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To the Editor of the U. C. Herald.

CHOLERA.

Sir—In your last paper, you have published an article relative to the sanative powers of the root of the Coquelecot, as it is commonly called, when employed as a remedy against the above horrible disorder.

Upon looking over some old books; in a Magazine for 1760, I fell in with a description of (I believe) the same plant under a very similar name. I shall now give you the literal copy of its description as I found it.

"Description of the Rattle Snake plant in Louisiana known among the natives by the name of Oudla Coudlogouille and used as an infallible remedy for the bite of a Rattle Snake.

"This plant resembles the tubuose both in leaves and in the root, but is larger in both; the leaves are broader and longer, and stained below with flame coloured spots, and armed with, and pointed with sharp delicate spines or prickles: the root is a bulbor onion like that of the tuberose but nearly twice as large. The plant stands about three feet high and spreads at the top in to 5 or 6 seperate slender stalks, each bearing a purple flower, consisting of 5 petals about an inch in breadth, formed into a cup or colif.

The flower falling off, discovers a bead about the size of a small nut, not unlike the head of a poppy: this is divided into 4 parts by a kind of moulding, and, in each seperate partition, there are four black flat seeds or grains, of the size of large lentils: this head when ripe, if shaken will rattle like the tail of the Rattle Snake. An Indian provided with this specific is in no pain about the consequences of a bite, which would otherwise prove fatal in a few minutes: feeling himself wounded, he takes a root of the Oudla Coudlogouille, and having chewed it, applies it to the part, from whence in 4 or 5 hours, it effectually extracts the poison."

Now then having given you the extract, I beg leave to give my opinion, somewhat in favor of the remedy from one striking point.

Any medecine having such powerful and energetic operation upon the animal economy, must act immediately upon the sensorium or nervous action whereby all the different functions of life are governed.

The diagnosis between poison and cholera is most marked in similarity of effect; therefore any measure, powerful, coercive and sudden, deserves the most acute attention, and I honestly think that the internal use of the root deserves ample trial.

With respect to its efficy in arresting the deadly effect of the bite of the rattle snake, I may perhaps have the opportunity of proving by experiment upon an animal, having in my possession two living snakes.

If you could procure me a plant and will do it, you will very much oblige

Yours, E. W.

GALT'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY, VOL. II.

8vo. London, 1833. Cochrane and M'Crone.

From the London Literary Gazette.

We have experienced a truly melancholy interest in the perusal of this volume: in going through the scenes of great and active exertion, in participating the hopes and sharing the disappointments, in witnessing the struggles and feeling for the wrongs, in tracing the mind's deep and changeful emotions, and contemplating, at last, the body's physical prostration—all which are placed before us in so distinct and affecting a light by the unvarnished narrative of the biographer. Galt's chequered life might form a powerful argument in an Exposition of the afflictions to which men of genius are liable; and we will endeavour to take up the leading points in the order in which they are here presented.

This volume commences with the division called by the author the sixth Epoch, and gives an account of his second and most important mission to Canada, as the agent of a company having about a million of money to administer in the settlement of immense tracts in that country.—Thus intrusted, his powers seem to have been quite inadequate to the extent of the duties he was called upon to perform; and his common operative means hardly sufficient to manage a large farm, far less to institute the inchoate arrangement of an Empire. He was still more unfortunate in being misrepresented to the Governor, Sir P. Maitland, as a political meddler, connecting himself with the turbulent faction opposed to the government. The utter groundlessness of this suspicion appears to have rendered Mr. Galt too regardless of it; and it was not till it contributed so largely to his ruin, that he felt how fatally injurious even baseless lies may be to the man of upright soul and honest intentions. Such men are, perhaps, too apt to despise the vile arts of which their own ingenuous natures are unable to conceive either the origin or the effect. Relying on their own consciousness of rectitude, they are destroyed before they can believe that motives of dishonour could have been imputed to them by the base, and credited by the undiscerning.

Proceeding in his great work, under these unpromising circumstances, Mr. Galt took up his residence at York, and states his future views thus:—

"My principle was, to consider the land as a raw material to be manufactured by an outlay of more capital. On this point I differ, certainly, from the directors of the Canada Company, nor can I conceive that the government had any inducement for selling the land to a company, if the improvements were to be effected, not by that company, but by the settlers individually."

