

From Billings's *Entomological Magazine*.
Observations on common salt as a manure; also on its general utility to the human and domestic animal.

By John Hollingshead, Esq. of Chorley, Lancashire.

[From Mr. Wedge's "Survey of the county palatine of Chester," for the board of agriculture.]

There is no subject in common life deserves greater attention than agriculture; and nothing appears better calculated to promote its progress than the discovery of proper manures, that can be obtained in plenty, and at a moderate price.

Manures, when dissolved in their salts, are reduced to mere lifeless matter; therefore to procure salts proper for vegetation, without any extraneous matter, would be an important discovery. It has been proved by experience; that those lands which have been covered by the tides, produce grass and corn superior to any other; and when the farmer was allowed foul salt to improve his fields, they never failed to return abundant crops; which is a clear demonstration that common salt is replete with the same fertilizing qualities as sea waters. It is also known that common salt contains an alkali equal to the nitre which enriches the lands in India and the low grounds in Egypt; but the common salt will be found preferable to nitre, because pure nitre suffers the extra heats to exhale moisture; while the alkali, which is combined with the acid of common salt is so fixed as to attract an additional moisture. This, then, is a true magnet water; for heat equal to boiling water will not dry a salted soil. As it is generally agreed that air and water, with what is dissolved in them, constitute the food of plants—to cultivate land in such a manner as to make it retain a proper quantity of air and water, would in all probability, be the best means of rendering it fertile. In that view, a soil to be perpetually fertile, must be endowed with powers to retain air and water sufficient for its plants, and at the same time must be of a nature that will not harden by moisture. Salt promises to answer all these different purposes; for it will prevent the soil from being hardened by water, and also invigorate the same by its retentive, alkaline, and acid qualities. These suggestions almost amount to a proof that common salt is that desirable object, which, when properly used, will prove to be the real acid solvent so essentially necessary to prepare matter proper for the food of plants; but all its merit is of little worth so long as it is subjected to the high duty imposed by the legislature. If government would be pleased to attend to these remarks, and substitute in its stead an additional land-tax of three-pence in the pound, it would raise more neat money into the exchequer than the present duty. Salt would then be the cheapest, best, and most universal manure in nature; and also be the means of advancing botany, gardening, and every branch of agriculture, with chemistry and all metallic arts, to a certain degree of perfection. Before the prohibition of foul salts, when the farmer proposed to turn his lands to tillage in autumn, he sowed a double quantity of salts, in order to destroy grass, rushes, weeds, gorse, fern broom, worms, snails, &c. The woe was by that means converted into a manure which supported the three succeeding crops and left the soil, after all in good condition. This mode of preparation appears superior to a dry one. Some farmers have sown about 100 lbs. weight of salt on one acre of land, as ploughed, in order to meliorate the soil before seed was sown. They have also laid on meadow grounds, as soon as cut, and pasture lands in the winter, about the same quantity.

As soon as salt can be procured duty free, it may be presumed that all parks, lawns, commons, rabbit warrens, hills and mountains, will exhibit as rich a verdure as salt marsh; and effectually prevent the rot in sheep, deer, and rabbits. Salt would be used in composts, hot houses, hop-grounds &c. It may then be used to great advantage in the West India Islands, for the culture of sugar canes, indigo, cotton, rice and all other crops of those countries; as it will have great expense, by destroying weeds and reptiles, besides supporting the growth of plants by the retention of moisture in those hot climates. Fruit trees and plants should have salt sifted round them several times in the year. Every load of hay should have a quantity of salt scattered on it when housed, which will cause the hay to retain its juices, and to feed nearly equal to grass. Cows, horses, &c. should have salt given them in almost every feed of ground corn, grains, &c. Spruce fir tea and milk should be given to cows and horses at any time when not well.

The utility of common salt to mankind, for culinary purposes, is so well understood, that it is needless to expatiate on that subject; yet as its medicinal virtues are not generally known, I beg leave to recommend the following bath as a substitute to accommodate those whom business, or inability, prevents the benefit of sea bathing.

All families ought to bath every Saturday night in a warm bath, made with three pounds of salt to each gallon of water, or with sea water.

