EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown—RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all."

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From the Cultivator.

DEARNESS OF LABOR—EFFECTS OF PLASTER OF PARIS ON GYPSUM —IRRIGATION.

THAT land in Europe produces more, acre for acre, than in this country, whether under the plough or laid down to grass, is not to be attributed to the principles of productiveness being there better understood than here, but chiefly to the want of capital and the dearness of agricultural labor in America. Is there any country where proprietors possess so little means of improving land in proportion to the land they own, as in ours? Many in the southern states, owners of hundreds of acres, have not money enough to buy a new saddle; resembling in their condition that of a man who may be supposed to perish with cold in the midst of a forest, for want of a spark of fire, or a steel and flint to strike one. Hence the great value of labor saving machinery in our country; and as necessity has been aptly called the mother of invention, no country has displayed so much ingenuity as ours in the invention of contrivances to economise labor.

Far from being behind hand in the *art* of agricultural improvement, no people on the globe excel us in agricultural knowledge; nor has any made greater improvement in comparison with the *labor, at the command of the farmer* Every one understands for example, the paramount importance of increasing his pile of manure; but in no one thing is the dearness of labor so much felt as in the quantity of it which is required to collect the materials for manure, and to haul out and distribute it after it is made. Herein consists the great value of gypsum on lands to which it is congenial; for on some, as for instance on the eastern shore of Virginia and Maryland, owing perhaps to their alluvion soil or saline atmosphere, or to both, it is said to have but little effect; while in other parts of both these states, its effect is absolutely magical. The very small quantity required—a bushel to the acre—and the quickness with which it is applied, has arrested the progress of exhaustion in some of the counties, which before it was introduced were on the high road to ruin. In some other respects its effects have been remarkable. It has been the cause in Prince George's county for example, of increasing the possessions & fortune of land holders, and of diminishing the population The rapidity with which large bodies of the poorest could be converted into tobacco land yielding 10 0 weight to the acre, the high price of that article, and the improvements in the implements and modes of culture, by which planters have come to make four or five hogheads 'to the hand,' enabled the enterprising land proprietor and slave owner to make his land, purchased on time *pay for itself*. Thus, small proprietors of land owning few or no slaves, were bought out, and moved away to the west large estates have been accumulated by individuals, while the actual population of that county, perhaps the most productive in the state, and within striking distance of Baltimore, with its population of 100 000 inhabitants, and bordering on the cities of the District of Columbia, has diminished from 20 216 in 1820, to 19.539 in 1840.

The following are among many similar cases to show the operation of the influence to which I have referred; the facts are stated on indubitable authority. The late Governor Robert Bowie, a man of singular energy of character and of the highest moral worth, at the time and under the state of things already referred to, purchased two hundred acres of poor 'broom sledge land' for $1400. He put half of it in corn, and probably gathered not more than 10 or 15 bushels to the acre; sowed it down to oats the next spring, and on them sowed clover and plaster of Paris or gypsum. Plastered the clover the succeeding spring, and the spring following planted in tobacco and sold from it 100.000 weight at $10 per hundred, making $10,000 for half of the land, which three years before he had purchased, probably 'on time,' for $1400! Many similar instances might be given of the effects of plaster of Paris in producing all the results I have stated, but I am wandering from my subject.

Much and effectively as our ingenuity has been taxed in the invention of every expedient to save labor, it seems to me that there is one means of augmenting four crops of grass in a manner as wonderful or at least as great as the effect of plaster of Paris on cultivated crops; which is much practiced in some parts of Europe, but strangely neglected in a country, where of all others, circumstances invite the use of it—I mean IRRIGATION.

You Mr. Editor, would render an essential service to American Husbandry, if you would yourself give, or prevail upon some one to give an essay on that subject; especially, if you have at your command, so far, the kind offices of some correspondent who has seen the manner in which irrigation is conducted in Europe. I know a great man who could do it, but the game would hardly be worthy of the falcon. If I had time, I would collect the materials and digest such an essay, were it only for the benefit of a few friends who have all the resources for irrigation at command. I. S. S.