The picture of his first abode is so peculiarly graphic, and in his own manner, that we quote it:

"The reader is probably acquainted with the manner of living in the Canadian hotels, but without experience he can have no right notion of what in those days was the condition of the best tavern in York.—It was a mean two-story house, and being constructed of wood, every noise in it resounded from roof to foundation. The landlord, however, did all in his power to mitigate the afflictions with which such a domicile was quaking to one accustomed to quiet; but my habits were invidiously considered: and it did not require three eyes to perceive, that a natural disposition to sequestration was ascribed to pride, undervalueing those among whom it was my destiny to sojourn. Accustomed to a late dinner-hour, 'the feeding time' of the country did not suit me; and accordingly, instead of dining at the 'ordinary at two o'clock', I dined by myself in the evening. Had I gone to the public table at first, and afterwards abstained, there might have been some reason to accuse me of pride, even though the company had not been very promiscuous; but as my servant, to whom such matters were ever left, regulated the hours with the house, I was never taught to think there was any thing peculiar in my abstraction until I became better acquainted with the manners of the province."

"As soon" (he continues, in a rather dubious mode of expression)—"as soon as the indispensable domestic and official arrangements were made *I* began *my* work of colonization," &c. &c. But this is jest—he seriously began to adopt the best course for carrying on the great task of which he had the charge. On St. George's day he founded the city of Guelph; and when we imagine what this city is probably destined one day, and not a very distant day, to become,—we cannot help reading the story of its semi-serious and semi-ludicrous, semi-sublime, and semi-farcical foundation, with a corresponding sense of wonder and amusement.

"The foundation of a town (says Galt) was certainly one of these, (alluding to occasions when something of pomp was required); and accordingly I appointed a national holyday for the ceremony, which secretly I was determined should be so celebrated as to be held in remembrance, and yet so conducted as to be only apparently accidentally impressive. In the meantime, as I imagined it would not be difficult to persuade the directors to erect a central office for the company there, and as a hotel was indispensable, I set about procuring plans. Having myself a kind of amateur taste in architectural drawing, and being in consequence from the period of my travels, led to adopt as a rule in art, that the style of a building should always indicate and be appropriate to its purpose, I thought that the constructing of a city afforded an opportunity to edify posterity in this matter. Accordingly I undertook myself to draw the most problematic design of the office, and gave a house-carpenter instructions to make a plan and elevation for a tavern, delivering to him, like a Sir Oracle, my ideas as to the fitness of indicating, by the appearance of a building, the particular uses to which it was destined. My drawing was of course very classical, but his 'beat all,' as the Yankees say, 'to immortal smash.' It represented a two-story common-place house, with a pediment; but on every corner and cornice, 'coin and vantage,' were rows of glasses, bottles, punch-bowls, and wine decanters! Such an exhibition as did not require a man to be a god to tell it was an inn. In short, no rule was ever more unequivocally illustrated, and cannot even yet be thought of with sobriety."

THE FOUNDING OF GUELPH.

"On the 22d of April, the day previous to the time appointed for laying the foundations of my projected polis, I went to Galt, a town situated on the banks of the grand river, which my friend the Honourable William Dixon, in whose township it is situated, named after me long before the Canada Company was imagined; it was arrived at the maturity of having a post-office before I heard of its existence. There I met by appointment at Mr. Dixon's, Dr. Dunlop, who held a roving commission in the Canada Company, and was informed that the requisite woodmen were assembled. Next morning we walked after breakfast towards the site which had been selected. The distance was about eighteen miles from Galt, half of it in the forest, but till we came near the end of the road no accident happened. Scarcely, however, had we entered the bush, as the woods are called, when the doctor found he had lost the way. I was excessively angry, for such an accident is no trifle in the woods; but after 'wandering up and down' like the two babes, with not even the comfort of a blackberry, the heavens frowning and the surrounding forest sullenly still, we discovered a hut, and 'tirling at the pin,' entered and found it inhabited by a Dutch shoemaker. We made him understand our lost condition, and induced him to set us on the right path. He had been in the French army, and had, after the peace, emigrated to the United States; thence he had come into Upper Canada, where he bought a lot of land, which, after he had made some betterments, he exchanged for the location in the woods, or, as he said himself, 'Je swape' the first land for the lot on which he is now settled. With his assistance we reached the skirts of the wild to which we were going, and were informed in the cabin of a squatter that all our men had gone forward. By this time it began to rain; but, undeterred by that circumstance, we resumed our journey in the pathless wood. About sunset, dripping wet, we arrived near the spot we were in quest of,—a shanty, which an Indian, who had committed murder, had raised as a refuge for himself. It may be proper to mention here, that a shanty is a temporary shed formed of the branches of trees; such a tabernacle as Bessy Bell and Mary Gray, according to the old Scottish ballad, retired to, during the prevalence of a pestilence.

