

the abolition of the barbarous laws of imprisonment for debt; of peace societies; societies for the reformation of vagrant youth; societies for moral reform—for relieving the indigent—for the protection and education of destitute orphans—for the support of the helpless aged; societies—many of which have risen to an importance which attracts the notice and secures the aid of the State, and assuming almost every variety demanded by the manifold miseries and sins of society—these bright and characteristic schemes, which never adorned the brow of the ancient civilization, are the peculiar glory of the age.

The unexampled diffusion of practical religion adds much to the lustre of our past half-century. What strides have been taken in supplying the gospel to the world! What revivals of religion have spread over Christendom, deepening the influence, and increasing the power of Christianity! What increased respect is felt, in all circles, for religion; what improved outward deference to its rites—what securities added to its freedom? Perhaps in no particular of progress has the change been more obvious and extensive, than in respect to religion. When we reflect upon the stability which religion gives to every reform, and the quickening power it exerts upon every upward impulse of the human mind, there will be no evidence of the world's advance, which will excite in the thoughtful mind so much gratitude for the past, and such cheerful presages for the future, as this. The picture is not without its shadows, indeed; with the increase of good, there has also been a growth of much that is evil. But, whoever deliberately marks the headlands of progress which the retrospect of the half century discloses, will find most encouraging evidences of substantial progress in many of the noblest and most hopeful aspects of human life, and most impressive indications of the resistless power and immeasurable goodness of Divine Providence.—N. Y. Evangelist, Dec. 26, 1850.

The Farmer.

On the Importance of Extended Chemical Investigation.

Analytical Laboratory, Yale College, New Haven, Conn., Aug. 5, 1850.

Messrs. Editors: It may seem to many that the time has long passed, when it was necessary to write for such a paper as the "Cultivator," on such a topic as I have selected for the theme of my present letter. I think, however, that a little reflection will convince any impartial and observing mind, that we have as yet only begun to impress the great mass of the farming community, with a due sense of the importance of this subject.

It is common to say, that there has been a change within a few years, in this respect; that farmers are now rapidly becoming convinced that there is something to be learned from scientific investigation; this is all true to a very great extent, and I will even acknowledge that in many districts, direct encouragement to such investigations has been given. Our numerous and flourishing agricultural societies, and ably conducted agricultural journals, are all so many evidences of advance, and of an awakened spirit of inquiry.

The farmers that one encounters at the shows of these societies, and those who take these journals, are, as a class, ready to admit that there remains much to be done before they can be said to fully understand even the practice of their profession; and also that they are prepared to believe in the possibility of deriving great advantage from the labors of scientific men. If all these things are so, it may be said, why complain of the farmers? why say that they hold back in the cause of improvement? This objection would have much force, were it not for the fact that after all, the class of which I have spoken, constitutes but a comparatively small part among the great agricultural population. Even the admirable shows of the State of New York, fail to collect more than a small proportion of her farmers, although the actual concourse is immense. How many thousands there are in that state who scarcely know that such a show was ever held, excepting perhaps when it chances to come into their immediate vicinity. Many other states have no state show of any description. In a county with a population of a hundred thousand, it would be considered a successful agricultural show, which should draw together a thousand or two of people; and a gathering of more than two or three hundred of these to hear an address, on some scientific or practical topic would be thought quite creditable. There are of course exceptions to this state of things, but I now speak of the country in general.

These facts no one can controvert; it seems then, that after all, but a comparatively limited portion of the farmers are aroused, even to the necessity and advantage of these simple steps towards improvement. Again, in going through our villages, how many people do we find, who never read any of the agricultural newspapers or periodicals, and who are ready to declaim against them all as useless. How limited is the sale of even the largest and most ably conducted of the periodicals, compared with what it ought to be, if all appreciated its value.