Washington, Jan. 1, 1844.

REGISTRY OF FREE NEGROES AND MULATTOES.

Mr. Yellot, from the committee on ways and means of the House of Delegates, has reported the following bill, to be entitled, an act to provide for the registry of free negroes and mulattoes:

Sec 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall be the duty of all male free negroes & mulattoes, between the age of 18 and 50 years who may be able to maintain themselves by labour, who may not be bound out as an apprentice under the existing laws of the State, annually, between the first days of April and June, to present themselves at the office of the clerk of the county or city court of the county, district or city in which such negroes or mulattoes may reside, and offer their names and ages for registry; and it shall be the duty of the clerk, to keep an alphabetical registry of such negroes or mulattoes, and to give them certificates thereof under seal, specifying their name and age, and the election district or ward in which they may respectively reside.

Sec. 2 And be it enacted, That at the time of registering as aforesaid, each of said negroes shall pay to the clerk the sum of two dollars, who shall, on or before the first day of August in each year make return to the treasurer of the number of negroes and mulattoes so registered and shall at the same time pay into the treasury the amount received for the same, after deducting five per cent. commission thereon, and his official bond may be put in suit for any breach of duty under this act.

Sec. 3 And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Sheriff and constables of the several counties, Howard District and the city of Baltimore, annually, after the first day of June, to procure a certified copy of the said registry of their respective county, district, or city, and it shall be their duty to arrest any free negro or mulatto, of the description mentioned in the first section of this act, who shall not have registered and obtained a certificate as aforesaid and to carry him before any justice of the peace of the county, district or city; and if the said justice shall find that he has not registered as required by this act, it shall be his duty to impose a fine on said negro or mulatto of not less than five or more than ten dollars; to be collected by the sheriff or constable by whom such negro or mulatto may have been arrested; and if such fine and cost be not paid to such sheriff or constable within five days from the imposition thereof, then it shall be the duty of such sheriff or constable to arrest the party so in default, and carry him before some justice of the peace of the county, district, or city, and if said justice shall find that the party so arrested hath neglected or refused to pay the fine and costs imposed upon him under this act, then it shall be the duty of such justice to hire said negro or mulatto to service for such time, and no longer, as may be sufficient to pay such fine and costs; one-half of fines imposed under this section to go to the informer and the other half to the State; and if the name of any negro or mulatto arrested under this law shall not be in said certified copy of the registry, the burden shall be in him to prove by his certificate that he has been duly registered.

Sec. 4 And be it enacted, That if any sheriff or constable after information duly received of the neglect of any negro or mulatto of his county, district or city, to register under this law, shall refuse or neglect to arrest said negro or mulatto, or if any negro or mulatto being arrested and fined, said sheriff or constable shall refuse or wilfully neglect to collect such fine according to the third section of this act, then every such sheriff or constable so in default shall be liable to presentment before the county court of his county, district or Baltimore city court, and upon conviction thereof, shall be liable to a fine of fifty dollars, one-half to go to the State the other half to the informer.

Sec. 5 And be it enacted, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to prevent any negro or mulatto registering himself by agent such agent to appear before the clerk and state the name, age, and residence of the party he may represent, and at the same time pay the registry fee required by the first section of this act.

Sec. 6. And be it enacted, That any justice of the peace discharging the duties imposed upon him under the third section of this act, shall be entitled to the sum of twenty-five cents in each case and any sheriff or constable who may discharge the duties imposed upon him under the said third section, shall be entitled to the sum of fifty cents in each case, and no more, the above fees to be collected by such sheriff or constable from the party arrested, and in default.

Sec. 7. And be it enacted, That all fines or other monies received by sheriffs or constables on account of the State under the third section of this act, shall be paid over by them quarterly on the first days of April, July, October & January, to the clerks of their respective counties, district or city, to be by said clerks paid over to the treasurer; and the official bonds of all sheriffs and constables shall be liable for the monies received by them under the third section of this act.