"Bessy Bell and Mary Gray,
They were twa bonny lasses,
They beggit a bower in yon burn brae,
And theekit it o'er wi' rashes."

We found the men, under the orders of Mr. Prior, whom I had employed for the Company, kindling a roaring fire; and after endeavoring to dry ourselves, and having recourse to the store-basket, I proposed to go to the spot chosen for the town. By this time the sun was set; and Dr. Dunlop, with his characteristic drollery, having doffed his wet garb, and dressed himself Indian fashion, in blankets, we proceeded with Mr. Prior, attended by two woodmen with their axes. It was consistent with my plan to invest our ceremony with a little mystery, the better to make it be remembered. So, intimating that the main body of the men were not to come, we walked to the brow of the neighboring rising ground, and Mr. Prior having shewn the site selected for the town, a large maple-tree was chosen; on which, taking an axe from one of the woodmen, I struck the first stroke. To me, at least, the moment was impressive,—and the silence of the woods, that echoed to the sound, was as the sigh of the solemn genius of the wilderness departing for ever. The doctor followed me: then, if I recollect correctly, Mr. Prior, and the woodmen finished the work. The tree fell with a crash of accumulating thunder, as if ancient Nature were alarmed at the entrance of social man into her innocent solitudes with his sorrows, his follies, and his crimes. I do not suppose that the sublimity of the occasion was unfelt by the others, for I noticed that after the tree fell, there was a funeral pause, as when the coffin is lowered into the grave; it was, however, of short duration, for the doctor pulled a flask of whiskey from his bosom, and we drank prosperity to the City of Guelph. The name was chosen in compliment to the royal family, both because I thought it auspicious in itself, and because I could not recollect that it had ever been before used in all the king's dominions. After the solemnity, for though the ceremony was simple, it may be so denominated, we returned to the shanty; and the rain, which had been suspended during the performance, began again to pour. It may appear ludicrous to many readers that I look on this incident with gravity, but in truth I am very serious; for although Guelph is not so situated as ever to become celebrated for foreign commerce, the location possesses many advantages independent of being situated on a tongue of land surrounded by a clear and rapid stream. It will be seen by the map of the Province, that it stands almost in the centre of the table-land, which separates four of the great lakes, namely, Ontario, Simcoe, Huron, and Erie; and though its own river, the Speed as I named it, is not large, yet at the town it receives the Eramosa, and at a short distance flows into the Grand River, which may be said to be navigable from the bridge of Galt to lake Erie, a distance of nearly 80 miles. By the Welland Canal the navigation is continued to Lake Ontario, thence by the Rideau canal to the Grand Ottawa, which flows into the St. Lawrence, and by the Lachine Canal it communicates with Montreal, and thence to the ocean; advantages which few inland towns in the whole world can boast of at such a distance from the sea. * * * *

Nearly, (he afterwards informs us,) if not all the land in the Township of Guelph is now sold, and all the houses which I ordered to be constructed, have also been at prime cost. It was not, certainly, my plan to sell the lands around so rapidly, nor do I think it was judicious, for the value was increasing as the country around became settled. But Guelph, to resume a little moral freedom, was like all cities fated with a high destiny, the cause of quarrels; Romulus slew his brother for hopping over the walls of Rome, and although the history of my city is not likely to be honoured by warlike events, it yet gave rise to a controversy as worthy for commemoration, for from the day that I commenced the birth of this metropolis to the directors of the Canada Company, my troubless and vexations began, and were accumulated on my unsheltered head till they could be no longer endured."