One tea-spoon of common Glauber's salt should be put into a basin of milk and spruce fir tea, in lieu of India tea, for the family's breakfast.

Chemistry and the metallic arts would require great quantities, if the salt were reduced to a moderate price.

Some French Chemists at Liverpool have obtained a patent for the use of a pure alkali, extracted from common salt, superior to pot-ash, for the bleaching of calicoes, muslins, &c. It gives them immediately a colour and silkiness similar to

India goods. They are extracted from salt fever, other degrees of alkalis, for the manufactories of soap, glass, &c. but high duty prevents the general use.

If the legislature were to substitute the aforeaid tax, the revenue would be advanced more than double, and, at the same time save to the nation several hundred thousand pounds, expended annually on imported calicoes.

A minister merits reproach who lays a duty equal to a prohibition on any article that would essentially promote the interest of agriculture. High duties may be proper when there is a probability of the article being exhausted, which makes it necessary to limit the consumption; but that is not the case with salt, for on a thorough investigation of the salt rocks and springs in Cheshire, they would appear sufficient to supply the demands of all Europe for ever. The rock lies about thirty six yards below the surface, in thickness from ten to forty yards, with some in breadth, and over the whole district arise springs, which are generally made into salt. Coals too are plentiful.

At Droitwich in Worcestershire, in Lancashire, and several other counties, are likewise wood salt springs; besides quantities of salt are procured from sea water.

Great Britain contains about twelve millions of people, and its produce bare-suits them; and when any season of the year happens to be unfavourable, the inhabitants are alarmed at the prospect of famine; but when salt is brought into general use, the land of Great Britain will maintain ten times twelve million of people; for it is a certain support to vegetation, when extra heats and colds are predominant. The landholder will then reap such plentiful crops as to enable him to pay cheerfully all the wants of government: for the consolidation of the taxes the legislature should always have in view. The manufacturer will then live cheap, and also be freed from those shackles which retard his progress. This, and this only, would enable us to rival every other state, and would also be the means of raising this nation to an incredible height of opulence and power.

A petition from the Royal and Agricultural Society should be presented to government, praying the indulgence of salt duty free. Experiments would then be made throughout the kingdoms, & its excellence and utility as a manure, &c. I humbly apprehend would be fully demonstrated and confirmed.

Salt without duty would be from ten shillings to thirteen shillings per ton.

THE BRITISH POETS.

IMMORTAL spirits of the shell divine,
Whether ye wander in the Elysian grove,
Or glad attendants on the heavenly Nine,
By sacred Helicon delight to rove,
Ye parent bards of British verse—all hail!
Oh, may my eager muse not wholly fail
To sing your praises, whilst the dædæas fire
Soaring aloft, to tune the Theban lyre;
Oh, whilst the tries to stem ætherial height,
O'er trembling pinions guide her daring flight.

SPENCER.
What sounds melodious charm my ravish'd ear,
"Now soft, now loud unto the winds they call,"
Breathing o'er fairy scenes delightful near,
On painted meads, enchanted groves, they fall.
But lo! how chang'd the scenes of sweet delight,
Dire spectres, terrify the astonish'd sight;
See warrior Knights in burnish'd arms array'd,
Start dreadful gleaming from the leafy shade,
Furious each ghastly phantom to engage,
Treason, Despair, Revenge, and frantic Rage.

SHAKESPEARE.
Hail, Nature's child! sweet bard of Avon, hail!
Come solemn Tragedy in fable plight;
With tresses streaming to the floating gale,
Come jocund Thalia join the sacred rite;
To deck his hallow'd shrine—ah haste, and bring
Fair bays from Helicon's immortal spring;
My Muse—bright Fancy, lo, before thine eyes,
Causes his own lov'd offspring to arise;
See Nature sink upon her frantic Lear,
There Hamlet raves—the fair Ophelia here;

View Conscience torturing Richard's inmost soul;
See dire Despair in Romeo's eye-balls roll,
Astonish'd I survey—divine Bard,
May Fame, with end'less meads, thy works sublime reward.

