in the community.

### ITEMS IN RURAL ECONOMY.

**Remedies against Rats and Mice.**—Take one quart of oat meal, four drops of oil of rhodium, one grain of musk, two nuts of *rus vomica* powdered; mix the whole together, and place it where the rats frequent; continue to do so, until they eat it, and it will soon destroy them. Or, take equal quantities of unslacked lime, and powdered oat-meal; mix them by stirring, without adding any liquid, and place a small quantity in any place frequented by rats. They will eagerly swallow the preparation become thirsty, and the water which they drink will cause the lime to swell and thus destroy them.

**Remedies for musty grain.**—Wheat or other grain, if musty, may be cleaned by the following process. The wheat [rye or Indian corn] must be put into any convenient vessel, capable of containing at least three times the quantity, and the vessel must be subsequently filled with boiling water; the grain should then be occasionally stirred, and the hollow and decayed grains, (which will float) may be removed; when the water has become cold, or in general, when about half an hour has elapsed, it is to be drawn off. It will be proper then to rinse the corn with water, which may have taken up the must; after which the corn being completely drained, is without loss of time, to be finely pressed on the sides of a kiln, and thoroughly dried, care being taken to stir, and turn it frequently during this part of the process.

By this simple operation, it is said that grain,

however musty, may be completely purified with very little expense, and without requiring chemical knowledge or a chemical apparatus.

**For the Scab in Sheep.**—Sir Joseph Banks gives the following remedy. Take one pound of quicksilver; half a pound of Venice turpentine, half a pint of oil of turpentine; four pounds of hog's lard: Let them be rubbed in a mortar till the quicksilver is thoroughly incorporated with the other ingredients. To be applied along the back on the skin, in two lines on each side, in one down the shoulders, and between the legs. The operation not to be later than the middle of October.

**Another remedy for the same Disorder.**—Dr. Deane says the sheep infected is first to be taken from the flock, and put by itself; and then the part affected is to have the wool taken off, as far as the skin feels hard to the finger, washed with soap suds, and rubbed hard with a scab brush, so as to cleanse and break the scab. Then anoint it with a decoction of tobacco water, mixed with a third of lie of potash, as much grease as this lie will dissolve, a small quantity of tar, and about an eight of the whole mass of the spirits of turpentine. This ointment is to be rubbed on the part affected, and for some little distance around it, at three different times, with an interval of three days after each washing. With timely precautions this will always prove sufficient.

**The Rot in Sheep.**—Another Young says that feeding sheep in dew is found to rot them more than anything else; on which account they do not let them out of the fold till the sun has exhales the dew from the pastures. The same writer gives the following receipt for this disorder. "Give to each sheep one spoonful of the spirits of turpentine, mixed with two or three water; after fasting twelve hours let them have three doses; staying six days between each dose; this is said to have been used with success, even in cases where the fleece has been nearly gone, and the throat terribly swelled."

**Remedy for Lice and Ticks in Sheep.** Mr. Coke's receipt for dressing all his flocks previous to winter was as follows: two pounds of tobacco, two pounds and a half of soft soap; one pound of white mercury in powder; boil in eight gallons of water one hour; part the wool once down each shoulder and the breast, and twice along each side; 't'is which pour it; this quantity is enough for forty sheep.—*Young's Annals*, vol. xix. p. 448.

**Dairy Secret.**—Have ready two pans in boiling water; and on the first milk is coming to the dairy, take the hot pans out of the water, put the milk into one of them, and cover it with the other. This will occasion great augmentation in the thickness and quality of the cream.

**For Rheumatic Pains or Lumbago.**—The following is by Author Young, an English agricultural writer of much celebrity.

Dissolve as much salt in water as will make it swim an egg, rub it with your hand on the part affected before a fire, for fifteen or twenty minutes, just before going to bed. It is uncommonly effective.

From the Family Directory.—By J. and R. Bronson.

### MADDER RED ON WOOLLEN.

To dye one pound of yarn or flannel, it will require the following articles:

Three ounces of alum, 1 ounce cream of tartar, 8 oz. of madder, 1 2 an ounce of stone lime