The whole of this is so very characteristic of John Galt, and the Tiger (Dunlop) his boon companion, that we doubt much, even when Guelph shall contain its hundreds of thousands of inhabitants, that it will be a perfectly sober city, and one in which neither fun nor frolic will be endured. No! it will partake of the nature of its birth and parentage; and be memorable in future ages for a mixture of the solum and the droll.

A trip of observation upon the Huron makes a pleasing episode; and is followed by a tale of La Guyerian settlers, whose location exposed Galt to new intrigues and aspersions; and ultimately, in conjunction with matters already noticed, involved him in disfavour with the directors at home.—And this brings us to Epoch VII., which is thus introduced:—

"Agreeably to the division of this work, the festival at Guelph becomes epochal, by the incidents which succeeded. All was thriving beyond hope around me; every bud, to use an old homely expression, 'biggent' with prosperity; but troubles began to develope themselves,—the night-shade and the apple-tree came into blossom together. Such seriousness may excite a smile; the transactions will be, however, memorable in the history of what must be a great country, and neither open enmity, nor the covert machinations of personal malice, nor the ingenuity of sordid self-interest, can hereafter prevent my humble name from being associated with the legends of undertakings at least as worthy of commemorations as the bloody traditions of heroic lands. To lessen the evils of one region by promoting the good of another, was the endeavour of my ambition; and the consciousness of this high aim is not impaired by withdrawing me from witnessing the fruit."

The immediate fruit was his being reprimanded by the directors, without being called upon for explanation or defence; and his consequently resigning his office, tho' he continued for some time to fulfil its duties. At length he returned home in extreme difficulties, owing to the unsettled state of his personal concerns and accounts with the company; and an event took place which we will describe in his own words:—

"I had left (he tells us), as I have mentioned, authority with the accountant of the Canada Company to receive payment of a thousand pounds a year of my salary, to discharge, in the first place, these and other small accounts, and I had drawn upon him for a half-yearly payment for the education of my three sons, who were at Reading school, with one of my oldest acquaintances in England, the well-known Rev. Dr. Valpy. The bill had been sent by me to the accountant to be transmitted when accepted, to the reverend doctor, but it was not so done; and accordingly, soon after my arrival, before I knew well where I was, I received a letter from the doctor, requesting payment. At that time I could only beg him to give me a little indulgence and I thought to him this request might be made, because he was not only a personal friend of twenty-five years' standing, but had been about forty years a partner with my wife's father. Soon after my letter, I received a formal demand for payment from his solicitors. This sharp practice was none blunted to the sense by the excoriation that my other misfortunes had previously produced. The answer was similar to what I had given to the doctor himself, and was followed by an arrest. This was perfectly legal. I had, as plain as the sun at noonday, incurred the penalty, and in in such cases, though the debt was undisputed,

'The law allows it, and the court awards.'

The incident, however, only verified the proverb which says, 'it never rains but it pours.' * * * *

"When the writ was returnable, I determined to surrender; still, however, hoping that when the doctor saw me so resolute, he would order 'the gore-dropping fangs of the law' to be relaxed. I was mistaken.—Before, however, finally resolving on any thing, I conceived it but right to beg he would relent in his proceedings; for he is a man of sagacity enough to discern that the law of arrest is criminal in its provisions against such as are prevented by misfortune from paying just debts. * * *

"As I had by this time ascertained that independent of a security given for my chief debt, and several farms in Canada sufficient for the others, I was only embarrassed to about the arrears of an annuity of three hundred pounds, (that, though irregularly paid, I had long counted on,) I saw what was in my power; and pride was appeased by the consideration that I had always made more than I expended, and that it was entirely owing to others not fulfilling their engagements to me, I had ever suffered any perplexity in money matters. I therefore submitted to the insolvent act."

Before we offer a few reflections suggested by this painful portion of the author's biography, we shall extract his own conclusion.

