VOL. 22. CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1852. NO. 1187.

Miscellaneous.

GUENON ON MILCH COWS.

The following letter from a farmer on the merits of this singular book we commend to the attention of every person engaged or interested in rearing Cattle:

CHAD'S FORD, Brandywine, Del. Co. Pa., Aug. 17, 1852.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

It has been about six years, I believe, since a book, called "A Treatise on Milch Cows," by Mr. E. Guenon, was translated from the French by N. P. Trist, Esq., and republished in this country. It purports to teach a method of ascertaining the milking qualities of cows, by the manner of growth of the hair on the hind part of the udder and thighs.

The author asserts, that not only can good milkers be distinguished by this rule; from the very bad, but that all the shades of difference can be thus ascertained with great certainty. Of course, allowances are to be made for differences in age, size, food, &c. As there does not appear to be any natural connection between the milking qualities of the cow and the growth of the hair on their udders, farmers and dairymen, in this part of the country, were at first disposed to rate this as one of the humbugs of which this age is so remarkably prolific; which I may remark, appear to bear, in modern times, a proportion, somewhat, about the same proportion to the number and importance of real scientific discoveries that they have done in any age.

"A brief examination and trial will always separate the grain from the *chaff*. The false is detected, and the true is accepted, to become, *in* its turn, a starting point for new discoveries.

Years of trial have sanctioned and vindicated the claim of Mr. Guenon to a share of that admiration and gratitude which is accorded to those benefactors of their race who discover important truth in science.

In the eastern portion of Chester and Delaware Counties, are many extensive and fertile farms, managed by intelligent and skilful dairymen, who supply the Philadelphia market with fresh butter, milk and cream. Of course, the discovery of Mr. Guenon would be of great value to them, if true. Some of them commenced with great *doubts*, and much secrecy, lest they should be laughed at by their neighbours for their credulity, to compare the 'escutcheons' on their cows with the drawings in the book. This was testing the matter speedily and fairly, for every dairyman knows which are his best milkers. Soon their secrecy was another motive. It was to conceal this important knowledge from those who might become their competitors at the sales of cows. For, in every case, the escutcheons delineated in the book as genuine, were found to correspond with the natural marks on the best milkers in the herd. Further investigations have shown the 'Guenon's method,' as it is called here, is true in the minutest details. It has been thoroughly tested by many of our most intelligent dairymen and farmers, who, being actuated by no other motive than to advance their own interests, having given the subject a careful and candid examination. Every person who investigates the subject, becomes convinced of its truth and importance. Some of my neighbours have procured good herds, by buying the best marked two-year old heifers that are brought here in droves from New York and Ohio. The very best marked cows are far from common; but as the escutcheon may be distinguished on the calf, the application of the rule to the selection of the heifer calves for raising, will give an abundance of good cows.

The mark is equally plain, on the bull; and breeders are thus enabled to proceed understandingly, in their selection of animals to breed from. In short, a well-marked cow in our section of the country will command from 30 to 50 per cent. over one not well-marked, yet in other respects of apparently equal value. Guided by the light of this valuable discovery, I have selected from the herds of C. P. Holcom, of Delaware, L. P. Morris, New York, and elsewhere, a few superior marked Devonshire, Ayrshire and Durhams, for breeding purposes. Relying on the well-known physiological law, that progeny resembles the parent, of both sexes, who correspond in this one respect, however much they may differ in others, I confidently expect to raise some chice milkers. In due time you shall hear the result of the experiment.

It is my intention to exhibit at the next agricultural exhibition, some well-marked heifers and a bull, together with a crib or bin for hay, &c., such as is used in every well managed barnyard in our County, but which, I believe, is not in general use elsewhere.

Respectfully yours,
CHAS. HARVEY.

From Chambers's Edinburgh Journal.

ADMIRAL BLAKE.