Sec. 8. And be it enacted, That all monies paid into the treasury under this act shall be paid over to the board of managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society in lieu of the monies now collected and paid over to them under the eight section of the act of eighteen hundred and thirty-one, chapter two hundred and eighty one; provided nevertheless, that if in any year there shall be paid into the treasury under this act more than the sum of ten thousand dollars, that then such excess shall be applied by the treasurer to the ordinary expenditures of the government.

POOR PREACHING.

It would be hazardous to deny that there is some such preaching. And we will not hold a shield over the head of that man, whose feeble faith, sloth, or worldliness makes his preaching poor.—We would use a rod rather, though we would be careful that that rod should be a twig broken from the tree of brotherly love.

But there are some causes for poor preaching not found in a preacher.

1 A poor place of worship is apt to make poor preaching. You cannot look round in some of the sanctuaries of the land without suffering a chill morally and a chill physically, if you enter them between November and April.

Some of these places of worship are enormously large in proportion to the congregation. The preacher must encounter a frightful number of empty pews in search of a hearer. Then there are large tracts of uninhabited territory.—The pulpit is so high that the ascending preacher cannot but realize he is leaving the world otherwise than morally.—It requires good nerves to keep from being dizzy. Then he must shout down to the regions below that the people may know there is somebody somewhere above them. The exterior of the house never had an acquaintance with a paint brush; and looks dark and gloomy, as if frowning at such neglect. Many a clap board has long since ceased having attachment to the sanctuary, and many a shingle has taken the advantage of a fair wind to go in pursuit of the deserters. What wonder if you have poor preaching in such a sanctuary. This is but putting like and like together. The unhappy preacher studies his sermon with all the undesirableness of his forlorn place of worship stalking like gloomy ghosts before him. What wonder if their foot prints are seen all over the sermon.

2 Poor hearers make poor preaching. Some come lingering and late, as if it were a druggery to come at all. Numbers stop about the church door to chat about every thing in the creation but religion till the preacher's voice commencing service wakes them up to the fact that they are at the house of prayer, and not at the town house! Some seek the most comfortable place in pews studiously accommodated for repose, and in the very face and eyes of the preacher take their leave of him in the total unconsciousness of deep sleep. Some not disposed of as the last named, examine with curious eyes every visible object but the speaker, and show vast interest in the rattle of every passing wheel, and the costume of every new comer. Some take their dogs with them to eke out a scanty congregation, and to give the church officers a chance to exercise their powers in keeping them quiet. Now is there not some tendency in such things to make poor preaching?—And would not a prompt and thorough going reform, that should reach every biped or quadruped of the congregation, have some influence in giving a new inspiration to the preacher?

3. Poorly paid preaching is likely to be poor preaching. It shrivels a man up terribly to be straitened about his temporal support If he must move in the hampers of all sorts of shifts and expedients to make the ends of the year meet, he cannot sail freely and joyously forth on the great sea of truth. He can only play the puny part of keeping along shore. With this kind of care upon his shoulders, he cannot rise up to the stature & vigor of a giant. His poor pay makes him feel poor. And it is in poverty of spirit he undertakes a sermon. His thoughts will have a hue of poverty about them: chance if he does not write his sermon upon poor paper, and with a poor pen, and move poorly and with a sorrowful spirit, from the Alpha to the Omega of it. And then he feels poorly prepared for the pulpit, and what can the result be but poor preaching. Unloose this fettered bird, ye parishioners. Take the lead from his wings, the care form his heart, by promptly paying all arrearages, and amply meeting all his wants. Give him the chance thus to spread his pinions, and see if his joyful and animated enterprise in his work does not stop the cry about poor preaching.

4. The spiritual poverty of the Church is a fruitful source of poor preaching. Mind acts on mind. The glowing and animated minds of the saints are so many agents of powerful excitement in the preacher. Their prayerfulness, zeal, unity, and fidelity, lift his soul upwards as on a rising and powerful tide. Their devotedness to God cheers his mind, and rouses thoughts that breathe, and puts upon his lips words that burn—He must preach good sermons, for the goodness of the saints, enkindling his own sets his soul on fire, and the sacred flame will be seen as he delivers the message of the Lord.