MILTON.
Beyond the sacred bounds of Time and Space,
Say, might the vent'rous muse explore her flight;
Or solitary think a path to trace
Through the dark realms of Chaos and Old Night?
Yes—by the hand of EREN led—the found
Of Verse Divine could charm the deep profound;
Or rais'd aloft beyond this neither sky,
Could join the bright Angelic Choir on high;
Where veil'd in glory on his azure Throne,
The Lord of Nature reigns—unbounded, and alone.

DRYDEN.
Rehearse Æolian lyre—the praise rehearse,
Of him who made the Mantuan Bard our own;
Sweet modulator of the British Verse,
Whose flowing lays the Nine with gl'ry crown,

Whether the Clavic Bards with lute
Or Satire teaches in thy works divine!
Whither Timotheus' raptures the yre,
Charming the fœus with more than mortal fire;
Still does thy Verse, Oh DRYDEN, clear
and strong,
Pear with its force sublime the ravish'd
sense along.

From an *English Paper of March 10.*

The liberty of the press, in France, discloses many serious truths, which had they been uttered only a few months since, would have unavoidably conducted the speaker to the scaffold. The following passage is extracted from a publication printed in Paris in the month of February: "Our revolution is like a thunder-bolt, which bursts forth, and destroys without the least possibility of escape. We have framed a revolution, and, out of four and twenty millions of individuals who live in France, not one can tell why we undertook that revolution, and where it is to stop! We rush on like madmen, without a will, and without an idea of our own. We applaud our successes, and scoff at our misfortunes; and all the while we are convinced, that our revolution was not made for the benefit of the people, but for that of a set of men who are contending among each other the suffrages of the people, that they may assume their authority. We have seen the factions of Orleansists, Girondists, Brissottists, Maratists, Hebertists, Robespierrists, Jacobins, Terrorists, and Mod-rates, succeed each other. Now, it is the faction of Journalists which has gained the greatest preponderance. The public does neither see, nor judge, but through them. These gentlemen are constantly busied with cutting out work for the Convention; and every motion to be proposed, as well as every decree to be enacted, is prepared, beforehand, in the periodical publications of the Journalists. Let the objects be political, civil, military or economical, all are subjected to their censure and animadversions."

By this Day's Mail.

NEW-YORK, May 13.

IRELAND.

The following interesting Debate respecting the Roman Catholics in Ireland, must be acceptable to our readers, who have been apprized of the critical situation of that country.—It is copied from a London paper of the 24th of March, the latest received.

DUBLIN, March 19.
City Assembly, Friday March 13.
THE meeting of this day was held in consequence of a requisition signed by several members of the Corporation, requesting the Lord Mayor to call a post assembly to take into consideration the claims of the Roman Catholics.

The Board of Aldermen having sent a message to the Commons house, requesting them to appoint four of their number to form a committee with four Aldermen, to draw up petitions to his Majesty, and to the House of Commons on this subject.

Mr. Skeys, Mr. Ewing, Mr. Guinness, and Mr. J. Binns, opposed agreeing to the resolution of the board.

Mr. Skeys then insisted that the assembly had no power of what the Catholic claims were, or whether any claim had been at all made on their part. He demanded that the persons who had signed it, should come forward and explain the nature of their claims: if they did not, but wished to hurry the Corporation into the measure without any proof before them, he would think it want of courage in them not to meet the question fairly.

Mr. Pemberton avowed his having signed the requisition; and so far was he from avoiding the declaration, he expected credit from his fellow-citizens for the fairness of his intentions. He agreed with Mr. Howison, that on receiving the report would be the proper time for discussion.

Mr. John Binns insisted, that no committee ought to be appointed, until some document was produced to prove that claims had been made by the Roman Catholics: no such thing had been done; but if it were, he would object to the Corporation interfering between the bounty of the Legislature and such claims, if they existed. He called the attention of the Assembly to the state of the country, involved in a disastrous war: union amongst Irishmen was necessary to national preservation—against Irishmen united in their common defence, no enemy could prevail. In the last war when Ireland had 50,000 of her citizens in arms, had a French army landed in this country, we all knew they could not have got a drop of water or a bit of bread without fighting for it! would that be the case now, when the seeds of disunion were sown by such measures as that now proposed? When promises had been made to the Catholics by men in power, was it for the Corporation to interfere and prevent their completion? Whether those promises had been made with any expectation of fulfilling them, he would not say; but it would be most cruelly tantalizing the Catholics to hold out assurances to them, and deprive them of hope afterwards.