"To some persons, the mention of such a step would be disagreeable, nor is it to me a boast of pride; but the consciousness of not being forced to it by extravagance in living, or imprudent speculation in business, mitigates the mortifying reflection, especially when it is recollected that the moral obligation can never be removed till the debt is paid. The law, indeed, is advantageous to debtors by exempting them from arrest, and giving them the power of determining in their own minds, after the discharge, who shall be first paid. Nor was its operation without beneficial influence on me. I felt my independence augmented, by looking at poverty undismayed at her emaciation. I had, however, 'given hostages to society,' and was no longer at liberty to consult my own wishes, and therefore immediately began to build a new scheme of life, in which the secondary condition of authorship was thus made primary. This transaction and winding up of my philanthropic dream is stated with as little emotion as possible, but it was not so felt. I shall not, however, make any further attempt to draw upon the sympathy of the reader.

The whole view of this case affords a striking proof of the impolicy, as well as barbarity, of imprisonment for debt, at the will of an unfeeling creditor. It is not for us to inquire into the motives which could induce a respectable* individual to pursue such harsh measures towards such a person, and in such a situation; but we may in a philosophical mood, suggest whether the long continued occupation of that individual might not have a certain effect in producing an obduracy of heart. The school-master is accustomed to a system of command, and to the power of inflicting punishments.—Even in his limited sphere, may not the habitual indulgence of these attributes, as their possession by rulers and tyrants, tend to harden the heart, and render him more insensible than many other classes of men, to the evils which may result from a stern dealing towards his fellow-creatures and their sufferings, in consequence of what he may consider to be the just award for their deficiencies or transgressions? We know not; but upon no other principle or supposition can we account for the cruel and monstrous treatment experienced by Galt at the hands of Dr. Valpy and his solicitors whoever they were.

But we have reached Epoch VIII. When driven from active life, and within the walls of a prison, our distinguished friend (if we may so call him) turned once more, for solace, the occupation of his thoughts—and in truth, his provision for the day passing over his head—to literature and the produce of his pen. We may possibly thus have to thank the laws for *Laurie Todd*, *Southennan*, the *Life of Byron*, and other publications, which have added so much to the well-earned fame of their author.

* Except we take "respectable" in the meaning so strikingly illustrated in Bulwer's *England and the English*.

THE PAWNBROKER TRICKED.

On Thursday a woman presented herself at a pawnbroker's shop, in Shoreditch, with a bundle of clothes as a pledge, requesting to be informed of the sum which the pawn-broker would lend. She was answered 15s. was the highest sum that could be advanced on the goods; but the woman, declaring the sum to be inadequate to her wants, repacked the bundle in the presence of the shopman and withdrew.—Soon after she returned and said she would accept of the sum offered her, laying at the same time a bundle on the counter, when she received the 15s. and went awry. The shopman took up the bundle to convey it to the store-room, but, perceiving something move, he re-examined the bundle, which he thought he had before inspected with sufficient accuracy, and upon opening the outside folds of the wrapper, his astonishment, on perceiving a little French dog and an old lame pug bitch may be easier conceived than expressed. The woman had prepared two bundles as much alike as possible, and by the dexterous substitution of the one for the other, she contrived to impose the dogs on the shopman, which have both been christened by the pawnbroker "Bundle."

Singular Occurrence.—Yesterday week, a man named Thomas Harland, who resided in Bilton-street, in Layerthorpe, near this city having been a short time previously indisposed, to all appearance expired. His coffin-board was brought into the house, and preparations were commenced for laying him out. When these were nearly completed, to the astonishment of those present, he suddenly rose up and revived. The next morning, however, he actually departed this life, and his remains were interred the same evening.—[York Chronicle.]

A few pinches of flower of sulphur at short intervals upon the coals or wood burning in the fire place, will speedily extinguish the most raging fire in a chimney. The sulphureous vapour has also the advantage of pervading the crevices and ramifications of the chimnies, and completely finishing the combustion. A pound of sulphor has effectually put out, in a few minutes, a fire in a tall chimney, when the flame rose three or four yards above the top. A wet cloth should be hung before the fire-place.

AMERICAN MISCELLANY.

NEWYORK MILITIA TRAINING.

From the Journal of Commerce.

Passing through John-street last Friday, I witnessed one of the most ludicrous scenes. Approaching a large collection of people, I found the gathering was on account of militia training. I understood that the officer had experienced no little difficulty in causing his company to halt. This word 'halt,' which should render a soldier instantly stationary, not only failed to produce that effect upon the troop, but, on the contrary, rather accelerated their march—The officer following on crying "Halt *Hall*, Halt," but without effect: untill getting out of patience, he exclaimed, "If you don't halt, I'll march you *five m les*." This produced the desired effect, and the company halted, though pretty much out of a line.