Blake was now the observed of all observers; but, unlike most of his compeers, he abstained from using his advantages for purposes of selfish or personal aggrandisement. He kept aloof from the centre of intrigues, and remained at his post, 'doing his duty humbly and faithfully at a distance from Westminster; while other men, with less than half his claims, were asking and obtaining the highest honours and rewards from a grateful and lavish country.' Nor, indeed, did he at any time side with the ultras of his party, but loudly disproved of the policy of the regicides. This, coupled with influence, so greatly deserved and so severely proved, made him a subject of jealousy with Cromwell and his party; and it was owing, perhaps, to their anxiety to keep him removed from the home sphere of action, that the hero of Taunton was now appointed to the chief naval command.

Hitherto, and for years afterwards, no state ancient or modern, as Macaulay points out, had made a separation between the military and naval service. Cimon and Lysander, Pompey and Agrippa, had fought by sea as well as by land; at Flodden, the right wing of the English was led by her admiral, and the French admiral led the Huguenots at Jarnac, &c. Accordingly Blake was summoned from his pacific government at Taunton, to assume the post of 'General and Admiral at Sea,' a title afterwards changed to 'General of the fleet.' Two other were associated with him in the command; but Blake seems at least to have been recognised as *primus inter pares*. The navy system was in the wholesale need of reform; and a reformer it found in Robert Blake, from the very day he became an admiral. His care for the well-being of his men, made him an object of their almost adoring attachment. From first to last, he stood alone as England's model seaman. 'Envy, hatred, and jealousy dogged the steps of every other officer in the fleet; but of him, both then and afterwards, every man spoke well.' The tremendous powers intrusted to him by the Commonwealth, he exercised with offhanded and masterly success—startling politicians and officials of the *ancien regime* by his bold and open tactics, and his contempt for tortuous bypaths in diplomacy. His wondrous exploits were performed with extreme rapidity of means. He was the first to repudiate and disprove the supposed fundamental maxim in marine warfare, that no ship could attack a castle, or other strong fortification, with any hope of success. The early part of his naval career was occupied in opposing and defeating the piratical performances of Prince Rupert, which had constituted the support of the exiled Stuarts, and which Mr. Dixon refuses to interpret in such mild colours as Warburton and others. Blake's utmost vigilance and activity were required to put down this extraordinary system of freebooting; and by the time that he had successively overcome Rupert, and the minor but author adventurers, Gerdiner and Carteret, he was in request to conduct the formidable war with Holland, and to cope with such veterans as Tromp, De Witt, De Ruyter, &c. Of the various encounters in which he thus maintained himself, his biographer gives most spirited descriptions, such as their length alone deters us from quoting. On one occasion only, did Blake suffer a defeat; and this one is easily explained by—first Tromp's overwhelming superiority, & force; secondly, the extreme deficiency of men in the English fleet; and thirdly, the cowardice or disaffection of several of Blake's captains at a critical moment in the battle. Notwithstanding this disaster, not a whisper was heard against the admiral, either in the Council of State or in the city; his offer to resign, was flatteringly rejected, and he soon found, that the 'misfortune which might have ruined another man, had given him additional reputation in the country.' The truth is, in fact, gave him power to effect reforms in the service, and to root out abuses which had defied all his efforts in the day of his success. He followed it up by the great battle of Portland, and another equally decisive engagement.

Then came his sweeping *tours de force* in the Mediterranean; in six months he established himself, as Mr. Dixon says, as a power in that great midland sea, from which his countrymen had been politically excluded since the age of Crusaders. Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, in England's very name was a strange sound, to respect its honours and its rights; chastising the pirates of Barbary with unprecedented severity; making Italy's petty princes feel the power of the northern Protestant nation; the Pope himself trembling on his seven hills; and startling the council of chambers of Venice and Constantinople with the distant echoes of our guns. And let it remembered, that England had then no Malta, Corfu, and Gibraltar, as the bases of naval operations in the Mediterranean: on the contrary, Blake found that in almost every gulf and island of that sea—in Malta, Venice, Genoa, Leghorn, Algiers, Tunis, and Marseilles—there existed a rival and an enemy, nor were there more than three or four harbours in which he could obtain even bread for love or money.