Mr. Guinness denied that any document had been laid before the Assembly to prove that any claims had been made by the Catholics.

Mr. Giffard said, he had listened with patience to one gentleman who had spoke just before him, and one part of that gentleman's speech had indeed astonished him.—He had said, that in a former period, if the French had landed in this Country, they would not have obtained a bit of bread

or a drop of water, without fighting for it; and he had maintained that such would now be the case! Does the gentleman mean to say (continued Mr. Giffard) that the French should land in the Country, that the Roman Catholics would be less loyal now than they were then? Does he mean that any Irishman would be found to aid or acquiesce in a French Invasion? I know that the supposition is unfounded. I know, that although the idea is suggested by men professing friendship to the Roman Catholics, that the Roman Catholics are slandered, traduced and vilified by such an assertion: The Roman Catholics are men, and must feel gratitude for favours, and must feel gratitude for favours. What was their situation in the last war, compared with their present state; if they were loyal then, what tenfold reason have they for loyalty now? Is a succession of fourteen years benevolence to alienate their allegiance from their Sovereign? Is kindness heaped on kindness, and privilege succeeding privilege, to render them disloyal, or urge them to disturb the Country, or to invite our greatest enemies? I will answer for them, although I oppose them in the present instance, that any suggestion of disloyalty thrown out against them is untrue; and I will repeat, that I think them falsely slandered, traduced and vilified by such imputations. Gentlemen deny that claims have been made by the Roman Catholics, and they have called upon us to declare what they are: I will tell you—they want to be Sheriffs in your chair—Aldermen at your Board—Lord Mayors of your Corporation—Judges and Members of your Legislature. I will not suppose they wish to become Protestant Bishops; by their claims, even the restraint which prevents their entering our Church establishment is required to be removed, for they demand the repeal of all restrictive laws! It is asked, what documents are there to prove this? I have in my hands the votes of the House of Commons, authenticated by the name of their Speaker, and published by his command.

Mr. Howison entered into an history of the improvements of the British Constitution, which had always increased in proportion to the decrease of the Papal power in these Countries, from the bold extortion of Magna Charta from King John, who with the aid of Rome only opposed the patriotic Barons, to the utter expulsion of Romish authority by the glorious Revolution of 1688. At every period of this history, even in the most dark and bigoted times, an opposition to the See of Rome was productive of material advantage to Liberty; and on the contrary, when Popish power prevailed, the country was enslaved—and this he thought must always be the case, when men who ought to be only subject to their Monarch looked to a foreign Potentate as their real ruler.

Mr. Pemberton admitted that the Roman Catholics had been deluded by propositions held out by a right hon. gentleman in administration (Mr. Grattan): but he himself had always considered those propositions premature, as they now proved to have been made without authority; the Roman Catholics had been thus led into an unpleasant situation, but he thought this no argument to induce Protestants to substantiate the expectations thus vainly raised: and he would put it upon this single question, supposing that the Protestants were to change places with them, would the Roman Catholics give up restraints so necessary for their own security: he believed not.

That they laboured under one grievance which ought to be removed, he would admit—but it was a grievance affecting all dissenters from the church equally—paying two sets of clergy; but that ALL restraints should therefore be removed, he denied—it was utterly impolitic; from their present situation, not above half a million of Roman Catholics at the utmost could receive the least benefit from a total repeal—while one whole million of Protestants would be materially injured. For his own part he disclaimed the charges of bigotry and illiberality which were thrown out, but he never could agree to surrender those privileges on which depended the Protestant safety.

Mr. Chambers said he could only consider the agitation of this question at the present Awful Moment, as a contrivance of the DEMON OF DISCORD to kindle DISUNION, CONFUSION and SEDITION in the Country; the mischief which might ensue was DREADFUL to CONCEIVE! He demanded why this question had not been brought forward for the last two months, while Earl Fitzwilliam had COUNTENANCED the CATHOLIC CLAIMS, and when CA' HOLIC EMANCIPATION had been taken up by Parliament? And WHY did gentlemen DELAY until that Nobleman was preparing to depart, and the Parliament had adjourned?