But I desire to go a step farther, and to leave out of the question all those who may be considered entirely uninterested and incurious on the subject of improvement; and to ask how far we depend on those who attend fairs and shows with much interest, who read papers and hear addresses with some degree of attention. Surely here we may look for the fullest approval in every scientific movement, and in any educational movement; here at last, in places of ridicule and contempt, we shall find warm encouragement and assistance. How far these anticipations are realized, those who have had occasion to present such subjects, can testify. With the farmers constituting a majority in most of our legislative projects for educational establishments having their interest in view, are suffered to lie neglected, or even despised, year after year, while money is at the same time voted away by thousands through the votes of these same farmers, for comparatively trifling objects with which they have little or nothing to do. This evil is gradually lessening, but yet strong manifestations of it may be seen in almost every capital of states, during each legislative session. Can any one doubt, that the farmers when once convinced that money can be appropriated with benefit to the cause of agriculture, will hesitate to appropriate it so far as is necessary? Can any one doubt but that if they were fully and really convinced, they would do it now, freely and not grudgingly? So far is this from true, that even in three states, where appropriations have been made, it has been amid doubts, fears, and oppositions.

The conclusion forced upon the mind by such reasoning, and such facts, as the foregoing, is, that the majority of the farmers in our states are not yet prepared to advance very rapidly, and are not sufficiently imbued with a spirit of improvement. Many of them are, as I have said, disposed to the vague belief that some improvement is needed, but they are inclined to rest in the expression of this belief. They are not ready to take active measures to bring this knowledge into practical form, and within their reach, or to aid in its increase. They shrink from actual innovations, although theoretically they may be brought to acknowledge them possibly advisable. In short, what the mass of farmers call a conviction, is to the merits of scientific agriculture, is merely a somewhat favorable prepossession; if they are really convinced that there was much to be learned from it, they would not be so foolish as to neglect decisive and prompt measures for bringing a knowledge of it within their reach. In such a case men of science would not be, as it were, compelled to produce the results of their labors and to apply them to practice, in a sort of apologetic way, as if by meddling with what they did not understand; but they would be sought after and encouraged, and urged forward in every possible way.

It is strange that after all which has been already done, such a spirit does not show itself more strongly; while, too, the advantages from the application of chemistry, or of the other sciences, to practice, is so extremely capable of proof. Suppose, for instance, a farmer entering upon a new soil, of which he knows nothing, either in respect to its composition, or its physical properties. He wishes to grow wheat upon it, that being perhaps the best crop he can raise, if it will do well. His only way of deciding this question is by actual experiment; for there are some soils that look perfectly well to the eye and yet will not grow good wheat. If the crop fails, his labor is all lost, and a year of his life has gone also. To this it may be answered, that manure is all that is needed, and that any farmer knows it already, without thanks to the chemist. This is true to a certain extent, but in many cases experience has shown that common manure will not produce good wheat, even when heavily applied to the land. Here then occurs the necessity for chemical analysis; by its means we are enabled to ascertain what are the substances, and what are the proportions of the substances that are contained in this grain; so much being done, it then remains to examine the soil also, and to ascertain of what this soil is composed. If there are several substances present in the wheat, which are not present or only present in small quantities in the soil, the whole subject becomes clear at once, and the great principles are established, by means of which such immense advances have been made in modern times, the principles of special manuring, that is, of supplying special deficiencies by additions of particular substances, which common manures can not furnish in sufficient quantities.

We may also suppose a case, where the farmer can not obtain enough of common yard manure for the extent of ground which he wishes to crop with wheat. Knowing the composition of the grain, he can look about for something which will answer for its food; though here again he is helpless to a considerable extent without the labors of the chemist, to tell him whether manures or substances that he has never seen before, are really what he wants. Can any reasonable man deny that chemistry is valuable in each of these cases? can not all, on the contrary, see that if the researches of the chemist had been much more extended, had been carried so far as to explain every change which takes place from germination to entire ripeness, and all of the differences in the varieties of this grain, that a fund of knowledge would have been collected of the very greatest importance to every practical man. In my next letter I propose to write somewhat more at length relative to the necessity of such extended investigations as the one alluded to above, and as to the way in which they can be encouraged. Yours truly, J. P. NORRIS, Cultivator.