After this memorable cruise, he had to conduct the Spanish war—a business quite to his mind; for though his highest renown had been gained in his contests with the Dutch, he had secretly disliked such encounters between two Protestant states; whereas, in the case of Popish Spain, his soul leaped at the anticipation of battle—sympathising as he did with the Puritan conviction, that Spain was the devil's stronghold in Europe. At this period, Blake was suffering from illness, and was sadly crippled in his naval equipments, having to complain constantly of the neglect at home to remedy the exigencies of his service. 'Our ships,' he writes, 'extremely foul, winter drawing on, our men falling sick through the badness of drink, and eating their victuals boiled in salt water for two months' space, (1655.) For nearly a year, remarks his biographer, 'he had never quitted the foul and detective flag-ship. Want of exercise and sweet food, beer, wine, water, bread, and vegetables, had helped to develop scurvy and dropsy: and his sufferings from these diseases were now acute and continuous.' But his services were indispensable, and Blake was not the man to shrink from dying in harness. His sun set gloriously at Santa Cruz—that miraculous and unparalleled exploit, which stamped it, which could such gratful enthusiasm at home! words of fascination to the maimed and enfeebled veteran, who now turned his thoughts anxiously towards the green hills of his native land. 'Cromwell's Blake was dismissed by parliament, and the jewelled ring sent him by his loving countrymen, reached him while homeward bound. But he was not again to tread the shores he had defended so well.

As the ship rolled through the Bay of Biscay, his sickness increased, and his affectionate adherents saw with dismay, that he was drawing near to the gates of the grave. 'Some gleams of the old spirit broke forth as they approached the latitude of England. He inquired often and anxiously if the white cliffs were yet in sight. He longed to behold once more, the swelling downs, the free cities, the goodly churches of his native land.

At last, the Lizard was announced. Shortly afterwards the bold cliffs and bare hills of Cornwalls loomed out grandly in the distance. But it was too late for the dying hero. He had sent for the captains and other great officers of the fleet, to bid them farewell; and while they were yet in his cabin, the undulating hills of Devonshire, glowing with the tints of early autumn, came full in view. But the eyes which had so yearned to behold this scene once more were at that very moment closing in death. Foremost of the victorious squadron, the St. George rode with its precious burden into the Sound; and just as it came into full view of the eager thousands crowding the beach, the pier-heads, the walls of the citadel, the ships of each the first glimpse of the hero of Santa Cruz, and salute him with a true English welcome—he, in his silent cabin, in the midst of his lion-hearted comrades, now sobbing like little children, yielded up his soul to God.'

AGRICULTURAL.—The following judicious remarks, were enunciated at a recent Meeting of the Farmers' Association, at East Oxford, Canada, by the President of the Society, Mr. George Lancaster; we copy them from that excellent Paper, the Toronto *Daily Colonist*.

"He (Mr. Alexander) would desire to comment upon a very prevailing but erroneous impression, which exists with regard to young stock, that *it is sufficient*, if they can only be got through the winter in any way; bestowing the best hay, grain and shelter upon the working and fattening animals.—These last are not generally better cared for than they should be, while the young stock are much neglected, and greatness and injury are sustained in this respect. It is reasonable to suppose, that while a colt is growing, its muscles developing, and its bones forming, the frame and physical constitution of the animal must depend upon principles and shelter during nature; an illustration may be given from the vegetable kingdom. Fruit trees grown and planted in well-cultivated soil acquire a more healthy and rapid growth, and attain to a much greater height than those which are neglected; the extraordinary difference of result has probably been experienced by all present in the management of their orchards."

THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN.

BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

There is much clamour in these days of progress respecting a great deal of new rights, or an extension of privileges for our sex. A powerful writer has said, that 'in competition for power, both the philosophy and poetry of life are dropped and trodden down.' Would not still greater loss accrue to domestic happiness, and to the interests of well-balanced society, should the manly delicacy and prerogative of woman, as woman, be forfeited or sacrificed?

'I have given her as a helpmate,' said the voice of her creator, when it spoke aloud, as the coal of the day, amid the trees of Paradise. Not as a toy-dog, a wrestler, a prize-fighter. But a helpmate, such as was fitting for man to desire, for a woman to become.

