

Portrait.

ROBERT BURNS.

Burns was a favored bard. The strains of his muse were the inspirations of nature. Though combating the want of education, he rose to poetic excellence.

"Gauld' blaw the bitter biting north Upon his early humble birth, Yet cheerfully he glisted forth Amid the storm."

His numbers are fraught with simplicity—They breathe the warm language of the heart. While listening to his lays, we feel, by turns the rapture of love; the wildness of joy; the despondency of grief; the appallings of terror.

O Thou unknown, Almighty cause Of all my hope and fear! In whose dread presence, ere an hour, Perhaps I must appear.

If I have wandered in those paths Of life I ought to shun; As something, loudly, in my breast, Remonstrates I have done—

Thou know'st that Thou hast formed me With passions wild and strong; And listening to their witching voice Has often led me wrong.

Where human weakness has come short, Or fruitly slept aside, Do thou, All Good! for such thou art, In shades of darkness hide.

Where with intention I have err'd, No other plea I have, But, Thou art Good; and goodness still Beliegeth to forgive.



MISCELLANY.

FOR THE STAR.

NO. III.—PENITENTIARY.

These are a few and but a few of those considerations, which my time and experience have led me to make on the effects of capital punishment, with regard either to the criminal or society. Let us now turn the other side of the picture or dwell rather on those breaks of light in it upon which the eye of humanity can repose.

I will freely admit that on some emergencies, excesses of a temporary nature may be checked, perhaps only, by rigorous penalties; but their continuance and frequency soon produce an insensibility among the citizens, which in its turn, extends and multiplies those penalties.

A very important reason why the ends of public justice are not always secured by capital punishments, is, that although every crime includes an injury, every punishment does not to the party injured bring with it reparation; and this I beg to observe is the most defective part of our system of criminal jurisprudence; the private injury is in many, very many cases, drowned in the crime against the community.

stoned the loss. To this application, which all will admit to be reasonable, what reply does the law make? His property is forfeited by the crime, no funds remain to make you reparation for your loss; they are dismissed without being reimbursed the expense of their attendance, in consequence of their duty and the order of the law, for the King pays no costs.

Now let us throw off these trammels of English prejudice, and by advancing one step farther boldly achieve the perfection of a correct system of criminal jurisprudence. Let it be a maxim in our criminal code, that a punishment for a crime should involve in it a reparation for the injury, by which in the first instance, the crime is known.

It does seem to me that the feelings of nature alone, on this subject, would be as safe a guide, as a person could entrust himself to. It requires no employment of reason to prove that should a man's rights be violated, they ought to be redressed; and if the power of redress reside in the community, still the injury to the individual exists, and should be repaired.

FRONCHET C.

AGRICULTURAL.

Phillipsburg, Centre county, Penn. 17th May, 1815.

Mr. POULSON—In your paper of the 12th ultimo [copied into the Star April 21] burning the soil is highly recommended—and it is asserted, "that it is not owing to the ashes, but to the effects of fire, that lands are thus benefited"—and that this process "restores to a worn out soil its latent heat" which the writer appears to consider one of the most effectual means of restoring its fertility.

In the backwoods we are compelled to become practically acquainted with the effects of fire on soil—for the timber being our principal obstacle to cultivation, we are continually heaping and burning it in immense quantities. Some heaps contain a great many logs piled up very wide and high—others are less, and some are formed with brush alone.

Thus, without the aid of a moveable furnace, our soil is burned to almost every practical depth. The crops on these burnt places are for some time luxuriant, particularly where the burning has been considerable; for on such spots, wheat and small grain become so rank that they often fall to the ground—and while the Alkaline Salts produced by the ashes, continue in the soil, these burnt places are moist, while the rest of the field is dry.

I am at a loss to understand what the writer means by latent heat—he appears evidently to confound it with the sensible heat of the earth. If he means it as understood by Chymists he must first prove, before his theory be admitted, that worn out soils have parted with it.

burned, the crops on these burnt spots do not languish so soon. The cause is evident; for animal and vegetable matter are the only substances known to enrich the soil—and if this be thin, burning to any considerable depth nearly destroys the whole of these substances; but when the soil is deep and rich, a greater portion of them escapes this destructive process, and consequently such soils do not depend so much on the properties of the ashes, which like every other stimulating manure, merely excites vegetation, but in doing this, they are so far from enriching the soil that they actually impoverish it, even when strowed on ground which has not been previously injured by the savage practice of burning—for stimulating manures excite an unnatural fertility, at the expense of the animal and vegetable matter found in the soil.

It is said no ashes appear to have been used, heat alone was the agent. Surely Mr. Poulson, this same jimcrank moveable furnace, when heated to a dull red, and conducted by a wise experimenter must be a wonderful machine; for it appears not only to have burnt the soil to a foot deep, but also to have annihilated all the ashes occasioned by burning the animal and vegetable substances contained in and upon it.

The gentlemen first tells us, "the subject was but little understood until of late." And soon after this informs us "there is a quotation from Virgil's Georgicks, which shows, that this mode of fertilizing land was well known to the Ancients, and that it was not owing to the ashes, but to the effects of the fire."

I shall conclude with remarking, that if it can be proved that the stimulus arising from erecting substances can be best obtained by the destruction of the only known enriching substances themselves, the practice of burning the soil should be adopted. But not until this has been done.

