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Internal Improvement.

FROM THE UNION.

Mr. Bronson.—I send you, for publication, an extract from the report of the Canal Companies of New-York, containing a description of the machines used in clearing and grubbing, and particularly in removing large trees. The information contained in the extract may be useful to your country friends, especially where roads and canals are constructing.

Machinery for removing Trees, Grubbing and Clearing.

"Machinery has hitherto been used, with most success, in the heavy business of grubbing and clearing. By means of an endless screw connected with a roller, a cable, a wheel and a crank, one man is able to bring down a tree of the largest size, without any cutting about its roots. For this purpose these means are all, except the cable, confined in a small but very strong frame of wood and iron. This frame is immovably fastened on the ground, at a distance of perhaps 100 feet from the foot of the tree, around the trunk of which, 50 or 60 feet up, one end of the cable is secured, the other being connected with the roller. When this is done, the man turns the crank, which successively moves the screw, the wheel, and the roller, on which, as the cable winds up, the tree must yield, until at length, it is precipitated by the weight of its top. The force which may be exerted in this way upon a tree, is irresistible, as with the principle of the wheel and the screw by the application of the cable at a point so far from the ground, it unites also that of the lever.

There is no grubbing so difficult and expensive, by the common methods, as that of *Ulica*, are every day multiplying. These evidences of their industry, it was desirable to discover some easier means of eradicating them. Such means have been found; but the cost of the machinery, in which they partly consist, would forbid the use of them in ordinary cases. Two strong wheels, 16 feet in diameter, are made and connected together by a round axletree, twenty inches thick and thirty feet long; between these wheels, and with its spokes inseparably framed into their axletree, another wheel is placed, 14 feet in diameter, round the rim of which a rope is several times passed; with one end fastened through the rim, and with the other end loose, but in such a condition as to produce a revolution of the wheel whenever it is pulled. This apparatus is so moved as to have the stump, on which it is intended to operate, midway between the largest wheels and nearly under the axletree; and these wheels are so braced as to remain steady. A very strong chain is hooked, one end to the body of the stump, or its principal root, and the other to the axletree. The power of horses or oxen is then applied to the loose end of the rope above mentioned, and as they draw, a rotary motion is communicated, through the smallest wheel, to the axletree, on which, as the chain hooked to the stump winds up, the stump itself is gradually disengaged from the earth in which it grew. After this disengagement is complete, the braces are taken from the large wheels, which then afford the means of removing that stump out of the way, as well as of transporting the apparatus where it may be made to bear on another. The expense of the wheels, axletree, chain and rope, is about \$250; and with them, in this way, 7 hands and a pair of horses can grub 30 to 40 large stumps in a day. A few stumps have been found to require the strength of 4 horses. The gain of power, by this machinery, is somewhat more than eight fold, with very little loss by friction.

Great obstruction to the excavation has been offered by the small roots and fibres which overspread the surface, and every where penetrate the top soil of timbered land. A plough has been invented for cutting up these, greatly superior to the one in common use. It is very narrow or thin, and consists of a piece of iron much heavier than a common plough, strongly connected; at its upper edge, with the beam, and in the rear, with the handle, both of which are of the usual construction. The front edge of the iron, where the cutting is to be done, is covered with steel, well sharpened, and shaped like the front of a coulter, except that it retreats more as it rises to the beam. The lower edge is made smooth, and gradually thickens as it extends

back towards the handle, to about four inches. Two yoke of oxen will draw this utensil through any roots not exceeding two inches in diameter; and by moving it, at short intervals, through the surface of any ground to be excavated, the small roots and fibres are so cut up as to be easily picked and harrowed out of the way of the shovel and scraper.

FOREIGN.

Inquisition.—The following document we copy from a Paris paper of Dec. 16. The editor introduces it with a column of remarks, closing with the following sentence. "It is a melancholy thing, while every other government in Europe is setting its people an example of enlightened liberality, to see the jurisprudence of Spain relapsing into worse than primeval barbarism—to behold a free people, yielding to none in qualities both personal and mental, crushed both in mind and body beneath the racks and wheels, and scourges of a Grand Inquisitor!—Alas! poor human nature!"