The trial of the members of the Liberal Society, called the United Italians, has been concluded, and six condemned to death, and the Ex-Minister and five others to 30 years, and the rest to 20 years, imprisonment.

THE CHRONICLE.

H. C. HICKOK, Editor. O. N. WORDEN, Publisher. At \$1.50 cash in advance, \$1.75 in three months, \$2 paid within the year, and \$2.50 at the end of the year.

Lewisburg, Pa. Wednesday Morning, Jan. 8.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—Renters, Administrators, Public Officers, City and County Merchants, Manufacturers, Mechanics, Business Men—All who wish to procure or to dispose of anything—would do well to give notice of the same through the "Lewisburg Chronicle." This paper has a good and increasing circulation in a community containing as large a proportion of active, solvent producers, consumers, and dealers, as any other in the State.

The Telegraph Dispatch in our last, respecting a fire in "Danville," we are glad to learn had no reference to our Pennsylvania neighbor of that name.

The destruction of the splendid Ledger building, Philad., by fire, is, however, too true. The loss (above the insurance) is heavy, but the enterprising proprietors—aided by their kind editorial neighbors—lost not a day in the issue of the "Ledger," and the "Dollar Newspaper" was delayed but a few days.

We are informed that Christian Bryman is re-appointed Clerk to the Commissioners of Union county, and Wm. G. Herrold, of Chapman Tp., Mercantile Appraiser.

Some errors having occurred in a portion of our last week's Almanac, we republish it, that all our readers may have a correct copy.

Don't want any more Corn at this office—A few bushels of clean Corn, however, we would prize highly, as they are capital for starting coal fires.—Lewisburg Chronicle.

Such an accommodating spirit deserves to be rewarded. Corn-cobs for newspapers! What's the market price of 'em!—Montgomery Ledger.

No quotations as yet. You must be a lucky fellow, however, if you have not found by experience, before this time, that under the present order of things, country papers must put up with any kind of patronage, and be thankful for 'mighty' small favors. But that is not the worst of it, either, in this case. Just imagine a freezing editor calling on warm-hearted patrons for merely a few corn cobs, and—not getting them! Who says now that republics are not ungrateful?

The people of Philadelphia have got in operation a line of steamers, direct, from that port to Liverpool. Capt. Mathews conducted in to Philadelphia "The City of Glasgow," the first of the line, and all Quakerdom is alive with interest and excitement in this new era of affairs—this means of independence of her more prosperous rival, New York City.

The Farmers of Perry and many other counties are moving in the appointment of Delegates to the State Agricultural Convention at Harrisburg, 3d Tuesday in January—21st inst. As Union county has appointed none, Volunteer Delegates would be the more acceptable.

The sale of the Danville and Potomac Railroad, took place in Sanbury on the 28th ult. A. Jordan, Esq. bid it off for the Company, it is supposed—at One Hundred and Thirty Thousand and Fifty Dollars.

THE LEGISLATURE was to convene yesterday. The election of U.S. Senators producing much unamiable feeling and charges of Bribery! Fraud! Warnings!!! and Libel suits, are already afoot. Mr. Cessna of Bedford is the Democratic nominee for Speaker of the House.

The "North Branch Democrat"—edited by George Sanderson, Esq., State Senator—is the third or fourth Anti-Wilkinson paper, that has been started in Bradford county.

The "American Intelligencer"—a new Democratic paper edited by Mr. Jno. Case—has made its appearance at M' Ewensville, Northumberland county, and bids fair to win success.

A young man in this vicinity, having entered a pen with the intention of sticking a hog, was attacked by the animal which inflicted a severe and very painful wound.

To-day is the Anniversary of the glorious battle of New Orleans. The recollection of that bloody fight—like the actors in it—is fast fading from before the public mind.

According to philological evidence, California must be the Ophir of Scripture. Take the following derivations for instance—Ophir, Calophir, Calophirnia. Q. E. D.

Ashes, sprinkled on the pavements in town every frosty morning, would render the walking much more pleasant and safe than it often is.