Mr. Howison in answer, said, that as to the necessity of the City coming forward now, to the discussion of this question, it arose from a boast of Sir L. Parsons in Parliament, that the Protestants supported the present demands of the Roman Catholics.

Mr. Giffard produced a large bundle of the votes, filled with the Roman Catholic Petitions.

Mr. Chambers put an end to the discussion, which he thought dangerous and ill-timed, moved the question of adjournment.

After some conversation, the question of adjournment was put, and a ballot had.

Ayes—33
Noes—40

The question was then put to appoint a committee.

Mr. Chambers moved that the first member of the committee should be appointed by ballot.

The Sheriff declared that he would not give up his privilege of a member of the grand jury, and called upon the Assembly to support him.

The Sheriff nominated Mr. W. Thomson, who appointed Mr. Pemberton, who named Mr. Gibson, by whom Mr. Giffard was called upon.

The four Aldermen were, Alderman Warren, Alderman Sutton, Alderman Sankey, and Alderman Worthington.

The committee retired, and in some time after a message came from the Board of Aldermen, that they had agreed to the committee's report, in which they requested the Commons to coincide.

The Petition to the Throne was then read, in substance as follows:
To the King's most excellent Majesty.
"WE, the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Commons, and Citizens of the city of Dublin, beg leave to approach your Majesty with the most cordial affections of devotion and loyalty to your Majesty's sacred Person, Family and Government.

"As the chief Protestant Corporation in your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland, we feel ourselves peculiarly called upon at the present crisis to declare our inviolate attachment to the great principles of the Revolution of 1688, which were re-asserted by the Irish Legislature in 1782.

"We humbly conceive that the leading objects of these two great and important acts were to establish in your Majesty's hereditary kingdoms for ever the genuine Principles of Civil and Religious Liberty; and as the surest support of the latter, the Protestant Religion, as established by law.

"We consider, therefore, that the present application of the Roman Catholics, to obtain the repeal of all restrictive laws whatsoever, which affect them—is highly alarming and dangerous.

"We, therefore, humbly supplicate your Majesty's gracious protection in behalf of your loyal subjects the Protestants of Ireland, whose fidelity your Majesty and your Royal House has ever remained unimpeached and unalterable."

On the first paragraph of this petition Mr. Willis demanded a ballot; but upon the remonstrance of his friends, that it was merely declaratory of loyalty, he consented to withdraw his motion, and the paragraph passed *nem. con.*

To each succeeding paragraph an amendment was proposed by those who opposed the petition; but every amendment was negatived.

On every paragraph three different ballots were had upon the demand of the Minority, viz. on an amendment—on the previous question, and on the main paragraph.

The time was thus so much exhausted that it was nine at night before the last paragraph was read.

To this Mr. Skeys proposed an amendment. He said, that as Mr. Giffard had admitted the loyalty of the Catholics, he could have no objection to add to the last paragraph, which, by speaking of Protestant Loyalty, seemed to cast imputations on the Catholics—a clause declaratory of the conviction of the loyalty of the Catholics.

Mr. Giffard replied, that to show how differently he would act from those who so uncautiously opposed the petition, he would most heartily agree to such a resolution to be passed as a declaratory act of the Assembly, but he could not be expected to tack it to the petition, and thus subject the business for which he had all day laboured, to the necessity of being recommitted, sent again to the board, and re-considered by that house at so late an hour of the night.

Mr. Skeys thought this very candid, and agreed to postpone in that manner. Mr. Stephens, Mr. Willie, and Mr. Chambers, thought that the petition declaring the loyalty of the Protestants conveyed an imputation on the Catholics, and required this explanation.

Mr. Giffard said, that the Roman Catholics in all their petitions had stated their own loyalty, without at all noticing that of the Protestants. Surely Protestants had a right to do the same. He gave notice, that if it was attempted to force this amendment on the petition, he must oppose it, though as a declaratory resolution, he would pledge himself to vote for it.

The question was put on the amendment and a ballot demanded.

Ayes—20
Noes—40