The following Decree has been issued under the authority of the Grand Inquisitor, who is also private Confessor to Ferdinand VII.

ROYAL DECREE.

"In the name of the Holy Trinity, &c."
Whereas it has been made known to us that various publications of a heretical, irreligious and seditious tendency are in circulation amongst the subjects of this kingdom—and whereas it is of the last importance that their progress should be arrested, and the authors, publishers and circulators duly punished, it has been determined that such measures shall be taken instantly as will most effectually accomplish this purpose.

All persons having in their possession works bearing the following titles, shall be brought before the Holy Office, and such punishment inflicted as the case shall seem to require, provided it be not less than solitary imprisonment under the authority of the Holy office for 3 months, and the payment of a fine of not less than 5 doubloons. The works prohibited are—*The History of the Inquisition*—*Reasons why the Inquisition should be abolished*—*A few Remarks upon the re-establishment of the Brotherhood of the Order of Jesus*—*The Theory of the Comtes*—*The necessity of National Representation*—*Observations on the conduct of several of the Courts of Europe*—*Patriotic Songs*—*The difficulties at present to be entered.*

The greater number of these heretical and seditious productions have been printed in foreign countries in the Spanish language, and several such individuals as have in their custody any foreign journals, newspapers, etc. containing matter against the government and institutions of Spain.

Given from Madrid, this 19th Nov. 1818.

(Signed)
FRANCISCO XAVIER MEYR CAMPILLO,
Grand Inquisitor of the Kingdom.
ANDRES FLOREZ PEREIRA, Sec'y

From Sedan we learn the following anecdote:—As the Emperor of Russia was traveling some time since from Paris to that town, in a very plain travelling carriage, he perceived a little peasant-boy get up behind it; after some time his Majesty said to him—"My boy, why do you get up behind my carriage?" to which the little fellow replied—"Because, Sir, I want to get to Sedan as quick as possible."—"And what do you want to do at Sedan, my boy?"—"I to see the Emperor Alexander Sir."—"Indeed! and pray what makes you so desirous of seeing the Emperor?"—"Because, Sir, I hear that he is a very good man, and loves the French."—"Well, my little fellow, you see him before you." The poor boy, quite confused, got off the back of the carriage, and burst into tears; the Emperor, however, reassuring him, made him retake his place, saying they should travel together. By the time that they had reached Sedan, the Emperor became so taken with his little companion, that he asked him if he would go to Russia with him; to which the latter replied "most willingly."—"then (said the benevolent Alexander) as Providence has placed you in my hands, your future fortunes shall be my care." Accordingly the fortunate young rustic left Sedan as one of the Imperial Suite.

INTERESTING STORY.

FROM THE LONDON SUNDAY MONITOR, NOV. 29.
We insert the following interesting particulars of the rescue of a boy, who was cast upon a rock near the mouth of Kingsale harbor, during the wreck of a vessel in which he was a passenger:—

The praiseworthy exertions of the Sovereign of Kingsale, assisted by several other Gentlemen to rescue the unfortunate lad, or to convey provisions to him, were ineffectual, the boats having been reluctantly obliged to retire, and leave the unfortunate lad for the second night upon this desolate rock, without food or shelter, and with all the fearful anticipation that, before morning, cold and hunger would terminate his existence. As they retreated he was seen collecting in a particular spot (a kind of cavern) a quantity of weeds with the intention of making a bed, and picking from the earth some wild vegetables with which the rock abounds, and which he was observed to eat. A fog suddenly concealed

him from further observation while thus employed.