Since the Creator has assigned different spheres of action to the different sexes, it is to be presumed, from unerring wisdom, that there is work enough in each department to employ them; and that the faithful performance of that work will be for the benefit of both. If he has made one the priestess of the inner temple, commiting to her charge its unrevealed sanctities, why should she seek to mingle in the warfare that may plunder at its gates or rush its turrets. Need she be again tempted by pride or curiosity, or glowing words, to barter her own Eden.

The true nobility of woman is to keep her own sphere, and to adorn it—not like the the comet, dazzling and disorganizing other systems, but as the pure star, which is the first to light the day and the last to leave it. If she shares not the fame of the ruler and the blood-shedder, her good works, such 'as become those who profess godliness,' though they leave no 'foot prints on the sands of time,' may be found recorded in the 'Lamb's book of life.'

Mothers, are not our rights sufficiently extensive—the sanctity of love, the throne of the heart, the 'moulding of the whole mass of mind in its formation.'

'Have we not power enough in all the realms of sorrow and suffering—over all forms of ignorance and want—all forms of ministrations of love, from the cradle to the sepulchre?

So let us be content and diligent, all grateful and joyous, making this brief life a hymn of praise, until called to that choir which knows no discord, and whose melody is eternal.

WANT OF COURAGE.—A great deal of talent is lost to the world for the want of a little courage. Every day sends to their graves a number of obscure men who have only remained in obscurity because their timidity has prevented them making the first effort; and who, if they could have been induced to begin, would in all probability, have gone great lengths in the career of fame. The fear is, that in order to do any thing in this world that is worth doing, we must not stand shivering on the bank and think of the cold and danger, but jump in and scramble as we can. It will not do to be perpetually calculating risks, and adjusting nice chances: it did all very well before the flood, when men could consult his friends upon a publication for a hundred and fifty years and then live to see its success for six or seven centuries afterwards: but at present, a man wastes his and doubts, and hesitates, and consults his brother, and his uncle, and his particular friends, till one fine day he finds that he is sixty years of age—that he has lost so much time in consulting first-cousins and particular friends, that he has no time left to follow their advice. There is such little time for over-squeamishness at present, the opportunity so easily slips away, the very period of life at which a man chooses to venture, *if ever*, is confined, that it is so bad rule to preach up the necessity, in such instances, of little violence done to feelings, and of efforts made in defiance of strict and sober calculation.—*Sydney Smith.*

EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY.—PERPETUAL LIGHT.—A most curious and interesting discovery has just been made at Langes, France, which we have no doubt, will cause a searching scientific enquiry as to the material and properties of the perpetually burning lamp, and its little known or lost secret. Workmen were recently excavating for a foundation for a new building in debris, evidently the remains of a Gallo-Roman erection, when they came to the roof of an underground sort of cave, which time had rendered almost as impervious as granite. Anxiety was excever, effected, when one of the workmen instantly exclaimed, that there was a light at the bottom of the cavern. The parties present hastened, when they found a large metal lamp of curious and workmanship suspended from the roof by chains of the same metal. It was entirely filled with a combustible substance which did not appear to have diminished, although the lamp had burned, combustion has been going on for ages. This discovery will, we trust, throw some light on a question which has caused so many disputes among learned antiquarians, although it is stated, that one was discovered at Naples, a few years from which however, no fresh information was afforded on the subject.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH AUSTRALIA *via* THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.—The project which has been so long and anxiously desired, of traversing the vast Pacific Ocean by means of steam, is on the eve of being accomplished. The Australasian Pacific Mail Company, which has been recently incorporated by Royal charter, has entered into arrangements and formed contracts for the immediate construction of five first-class iron screw steam ships, which are to ply across the Pacific from the Isthmus of Panama to Sidney in New South Wales, calling at the islands of Tahiti and New South Zealand as intermediate stations. The vessels are to be of 1500 tons burden and fifteen horse power each, and are to be constructed of iron, it was considered more conducive to harmony of action for the ship and engines to be included in one contract; according, the builders of the ship will manufacture the machinery. Mr. R. Napier, Glasgow, is building two of the ships; Messrs. Caird & Company, of Greenock, one; Messrs. Reid & Company of Port Glasgow, one; and Messrs. Miller, Ravenhill & Company, of London, one. The first vessel is to be ready in nine months from the present date, and will be ready in nine months from the present date, and will be at once despatched to Sidney in a pioneer of the line, and thence to occupy the Pacific station to Panama. The highest rate of speed possible has been the only condition imposed on the contractors, and it is, therefore, expected that these vessels will provide for the most rapid and regular mode to Australia. The communication each way is to be monthly, and the Australasian Company Steam Ships will run in correspondence with the direct West India mail steamers from Chagres to Southampton. It is the opinion of Sir Abraham Miller, Gallantry will not permit us to omit honorable mention of an equally distinguished person of the other sex. Helen Maguire is one hundred and six years of age. She still dresses without aid, and walks for for her exercise whenever the weather is sufficiently fine to tempt her from the chimney corner. She still has all her faculties, and threads a needle without spectacles.