The statement that Congress passed a law reducing the value of all Spanish coin under the value of 50 cents, we see is denied.

"Littell's Living Age"—advertised this week—is one of the standard and in all respects most valued works of the day.

An impressive sketch of the grand events of the past half century, will be found commencing on our first page.

The Sullivan Eagle has come to life again, and promises to be carefully fostered hereafter.

Trevorton, in Northumberland Co., has become a post-town—Wm. Atwater, postmaster.

Indian and African Improvement. We have received from St. Paul, (Minnesota) No. 1 of the "Dakota True Friend," a small sheet published monthly by Rev. G. H. Pond for the Dakota Mission of the American Home Mission Society. The common English type are used, and the articles are in both the Indian and the English language. We clip from it the following chapter of Zoology, and would inquire if any of the creatures there described have ever been seen in the longer settled regions where civilization holds stronger sway!

The following comments itself to the gaze of all those in Minnesota, who, although fat and sleek at first, have become very much to resemble those 'lean kine' of which an ancient king dreamed, and this, too, notwithstanding they suck constantly. The milk must be poisonous; the cow is out-and-out a nuisance, for she will expose her beautiful teats in the most frequented part of the town, and always gives down when suckled. Wean the calves, and she will go dry!

There is another singular species of cows, in most towns and cities. They have glass teats and tails of wo. They also give an astonishing quantity of milk, but draw all their nourishment from those who milk them. They have many calves, which they never wean, and some of them are always sucking. It often happens when the suckers are reduced, and most in need of milk, the dam refuses her supply, and turns upon them the hollow horn, to which the eldest calves have a great aversion. They are not milked in the usual way, but the calf dodges behind a rack or screen, and sucks, first standing, then sitting, and finally lying. Naturalists have observed that the younger calves, after a good suck, are playful and active, but as they grow older they become affected with that awful disease among cattle, called the trembles. It has also been remarked that the often these cows are suckled, the more thirsty and impoverished becomes the calf. After sucking for years, they are often too weak to stand, and generally terminate their career by going to grass.

We learn by the Indian Advocate, a paper published in Louisville, Ky., by Rev. Sydney Dyer for the Indian Association, that Chilly M'Intosh, (better known as Gen. M'Intosh, a head chief of the Creek nation,) has been ordained to the work of the Gospel ministry by the Baptists, and is now devoted to the spiritual welfare of his countrymen.

Recent intelligence from Africa, is most encouraging to those numerous organizations instituted for the advancement of the interests of that country. The stations of Liberia and Sierra Leone are steadily advancing in solid prosperity, improving their own condition, and exciting a hallowed influence upon the savage tribes in their neighborhood.

One of the missionaries, Rev. Mr. Thompson, has been successful in stopping a war between two powerful tribes, which had been instigated and perpetuated for the purpose of gaining prisoners to supply

the slave-trade. (We believe a few pious Missionaries have done more to suppress that "piracy," the African slave-trade, than have all the fleets of England, France, and the United States.)

The youth who was emancipated with Cinque and his fellow-slaves by rising on the owners of the Spanish slaver, the Armistad, some 12 years ago, and whose abilities and character while at school in Connecticut raised such hopes, it appears relapsed into idolatry shortly after his return, but was recently converted, and has joined one of the missionary stations.

Incidents like these—although small in themselves—when combined, are full of interest, and big with promise, to those who reflect upon the inherent power of pure and earnest Christianity, and who look with an intelligent eye upon the past and present workings of Him who rules the nations of the earth.

We learn by the "Eagle," that the Grand Jury of Sullivan county, regarding Laporte as a "fixed fact" of a county seat, recommended the County to construct suitable County Buildings, and to accept the proposals of Mr. M. Meyler for erecting the same—also to construct and repair suitable roads to and from Laporte. The Eagle also notices as an evidence of their advancement, that nine persons at the recent County Court were held to bail for various offences against the laws. John Yonkin, who stole a watch in Cherry Tp., escaped from jail on the 14th ult., and fled into the woods; he was pursued, and found with feet frozen, and badly cut by the ice, and was glad to be taken back to his old quarters.