Reluctant to suffer such an interval, as between night and morning to pass without making a new effort in behalf of the boy at eleven o'clock at night Mr. Gibbon's whale boat was the second time manned and attempted to get out, but could not succeed.—In the morning, long before day, she again started with Lieuts. Bevan and Naton, of the Royal Navy, and John Heard Isaac, Esq. and rowed towards the island, but with no hope of reaching it, as the sea and wind were still higher than on either of the two preceding mornings, and the scene altogether more terrific. The worst apprehensions were entertained for the boy, who had been then two days and two nights on the rock without any other food than the wild vegetables which it yielded. Those fears, however, were in some degree relieved when he was again seen from the boat moving about, hope derived no support from the aspect of the morning, which promised a bad and stormy day. After renewed but fruitless efforts to gain any point of the island, the whale-boat was again obliged to return to Kingsale, which it reached about twelve o'clock, after having been several times in imminent danger of swamping. Here a most interesting scene took place; the crew of an American vessel, the *Dryade*, which was undergoing some repairs in the dockyard of Messrs. Gibbon & Co. volunteered to go out in the whale-boat, and make an effort to rescue the boy. Their services were gratefully accepted, and they swore they never would return if they did not succeed. They then proceeded to make an experiment by firing a musket ball, with a rope attached to it, which was found to convey it with ease as far as they considered would be necessary, and thus provided they proceeded to sea.

In the mean time the boats from Oysterhaven got into activity and they could be seen for three hours in succession, contending with, but scarcely living in, the breakers at the base of the rock. As the situation of the boy became more hopeless, their exertions increased, and their desperate daring was more visible. It was impossible that he could have survived another night, and the knowledge of this circumstance seemed to infuse new resolution in the hearts of the men.—Two boats were for a long time seen supporting each other in their perilous undertaking, yet they were frequent in the sea, or in the surge of the breakers. The day was then far advanced, and to those who were on the coast provided with glasses, and who could see what was going forward, there appeared as little hope of relieving the boy as on the preceding day, and his fate seemed inevitable. They did not know, however, the resolution which the crews seemed to have formed, either to succeed or perish, and the interest of the scene was excited into intense agitation, when one of the men, a brave and dauntless fellow, named Jack Carty, the owner of one of the Oysterhaven boats, was observed to be tying a rope round his body, and in a few minutes to throw himself with the most fearless intrepidity into the surge, in which his boat could not live.—The sensation which prevailed cannot be described, all attention was now turned towards this heroic fellow, and the suspense was unutterably until he was seen clinging to, and occasionally climbing the cliffs, where an immense sea had left him. He succeeded in mounting beyond the reach of the sprays, and was seen most actively employed in assisting the poor boy, who was in a completely exhausted state of mind, and who could with difficulty descend to where his preserver beckoned him. At length he reached him, and Jack Carty proceeded to invest his body with the rope which he had taken from his own, and then performed the duty of ushering him to the spot where he had himself been thrown, where he consigned him to the waves.

Doubt and anxiety were again painfully excited while the men in the boat were drawing him through the breakers and seas; through which he must pass, before his safety could be said to be ensured; but both were dissipated when he was seen taken in over the gunnel, which was announced by three cheers by the men in the boats. During these few moments of agitation, the intrepid Jack Carty, who remained on the Island, was forgotten; but the boy's safety being known, all eyes were turned to the former, and he was distinctly seen sitting down with the utmost composure on the point of a rock, waiting for his own chance of being released. This, happily, was not long accomplishing; a rope was hung on the cliffs, and Jack more adroit than his predecessor on the Island, soon seized and tied it round his waist and shoulders. Notwithstanding the perils of the scene, it was almost whimsical to see this fine fellow collecting the boy's and his own clothes, which he deliberately tied up in a bundle and put under his arm, and then descending to the most favorable spot, he watched his opportunity, and threw himself into the sea, from which in the course of about five minutes, he was released by his companions, who signified his safety by loud cheers, which were returned from those parts of the land where

they could be heard. It was exactly half past two o'clock. The whale boat with the American crew, arrived almost at the moment Carty had got into his boat, but they were in sight some time before, and were seen rowing in the most undaunted manner, in the heavy sea, and almost in the surge, closing the most accessible point of the island. Upon learning the safety of the boy, they gave three cheers, and returned to Kingsale, so ardently entitled to public gratitude than if they had been the instruments of preservation.—Other boats also arrived at the moment, ignorant of what had occurred, but all determined to make a simultaneous effort.