When I came up, the Orderly Sergeant was doing his best to call the roll. In this, however, he found it next to impossible to proceed, for no sooner was a name announced than the crowd, one and all, responded "here," and the Orderly was unable to determine whether or not the man was on the ground. Finding it necessary to adopt some other course, he told the man that when a name was called, if the individuals wished to avoid a fine, he must immediately march in front of the company. But no sooner had he announced this mode of proceeding than a hurrah was raised, so loud that the Orderly could not even hear his own voice. At length a name was heard, and there was a general rush towards the front. The movement completely disorganized the company and mingled soldiers and citizens all together in one general hurly-burly.

At this juncture a counsel of war was held, and the conclusion seemed to be that the officers should make the best of their way off and get the men to follow. It was amusing to hear the soldiers giving advice to their superiors. "Come Captain," says one, "why dont't you send up to the police office and get an officer to take care of these folks, for they will run over us, sure as a gun." One advised to this thing, and another to that, until the officers found themselves about as much inclined to do one thing as another.

As the corps had no music, no time was beat' and of course each one marched on "his own hook." The Captain was not in uniform, and seemed to possess much less authority than the Orderly, who was completely accoutred from top to toe.

His new cap, all polished and shining, somehow during the rushing and pushing the crowd, received a haynet entirely through it, and the mischievous boys as they happened behind him, amused themselves by pulling the skirt of his military coat.—Indeed it was only by the dint of watchfulness that he was enabled to preserve his prependicular elevation, for various assaults were attempted upon his limbs, with the intent of bringing him down to the level of those who were so unfortunate as to find themselves upon the pavement.

A grand effort was at length made to take the company to some more quiet part of the city, where they might enjoy the benefit of being drilled without interuption. To this end the military skill and authority of the officers was exerted to form the ranks. Two or three were formed, and the plan was about to succeed, but it unfortunately happened that just then a coachman drove up and ordered the company out of the road. "I tell you,, said the officer, "you cannot pass." "I tell *you*" said the coachman, "that I *can* pass." "Turn about," continued the officer, "I tell you again you shan't go through." "Shan't, ha!" replied Coachee, "I'll see if I shan't" So each party prepared for the onset. Muskets glistened, bayonets, horse pistols, rifles, and other deadly weapons were raised to stop the enemy. The officer looked as if great consequences were suspended upon the issue of the contest.

"Firm paced and slow' a horred front they form,
Still to the breeze, but dreadful as the storm."

The coachman, confident of the superiority of cavalry over infantry, gave orders for a *charge*, and cracking his whip, the long lash of which drove back the soldiers and urged on the horses, who being good metal, "broke through the thick array,' and left the ranks in fragments.—When the coachman had got fairly through, he paused to enjoy his triumph. The discomfited officer shook his head and looked unutterable things, while the multitude on all sides led by the conquering hero, gave three cheers and the vistor passed on. The farce at this stage was quite beyond description.

A retreat, the last resort of the brave, was now meditated. Hard as it was, it appeared the only alternative. Accordingly a push was made for Broadway, some in the road while others preferred the side walk. I understand that when opposite the American Hotel, the company were seized with a glow of enthusiasm, and gave three cheers to Henry Clay! What other deeds of valour they performed I am not able to state. H. B. S.

ON THE STUDY OF WILD NATURE.