INTERESTING EXPERIMENTS.

We learn from the *Mail*, that Dr. Charles T. Jackson made some interesting experiments on Friday afternoon, for the purpose of demonstrating the scientific conclusions which we published in our columns on Saturday, that a fatal poison exists in tobacco smoke in the form of what is supposed to be the *ter chloride* of amyl, or amyl compound, found in the pure fusel oil [from Whiskey.] The following accounts of these experiments will be read with interest:

"Dr. Burnett had procured for Dr. Jackson a large rat, which was placed by Dr. Jackson under a large glass receiver in the wire rat trap in which it was caught, and a small piece of cloth about the size of a man's hand, was moistened with the poisonous solution and placed on the top of the rat trap, and the receiver placed on a marble slab. The rat in five minutes afterwards fell down in a state of insensibility, the only sign of life exhibited was its gasping for breath once or twice.

After the lapse of eight minutes, the rat was removed from the receiver and placed in fresh air, and was soon revived with the exception of the hind legs, which remained in a paralytic state for half an hour, dragging its hind parts along by means of its fore paws; this phenomenon was also exhibited some months ago at Boston, where Dr. Jackson etherized the Puma, or South American Lion, and cut off its claws close to the quick with perfect impunity, and two of the claws of the hind feet of the lion after it had recovered the use of its fore paws. The Doctor also stated, that he had observed the same phenomena at the Grotto del Cane, near Naples, where dogs were subjected to the carbonic acid gas which is emitted there; the dogs were compelled to drag their hinder extremities by means of their fore paws till they had recovered from the effects of the gas.

The rat after the first experiment was allowed the use of fresh air for one hour to recover from the effects of the chloroform; and being found quite lively and animated, at about 5 o'clock, p. m., the final experiment of subjecting it to the poisonous compound was made. The rat was placed under a receiver and a cloth moistened with the Amyl compound, found by Dr. Jackson in pure Fusel oil (of whiskey) by a process hitherto unknown, was now placed on the top of the rat trap in the same manner as in the chloroform was used. The rat after being ten minutes in the receiver, exhibited violent convulsions, those produced on the human body by the nitrous poisons. Five minutes more elapsed and the rat fell down in the trap apparently dead; it was taken out and revived partially in the fresh air. It was again placed under the glass receiver, and exhibited now a short quick breathing and a palpitation of the heart, and twitchings of the extremities; the breathings were now apparently slower and more difficulty, till life became extinct without further struggle.

In these experiments a very large glass receiver, capable of holding several gallons of atmospheric air, was used. The Amyl compound, or the supposed *Ter Chloride of Amyl*, discovered by Dr. Jackson, is not very volatile in nature, therefore there is not sense in so short a time would have been the case with a more volatile substance like chloroform to convey it to the respiratory organs. The rat it will be observed, is an animal that will exist in sewers filled with sulphurous and nitrous vapours to human life. By experiments made in Dr. Johnston's laboratory by his students in 1848, the rat was found to be a very fit subject for anæsthetic experiments. A common turtle, which is more tenacious of life than the rat, was placed under the receiver, and was killed in a much shorter period of time. Those who were present suffered severely from the effects of the gas.

Dr. Jackson, at the time of his communication to the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, had not verified his scientific inductions by experiments on animal life; the discovery has now been verified by practical test; it shows most conclusively how correctly scientific deductions may be drawn in chemical physiology. This important discovery is now about to be appreciated by the public."