For Congress in the place of the Hon. Chester Butler, deceased, it is supposed the election on Tuesday week resulted in the selection of John Brisbin, Esq., of Wyoming, he having 100 maj. in Wyoming, 315 in Montour, and 246 in Columbus. Capt. Dana of Luzerne has a maj. of 223 in that county. Brisbin is the regular nominee, Dana a volunteer—both Democrats.

The population of Lycoming county is 26,256—two more than that of Union county. In 1840, it was 23,940, but as 2000 or more of that number are now included in Sullivan county, its real increase is probably 6,000.

Correspondence of the Lewisburg Chronicle.

MILWAUKIE, Dec. 4, 1850. On the 4th of Nov. ere you awoke from your slumbers, or the watchful Chapman could proclaim the break of day, with my little family I was snugly ensconced behind the Herrulean steam-horse who was prancing, puffing, snorting with furious impatience, to carry us over the iron trail made for his particular accommodation through the centre of our great and much loved Key-Stone State. The fiery steed dashed off at the rate of 25 knots an hour, over hill, dale, and river, without any interruption of the monotonous flight of houses, towns, and mile-posts, dashing back with equal speed as we dashed forward, and but for the occasional "Your tickets, Gentlemen," from the conductor, there is no telling where the reverberation of the occasion would have carried us. We reached Philadelphia in time for dinner, and being fully prepared, from "the least to the greatest," for an internal application of such a ceremony, we did ample justice to the substantial, as well as the luxuries of McKibbin's table. On the morning of the 6th we set sail on a steambot for New York. Traveled but a short distance in that conveyance, when we were again ushered into the cars (at Dekone, I believe they call it) among crowds of all ages, grades, sizes, and complexions, some taking airs for want of wit, while others were noticed on account of their wit. Soon a ticket was our pass-port across the river, and landed safely in the Great Metropolis of New York about one o'clock, P. M. I lost no time in finding a place on a North River boat for Albany, in which I had not much difficulty. The "Isaac Newton" lay at the wharf, ready to start at 6 o'clock. Here I found the "quintessence" of human depravity and meanness, publicly carried on in an intelligent and professed honest community; offices are openly kept, purporting to be agencies, and pretending to sell 'three tickets to Milwaukee or anywhere else, when they have not a shadow of right or authority to do so, and thus are suffered with impunity to plunder a traveler. I would caution all against this species of robbery, and advise them to buy their tickets as they go, and on board the boat. It will save money and trouble. I found the fares much higher than they were in the Spring, owing, as they say, to the lateness of the season, and ere I was properly started, I was led to exclaim, in all candor, "Oh! shade of departed revenue, if this continues much longer, juggling will soon be at an end, and we be obliged to keep fast days, 'strangers in a strange land' perhaps a little more than our religious scruples would dictate.

Six o'clock came on as a matter of course, when Isaac cut loose and breast the current majestically, for she is a "bird of a boat," a perfect moving palace. After partaking of a splendid supper, we retired, and a comfortable night's repose, found ourselves at the Capital of the Empire State, at the dawn of day. From this we went to Buffalo by railroad, in fine style, passing through Rochester the famous city of the Knickerbockers, but I heard no knockings, but a small knock at my suffering purse for our breakfast bill. At Buffalo we took the brig steamer "Mayflower." On her we traversed Lake Erie to Detroit, in about 16 hours; this is also a magnificent vessel, the fastest, and I dare say, as rich a boat as you will find on any Lake. We next found ourselves flying across the State of Michigan on their Central rail-road, with as much ease, and speed as you can expect to travel on any other rail road in the Union; and in twelve hours' ride we found ourselves at New Buffalo on Lake Michigan. Here we again nestled ourselves on the "Sam Ward," a small class but elegant steamer, which landed us at our haven of rest, Milwaukee, in about 18 hours—thus making the trip from the Centre of Pennsylvania in an apparent round about way, in about four days and two or three hours' actual travel; a distance of (I think) over eighteen hundred miles. Had this been told twenty years ago, it would as likely have been believed as is the story of "Aladdin's Lamp," or the "Arabian Nights." The transition from one extreme of the country to another is so quick, that the traveler feels more like dreaming than traveling over veritable realities, and verifies the old saying that a journey is all in the start.