To observe *nature*, we must go to the wilds, because in all cultivated productions there are secondary characters produced by the artificial treatment, and we have no means of observing a distinction between these and those which the same individual would have displayed, had it been left to a completely natural state. The longer that the race has been under domestication and culture, the change are of course the greater. So much is that the case, that in very many, both of the plants and animals that have been in a state of domestication since the earliest times of which we have any record, we know nothing with certainty about the parent races in their wild state. As to the *species*, or, if you will, the *genus*, we can be certain. The domestic horse has not been cultivated out of an animal with cloven hoofs and horns; and the domestic sheep has never been bred out of any of the ox tribe. So also wheat and barley have not been cultivated out of any species of pulse, neither have windsor beans at any time been grasses. But within some such limits as these our certain information lies; and for aught we know, the parent race may, in its wild state, be before our eyes every day, and yet we may not have the means of knowing that it is so. The breeding artificially has been going on for at least three thousand years, with some change at every succession; that, calling the average duration of the domestic animal ten years, and that of the bread-plant one year, is three hundred successions in the one case, and three thousand in the other; and what man is to live, nay, what kingdom is to last, till the experiment is performed as many times, with any thing which is now in a state of nature! Even if we were to suppose that impossibility got the better of, there arises another every way as perplexing. How are we to know what was the first artificial mode of treating any one of those cultivated productions, or what were the effects of it, even at the end of one thousand or of two thousand years? Fashions of cultivation change as much as fashions of any thing else, and as the subject is one in which it is impossible to get accurate information upon, not a few only, but on many points, much of the change must have been theoretical; and, like all theoretical procedure, sometimes an improvement, and sometimes the reverse. But there is another difficulty. What great changes are made on the surface of a country, as when forests are changed into open land, and marshes into corn fields, or any other change that is considerable, the changes of the climate must correspond; and as the wild productions are very much affected by that, they must also undergo changes; and these changes may in time amount to the entire extinction of some of the old tribes, both of plants and of animals, the modification of others to the full extent that the hereditary specific characters admit, and to the introduction of not varieties only, but of species altogether new.

That not only may, but must have been the case, The productions of soils and climates are as varied as these are; and when a change takes place in either of these, if the living productions cannot alter their habits so as to accommodate themselves to the change, there is no alternative, but they must perish. Also, though we know nothing about the primary germs of plants or of animals, till we find them developed in visible and tangible embryos, we must not make our ignorance the measure of nature's working; for though we have seen them come only in one way and, generally speaking, perish in another, we are not to suppose that that is all. When forests of one kind of timber are cut down, new plants make their appearance; and there are evidences that races, both of plants and animals, have perished even in our own country, without any great convulsion of nature, for their remains have been left on the strand and buried by the slow progress of the deposition of the matter washed down by the rains and stayed by the re-action of the waves.

Cultivation itself will deteriorate and in time destroy races, if the same race and the same mode of culture be pursued amid general change. Our own times are times of very rapid change, and, upon the whole, of improvement; we dare not, without the certainty of their falling off, continue the same stock and the same seed-corn, season after season, and age alterage, as was done by our forefathers. The general change of the country must have change, and not mere succession, in that which we cultivate; and thus we must cross the breeds of our animals, and remove the seeds and plants of our vegetables from district to district.

There is something of the same kind in human beings, and we have reason to expect that there should; because, in as far as man is material and mortal, he is just as dependent upon circumstances as any other material production. Hence we find that when a town or a district is busy and bustling, and strangers resort to it, both the population and the energy increase far faster than the numerical addition of strangers. But on the other hand, when it becomes dull, and strangers cease to resort to it it, dies away, both in population and in mental energy, even though none of the people leave it. Thus, it is not leisure that mankind needs, it is stimulus and activity, and study, even the most profuse and abstruse study, thrives better in the few snatches of time which the busy man can spare for it, than in all the listless and loitering days of him who has nothing to do.—[Mudie.]

New York, Oct. 28.

ALARM IN THE ANN-STREET CATHOLIC CHURCH.

During the performance of Divine Service yesterday morning, in the church of the Rev. Mr. Varella, the congregation were thrown into a great state of alarm, which was productive of unpleasant consequences. Owing to the digging of a deep foundation for a large and lofty brick store adjacent to the Church, the front wall of it had settled some days before, and caused fissures in two or three places, of an inch or more in width. These were visible, and the rumor of danger had spread sufficiently wide to prepare the minds of most of those who were present for consternation on the least intimation of danger. The wind being high, and the depression of the wall alluded to, having loosened the windows somewhat from their ordinary fastenings, a sudden gust, at about 11 o'clock in the morning, caused the fall of a front sash, which rebounded several times and made a fearful noise. Female shrieks were immediately raised, accompanied by cries that the walls were falling. Instantly a rush was made for escape. Only one door was open—and the avenues to it were almost instantly choaked with throngs, eager to effect their passage. In the meantime, every one that could, threw themselves from the lower and some from the upper win-

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