[From the New Hampshire Centinel.]

SPIKY ROLLER.

A wooden Roller, armed with spikes, is of important use in husbandry. This instrument was formerly just mentioned by Mr. Ellis; but has been of late brought into use by the ingenious Mr. Randall of York, in Eng-

land; who recommends that the Roller be a cylinder of the best oak, 7 feet long, and 18 inches diameter, with a strong band of iron, on each end. Teeth or tines of iron, 7 inches long, are driven 2 inches into the wood, and 4 inches apart in the quincunx order, over the whole convex surface. The outer points must be pretty sharp; and the ends which go into the Roller should be gaged at their corners to prevent their coming out. The tines need not be quite so strong as the teeth of a harrow. The whole instrument will weigh near a ton; and a frame is to be annexed to it for the team to draw by; to which a box may be added for the driver to sit on. But beware of putting a wild or fractious team to this fearful instrument. The strength of four oxen or 3 horses will be necessary to work it.

The uses to which the spiky roller is to be applied are, in the first place to reduce a stiff, stubborn and cloddy soil, to a fine tilth for sowing. This will perform with admirable expedition, by only passing forwards and back again in the same track, reducing it even to a garden mould. And what greatly recommends it, it is used to advantage when the ground is too dry for ploughing and harrowing; by means of which there need not be any delay in preparing land for sowing.

"It is certainly an instrument," says the Complete Farmer, "that no farm, where the land is stiff, or at least liable to clod, should want. For besides the constant advantage of saving labour and bringing land to a better condition for any kind of sowing, than the plough and harrow, with any assistance of the work of hands, can make it; in favourable seasons, and under such circumstances as Mr. Randall has mentioned, the loss of the whole crop, by an otherwise unavoidable delay beyond the seed time, may be with certainty prevented."

Another important use of this instrument is to renew the fruitfulness of grass land, when it is so bound as to be almost barren, or overrun with moss and bad grasses. Mr. Randall directs, that a good Compost be prepared: And in autumn, when the ground is a little moist, that the spikes may enter the soil easily, to pass the roller up and down till the surface is well broken; then sow hay seeds and spread the compost over them to be followed with a smooth roller with a brush harrow after it. Thus a fine sward will be renewed, and good crops of the best grass will follow.

But it is obvious to remark that the surface must be pretty level, and the land free from stones, to admit of these operations.

Mr. Randall recommends passing this roller in the spring over winter grain, to loosen the surface and increase vegetation and smoothing it afterwards with a brush harrow. Though it may seem to be a bold experiment, I think it is probable it might have a better effect than harrowing, which is much approved by many, as the tines would penetrate deeper, and the plants be less exposed to extirpation than by the horizontal motion of a harrow.

P. Durkin, J. Henderson and J. Williams, HAVING taken Robert Henderson and H. Francis M. Kenna, into co-partnership, their business will in future be conducted under the firm of Durkin, Hendersons & Co.

THE ENTIRE CARGO, Of the brig GRACE, M. Martin, master, from Liverpool, now landing—consisting of 206 packages of Hardware, Cutlery and Dry Goods, comprising a general assortment, 19 boxes London Mustard, 1-4lb bottles. 200 kegs London White Lead. 20 hds. Copperass. 146 crates Earthen Ware, well assorted. 10 sets Dinner China. 2 hds. containing sets Elegant Gilt and Burnished Breakfast China, Wine and Butter Colours, with Glasses. 18 crates Glass Bottles. 200 boxes I. C. and X Tin Plates. 500 sacks Liverpool stored Salt.

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA, ORANGE COUNTY. Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, May term, 1815. James S. Smith, vs. John Cooke, executor of Peter Smith deceased, John Hilton and wife, Elisha Kirkman and wife, John Corray and wife, Ludwick Cotner and wife, and Hannah Smith, widow.

IT appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that the defendants in this cause, reside without the limits of this State—it is therefore ordered by the court, that publication be made in the Raleigh Star, for five weeks, that the said defendants appear at the next County Court to be held for Orange County, on the 4th Monday of August next, and shew cause, if any they have, why said land should not be sold.

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WINDSOR CHAIRS. GEORGE W. GHIMES respectfully informs the citizens of Raleigh and the public generally that he has taken the House on Hillsborough street, opposite to Mr. Wm. Boylan's, where he intends carrying on the Windsor Chair making, in all its various branches. He will also, carry on the Sign and Military Colour Painting, in the neatest and most elegant manner. The Chairs will be made to any fashion, and finished in a style of elegance inferior to none in the Union. Orders from the country will be thankfully received and dispatched with celerity.

N. 3. An Apprentice to the above business, of good family and about 14 or 15 years of age, will be taken.

NEW & CHEAP GOODS. THE Subscribers return their hearty thanks to their customers for past favors, and inform them and the public at large, that they have just received from New-York, an elegant assortment of FANCY GOODS, Hardware, and Cutlery; amongst which are Mill, Pitt & Cross Cut Saws, Smith's files, rasps, and screw plates; Cabinet Workman's and Sadler's materials; large Gilt framed House Glasses, an assortment of Paints, Painters and other brushes; Weston's Gentlemen's and Servants patent water proof Hats, with fine and coarse Hats of common quality. All of which they are determined to sell low for cash, and in no other way; it is therefore hoped that no person will call for credit.