The opposite course would be likely to secure an opposite result. A slothful, worldly, stupid church breaks down the spirits of a pastor. They fetter his ardent mind They chill and cramp his enterprising spirit. A grand inspiration of preaching is gone. Great responsibility rests on those unfaithful saints.

Such fallen disciples, moreover, are often the first to raise the cry of poor preaching. The preaching may be spiritual searching & sanctifying but their moral sensibilities have been benumbed by their worldliness. They are too insensible to divine things, to discern the value of the ministrations they enjoy. They grope, and stumble, and cry 'darkness,' though it is midday. The poverty is all in their own souls, and had they the spiritual and heavenly mind, the true meekness & docility of the Gospel, their despised pastor's doctrine would 'drop as the rain, and distil like the dew.'

Reader, do you think you have poor preaching in your place of worship?—Will you not enquire whether there may not be causes of it which take from the preacher some at least, of the responsibility? Is their nothing in your place of worship, nothing in the deportment of the hearers—nothing in the preacher's support, or the state of the church that may have an unhappy influence on the preaching? May there not be something in the state of your own heart that has an important bearing on this subject?—

I do not say that any of these things or all of them justify poor preaching.—His is a fearful responsibility who suffers them to do it.

But in a matter of so much interest, it is of the utmost consequence that men be sure they bring the right criminal to justice.—Boston Recorder.

AMPUTATION OF A LIMB.

The editor of the Bangor Courier gives an account of a surgical operation in that city, which he witnessed on Saturday, the 27th ult—the patient having been previously thrown into the magnetic sleep by Dr. Deare. The operation was the painful one of amputating a leg—and was performed by Dr. Hosea Rich, assisted by several other gentleman, upon Luther Carey whose leg from infancy, had been deformed, and had caused him much pain and inconvenience. The editor of the Courier says:

"During the operation the patient complained of sensation in the bottom of his foot, as though some one was picking it and at one time, for a brief period appeared to be rousing from the magnetic state, and half conscious by suspicion at least, that the operation had commenced, and at this time there was quite a struggle & much muscular action but he was soon thrown more fully into the magnetic state, and was then quite unconscious of what was going on; entering into conversation respecting the operation, and proposing that it be postponed to the next week &c, and insisting, even after the leg was amputated, that he would not have it done until it was fully paralyzed at the same time expressing some doubt whether the Doctor would be able to accomplish this.

After the operation had been performed and the limb dressed, Mr. Carey was placed in his bed, being still in the magnetic state, and was induced to sing. His aged widowed mother was called, and entered the room just as he was singing with much zeal, which greatly affected the aged woman, and she burst into tears Mr. Carey was now taken out of the magnetic sleep, and on rousing up appeared quite startled on seeing the company present and speaking to his sister and to his mother, a shade of sadness passed over his countenance, as he told them he had postponed having the operation performed until the Doctor should be more successful in paralyzing his leg. A passing smile over all countenances led him to suspect there might be something in the wind & it then occurred to him that he was in bed, and in attempting to rise, he was cautioned not to do it, upon which he remarked that perhaps his leg was off, as he was placed in bed.

Upon being assured of the fact, he in great glee cried out, 'Good! I am glad the old leg is off!' He then stated that the only sensation he had experienced was like that of some one pricking the bottom of his foot.

LIBERAL LEGACIES.—We learn from the Boston Journal of Tuesday that the late ISREAL MUNSON, Esq., of that city, bequeathed to the Massachusetts General Hospital $20,000; to Harvard College $15,000; to Yale College $15 000; to Yale Medical School $5000; to the Blind Asylum $4000; to the Farm School $3000; to the Eye and Ear Infirmary $3000, and to the Retreat at Hartford $5000—in all $70,000.