FROM THE CALCUTTA STAR, OCT. 17.
Interesting account of Thomas Thoen.—The British forces had scarcely obtained possession of the Candian Capital, when a man presented himself at head quarters, in a Candian dress, but having the features of an European. His pale and haggard look, and his long and matted beard, exhibited a melancholy appearance. This man, whose name was Thomas Thoen, said that he had marched with the British army to Candy in 1803, and that he was among the one hundred and fifty sick who had been left in the hospital when the capital was surrendered unto the enemy. When his fellow sufferers were butchered, the barbarians having torn off the blisters which had been previously applied to his stomach in the hospital, felled him to the ground with the butt end of a musket, and left him for dead in the general heap. He recovered, however, enough to crawl to a neighbouring dram when on being discovered the next morning, he was hung up to a tree, and left to perish. The rope, happily, broke: when he was again discovered, and again hung up in the same way. But again the rope broke, when he contrived to crawl to a hut at a little distance, where he supported himself for ten days with nothing but the grass that grew near the door, and the drops of rain that fell from the roof.—At the expiration of this interval, he was accidentally discovered by an old Candian, who, after looking at him, suddenly disappeared, but soon after came again with a plate of rice, which he put down and went away.

The king who had never felt for human woe, was struck with the story which he received of Thoen's numerous extraordinary escapes. Superstition in the place of sympathy made its way into the monarch's mind. He thought that Thoen would not have been so often preserved if he had not been a peculiar favorite taken care of by one of the chiefs, and to receive every accommodation which he required.

The king allowed him a house in the town of Candy, in which he remained till the arrival of the British.—He experienced no farther ill-treatment from the jealous tyrant: but the horrid barbarities which he beheld, and which the slightest offence was sufficient to excite, kept him in a state of constant inquietude and alarm. A woman, who had been detected in merely conveying a message from him to Major Davie was instantly put to death.

The only source of solace which this unfortunate man had access to, in the dreary hours of his long confinement, was in the perusal of a detached portion of an English Bible, which contained some chapters of Jeremiah.

Rural Economy.

FROM THE UNION.

Mr. Bronson.—Supposing that the extract enclosed from the Gentleman's Magazine for Feb. 1818, p. 159 relative to Fruit trees, would be interesting to your country as well as city subscribers, I have been induced to send them for publication, more especially as the season for making the experiment is approaching. The writer of this would be gratified if any one who makes the experiment would make the result public through the medium of your paper.

The following easy, simple, and infallible method of forcing fruit trees to blossom and to bear fruit, has been translated from the German of the Rev. Geo. Charles Lewis Hemmel (Secretary to the Pomological Society of Altenburgh in Saxony) by George Henry Noehden, L. L. D. F. L. S. &c.

"In my early years I saw my father, who was fond of pomology, and skilled in that science, cutting a ring on several branches of trees, which already were in blossom, for the purpose of producing, by that means, larger fruit than usual. This was not his own invention; but, as far as I can recollect, derived from a French journal. Thirty years ago, when I was a boy, I practised this operation in imitation of him, and thereby obtained larger pears and plums. In repeating this operation of ringing the branches, which I did merely for the purpose of getting larger fruit, I observed that the branches so operated upon always bore the next year. By this reiterated appearance, I was led to the idea, that perhaps this mode of ringing the bark might be a means of compelling every unproductive branch to yield fruit. With this view, I cut rings upon a considerable number of branches, which as yet showed no blossoms; and found, by repeating the experiment, the truth of my supposition indisputably confirmed by experience. The application of this experiment, whereby upon every bough or branch fruit may artificially be produced, is very simple and easy. With a sharp knife make a cut in the bark of the branch which you mean to force to bear, and not far from the place where it is connected with the stem; or, if it be

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