A NEW BUILDING MATERIAL.—An invention has, it is stated, just been patented, for the adaption of a preparation of coke and other substances, by which bricks, paving-stones, door and stair steps, tiles, pipes, blocks, railway sleepers, and other articles of general use by builders, &c., can be produced with a perfection and a cost which it is expected by the inventor will effect a complete revolution in the building trade. The price at which it is proposed to offer the coke brick to the public, is scarcely one-third of the cost of a common brick, while in point of durability it is superior to the best article yet produced. The process, as manufactured, according to the specification, is effected by means of cast-iron moulds, the interior of which, are of the exact dimensions of the common brick; in this mould, a mixture of coke, tar, and waste coal, powdered coke, charcoal or cinders is placed, and being carbonized, the amalgamated material swells to the exact form required. When taken out from the mould it undergoes a finishing process, in which varnish is applied to the end or side, having while wet a coating of powdered glass, with an admixture of a mineral substance, which gives it a glaze. The bricks are then vitrified, when a beautiful glaze of any required colour is produced, and the article is ready for use. During the manufacturing process, the fumes are passed through water. The finishing process is only required for particular purposes, in the common instance the coke brick is equally available without it. The material is rendered fireproof, by an application of muriate of alumina, and it is impervious to atmospheric influences by the nature of its formation. When articles of coke fabric are required of extraordinary density, a variation on the filling material, and also an extraordinary amount of compression is adopted, and there is no reason to fix any limit to the degree of solidity which may be obtained. It is further stated, that there is no description of article used in the erection or ornamentation of buildings, but may be produced from the material; thus columns for interior use, cornices, capitals of pillars or ornamental design, can be manufactured and supplied in a finished state.—*London paper.*

DECISION ON THE USURY LAW IN NEW JERSEY.—A correspondent of the *New Jersey Herald* furnishes the subjoined sketch of a case of usury recently decided in that State.

"The law upon this subject provides not only that all usurious contracts are void, and makes that a good defence where it can be proved, but also that any person who shall, directly or indirectly, take, accept, or receive more than lawful interest on any loan, shall forfeit the full amount of the money loaned, one half to the use of the State, and the other to the prosecutor to be recovered with costs by action of debt on the case, in any court of record having cognizance thereof.

It is not simply making the usurious contract which subjects the lender to this penal action; he must not only contract for unlawful interest, but afterwards receive it in pursuance of the contract.

On the 15th of October, 1846, a citizen of Frankfort, in this county, loaned to one of his neighbors $300, and took his note with two friends as sureties, for $350, payable in two years with interest—making a share of $80; on $300 lent. When the note became due, the lender and the three makers met upon it. There was no witness to prove the usury except the borrower, and he being sued with the others, it was out of their power to set up usury as a defence to the note, for want of evidence to prove it. The securities then paid the $350 with interest, and the costs of the suit; and one of them turned around and sued the lender under the law above referred to for the penalty of $300, being the amount loaned. The suit was tried in the Circuit Court of this county, before Judge Ogden, August term of 1850. The usury was proved by the borrower, and the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for $300, besides the costs. The defendant moved in arrest of judgment, which the judge refused, and then remanded the suit to the next term of the Supreme Court. The counsel argued at the last February term of the Supreme Court, and at the term just closed the court unanimously affirmed the judgment."

The New York *Tribune* thinks, that the advent of the Democratic party to power, in the United States, is the forerunner to a large addition of territory to that country; and it therefore advices the most proper course to be pursued, under the circumstances. In the first place, it recommends the abandonment of all pretensions to Cuba as worse than useless and urges that the island be quietly purchased from the Spanish Government, as the only possible way of obtaining it. It gives a list of several countries that can be easily annexed to the United States; in fact the United States are now entitled, but great freedom is taken in the proposed disposal of the French and Spanish territory along the United States frontier. The disposal of Mexico is also spoken of with certainty. In the most business way possible, the Northern part of that country is parcelled out into three states, which, it is asserted, can be added to the United States, in less than a year, without difficulty.—*Toronto Daily Colonist.*