FOREIGN NEWS.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

The packet ship Roscius, at New York sailed from Liverpool on the 14th January. We are indebted to the Herald and Journal of Commerce for the annexed items:

There had been another advance in cotton of ¼d, with large sales.

The news carried out by the Liverpool and New York sent up the price of cotton.

The last accounts from America received in England were of the 21st December.

Sir Hudson Lowe, to whom was entrusted the custody of Napoleon at St Helena, died in London, of paralysis, on the 10th. ult.

The Cortes of Portugal were opened on the 2d by Donna Maria in person.

The Paris dates are to the 9th, but they are uninteresting, excepting that the Chamber of Peers had voted an answer to the speech of the king, favorable to the ministers, 115 to 14.

Charles Dickens has obtained an injunction from the Vice Chancellor's Court, against several London publishers prohibiting them from copying the Christmas Carol, in Prose.

The Duc de Bordeaux has left England for the continent.

A letter from the Island of Bourbon, published in the French papers, states that England has taken possession of Diego Suarez, a magnificent port in the island of Madagascar

It appears that the sum of £25,000 has been raised in England in behalf of the Free Church of Scotland.

The duke of Sutherland has already granted sites for a number of churches in his county, and the ministers and people of the free church are in communication with his grace in the confident expectation of obtaining more.

THE AMERICAN TRADE.—The American packets which have recently left this port afford evidence of the improving state of business with the United States. The Hottinguer, on Monday took out freight amounting to upwards of £1 500 and eleven cabin passengers: the Montezuma which sailed the same day upwards £1,200 & ten cabin passengers. By the way, these two ships are both remarkably fast sailers, are pitted against each other, and bets to some amount are dependant upon which gets home first.—The fine transient ship Cohota also sailed in company, she is known to be a very fast ship & is pitted, as regards speed against the vessels we have named In future, there will be a packet every five days.—The Europe is the first ship under the new regulation. The Roscius, which is about to sail takes out freight amounting £1, 400. Indeed the American packets have received better freights lately than for a length of time previously.—Liverpool Curon

The will and codicil of the Marquis Wellesley have just been proved by John Furont n Down Esq, the sole executor, who has a legacy of 1 000. He bequeaths to Alfred Montgomery, Esq, his private secretary, 1.000, 'in regard of his affectionate, dutiful, and zealous services,' and the residue of his property to his wife, Mary Ann, Marchioness Wellesley

THE STATE OF FRANCE.—We are not' says the Siecle, 'among those who regard the present government as seriously menaced. The precautions which it is now taking against an attempt of the Duke of Bordeaux to land on the coast of Normandy, appear to us puerile; and the exceptional laws which it keeps in reserve against the Legitimatists are, in our opinion, an untoward conception. Nevertheless, we are struck with the analogy existing between the present situation of affairs and that which preceded 1830.—At this moment, as well as then, there are sinister presentiments, vague terrors abroad, and the country appears to be waiting in expectation of some change.—M. de Chateaubriand, like Simeon in the Scripture, blesses in London the political advent of the Duke of Bordeaux; M. Lafitee deplores in Paris the destruction of our institutions, and the disappointment of his patriotic hopes; M. de Lamartine secedes from the pretended Conservatives whom he conceives to be hurrying to their ruin; M. Odillon Barrot remains in the Opposition because he feels a cold contempt for a corrupt and corrupting system.

These facts are significantly ominous. The demonstration made at Belgrave square by a few hundred squires and land owners, and in Paris by the young men of the schools, the usual advanced guard of the rest of the population, are scenes similar to those which marked the last days of the Restoration. The differences that have arisen between the municipal power and the Executive are symptoms of a still more alarming character The clergy, by its recent hostility towards the University, has inflicted a wound on the present Government in its most vital part; and endangered its very existence, by indisposing against it the youth of our Colleges. We feel also bound to say that the men to whose hands our destinies are confided, appear to be possessed with that spirit of insanity which produces catastrophes. After past experience, and knowing the antipathy of the country for apanages and donations it is an act of folly or fellony on the part of Ministers to induce a belief that they could possibly think of demanding a civil list for the eventual Regent; in their anxiety to consolidate their influence at Court they are not afraid to sacrifice the popularity of the royal family.