Alarm of Fire.

That portion of our citizens residing in the central part of the borough were alarmed at about 7 o'clock on the morning of the 23d inst.; by the cry of fire, proceeding from the hotel of Messrs. Stover & Zellars, on the Diamond. Upon hastening to the spot it was found that the fire was up along the cupboard and partition at the left hand side of the parlor fireplace, and had reached the ceiling and second floor, filling the house with a dense smoke and only needing a little air to wrap the building in flames. By uniting exertion and skillful management the devouring element was subdued, and the destruction of not only the hotel but the principal part of the town, prevented. The fire was found to have originated from the stove pipe of the oyster cellar in the basement of the hotel, and must have been smouldering for two or three days before it broke out, as several large timbers protected from air were found to be very much charred. A very narrow escape was made by those engaged in extinguishing the fire, from an explosion of camphine, as two five gallon cans, nearly full, were on a shelf in the oyster cellar in close proximity to the fire. Had they exploded lives would certainly have been lost, and the building together with the whole square upon which it is situated would probably have been consumed.—[Bellefonte Whig.

TO OUR PATRONS.

The present is the most favorable season, not only for reading, but for procuring subscriptions for Newspapers—and to all who think the "Chronicle" deserving of support, we offer this inducement until the 1st of February: Every present subscriber who will secure another, shall have the Chronicle free for himself and the new subscriber for Two Dollars, (\$1 each), for one year only; the Cash to be paid in Advance. Fifty cents premium for obtaining a new subscriber, is worthy of the effort.

A distressing accident occurred at Reynoldsville, Jefferson county, the other day, during a quarterly meeting. An invitation was given for persons to come forward for prayer; a large number presented themselves, and the congregation pressed forward to see the proceedings, when the joists under the floor gave way, and about one hundred and fifty persons, men, women, and children, were precipitated into the cellar, in a heap, with a glowing stove in the centre. Several were injured more or less—four being badly burnt. One has since died.—Jersey City Advertiser, Jan. 4.

Coal in Columbus County.—While rusticating on the other side of the river, a few weeks ago, we saw more specimens of the anthracite coal which is now dug out of the McCauly mountain in Beaver township. The coal is equal in any way brought from the Luzerne mines, burns easy, and is comparatively free from slate or bony matter.—Bloomsburg "Star."

Washington, Jan. 4.—The supreme Court, yesterday, made their decision in the case of Missouri against Iowa, that the boundary made by the Commissioners should stand. This gives Iowa the disputed territory, and upsets the re-election of Willard P. Hall to next Congress, who beats his opponent, Bowman, by votes in the disputed territory.

About 3000 persons are said to have assembled at Nelson's, in Penn's Manor, opposite Trenton, on Friday, to guess at the weight of a large Hog, and to sit down to a supper. The hog weighed 536 pounds; one man won it, by guessing 535—the next nearest was 537.

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The U. S. Ship Lawrence has been designated at Washington to take over the specimens of American Manufactures designed for the World's Fair in London.

Jacob Kepler, Sr., and two other men recently found a bear within a hollow tree near Shinbone Run in Clinton county, and killed him. He had 400 lbs of meat.

Charleston, Jan. 3.—The Swedish nightingale and her suite left here on New Year's day, in the steamer Isabel, for Havana.

From the returns received, it is estimated the population of Pennsylvania is 2,325,000, or an average increase of 29 per cent.

Perry county, Pa., has 20,100 inhabitants, increase in ten years 3,013. In 1840 the population was 17,086. A turkey weighing 284 pounds, was sold in Philadelphia for \$14.