* * * It is equally easy to perceive from this treatment of our Government by foreign powers, that they entertain no great confidence in its stability. The most friendly of those governments, the one with whom we have a cordial understanding,' seems to have undertaken the task of mortifying us on every occasion and every where; for it will be seen by the late London journals, that even before the arrival of our Ambassador for China, it is sought to render us an object of ridicule in that country. We do not infer from all these circumstances that a revolution is imminent, and that the Government cannot be withdrawn from the ruinous course which it is pursuing—we only trust that our rulers may regard them as a salutary warning.'

THE SMUGGLING AT NEW YORK.—The recent arrests in N. York for smuggling, have created considerable excitement in that city. Gates, the mate of the Oxford, and the principal in the business, has been committed in default of bail in the sum of $10,000. Several others were held to bail—among them Laughlin and McAuley. It appears that none of the officers, except the Collector come in for a share of the spoils. The Herald says: The present seizure, being a small haul of about $60 000 only, has whetted the teeth of the Collector, and in anticipation of the presumed fact that other packets and vessels about arriving at this port have been and are engaged in the same business, he has ordered one of the revenue cutters to depart immediately for Sandy Hook, and cruise outside to board all foreign vessels approaching the coast, and receive their manifests in order to detect the fraud and confiscate the vessel if she contains goods not entered upon them. This movement on his part, however, would probably not have been made had not information been conveyed to his ears that a number of owners and importers had clubbed together and were on the eve of sending several pilot boats and other fast sailing vessels outside to board their ships as they came in and give warning, so as to either cause the manifests to be altered to accord with the goods on board, or else to cast the smuggled goods overboard, and thus prevent the vessel from being confiscated.

There is no doubt that great exposures will follow, and that vessel after vessel, as she arrives will be seized and confiscated. This will no be confined to vessels from Europe alone as the frauds upon the revenue practiced by packets between this city and Havanna, in the smuggling of cigars is almost equal to that between this and many of our European ports in other articles of merchandise.

ALLEGHANY COAL AND IRON.—Some negotiations have recently been going on between the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company and the Maryland and New York Iron and Coal Company of Alleghany county, relative to the transportation of Coal and Iron from Cumberland to Baltimore, which are likely to lead to important results We learn that on Saturday the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company signified its readiness to enter into a contract for the transportation of Coal from Cumberland to Baltimore, a distance of 188 miles, at one and one third (1⅓) cents per ton per mile—the contract to continue for five years, as proposed by the Maryland and New York Iron and Coal Company. At this rate, Coal will be delivered in Baltimore at $2.51 per ton.' We learn that an additional charge of 10 cents per ton is to be imposed when it is required to be carried through the city to the wharves for shipment. We further learn that the Rail road Company has offered to transport pig and bloom Iron, fire Bricks &c. at the same price if conveyed in open cars but if conveyed in close cars the rate is to be 2½ cents per ton per mile.—American.

THE SABBATH.—A resolution was passed at the Lord Day's Convention, held in Baltimore some weeks ago to hold a national Convention by those friendly to the Sabbath, some time during the present year. The last Wednesday in November next has been appointed as the day on which to hold said Convention, in the city of Baltimore.

LARGE STEER.—The West Chester Jeffersonian of the 23rd inst says: steer weighing upward 3 300 lbs, was exhibited in our borough on Tuesday last. We understand that he was raised by Mr. Clark, near Doe Run, in this county.—He was not very fat, but of colossal frame and could be made to weigh 4000. He was taken to Philadelphia. Where is the county that can beat old Chester in raising splendid cattle? This is a hard question to answer. We will give our editorial brethern of our sister counties some time to reply.'

A Great Revenue.—The Receipts at the New York Custom House for the month of January amounted to the very great sum of $1 876.000 or three and a half times the amount collected in the same month of last year.—New York Journal Commerce.

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