

It is even wise to abstain from laws, which, however wise and good in themselves, have the semblance of inequality, which find no response in the heart of the citizen, and which will be evaded with little remorse. The wisdom of legislation is especially seen in grafting laws on conscience.

Dr. Channing.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

FROM THE NEW YORK COURIER & ENQUIRER.
We ask the attention of our readers to the following accurate and able description of Messrs. Wirt, M'Duffie, Webster, and Hayne.

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I have now heard the four great orators (par excellence) of the nation, viz. M'Duffie, Webster, Hayne, and Wirt, (I omit "the table orator," for certain reasons;) and you will, of course, ask me, which is the greatest? Ah! that it is a question which might puzzle even the incomparable tact and critical acumen of Francis Jeffrey himself. I will, however, venture to tell you what I think.

1. I wanted an experienced advocate familiar with the springs of human nature, to plead me a knotty case—eloquent, collected; vigorous in argument, and finical in diction; deeply versed in legal lore, and fond of extracting justice from its cob-webs; neat, methodical, and graceful in his elocution—treading down every point, in his bold and onward march, to the exact measure of precedents and "foreign conclusions"—capable of tracing a principle, with surprising skill, through its intricacies up to the fountain-head of Meta or the Year Books, and, conversely, believing the law, in matters of the sagaries, to be "as nice as a new laid egg"—I would choose Mr. Wirt.

2. If I were prosecuted or indicted for a libel, or oppressed by a petty tyrant, "drest in a little brief authority" under the forms of law, and wanted an advocate, who, spurning the tones of lumbering tomes of British jurisprudence, as inapplicable to the unsophisticated administration of justice in a commonwealth of democrats, would ground his argument mainly upon the constitution and statutes of the land; who, looking rather to the temper and habits of the people, and to the genius of their government than to antiquated, unpopular, and preposterous doctrines of transatlantic judges, would expound with generous zeal to the modern principles of American Liberty and Equality, in a word, one, who feeling in his very soul a burning love for "the freedom of speech and of the press, instead of leading up his argument in a bland, formal and capivating manner, would lay forth his mountain torrent, and let it down all before him by the power of his eloquence—I would choose Mr. M'Duffie.

3. I wanted a shrewd, strenuous, and effective debater—bold as a gazelle, and steady in his outpourings as an earnest storm—more expert in warding off than in inflicting blows—tracing his path with apparent ease through the boundless prairies of political economy, and occasionally planting a flower, by its side—ever on the alert, and never at a loss, holding the listening crowd hour after hour in suspense, and portraying the convictions of his mind in language concise, sonorous, forcible, and sometimes sublime—me, who, leaning rather to things as they were than to things as they are, could vindicate with surpassing energy "error of opinion" long after reason had abandoned it, and make even victory itself its plumes, I would choose Mr. Webster.

4. If I wanted a sweet-spoken pleader to smooth the sharp angles of my case, to mellify my accents—to slip off my words in lively colors and display them in regular order, now diverting the audience with sparkles of wit, and anon stirring their hearts with indignant declamation—me, artless, and confiding, steering his course like a skillful pilot amid shoals and quicksands on a treacherous coast, intent only upon the performance of his duty and reckless of danger—always ready to guard with vigilance, the citadel of freedom, and to question with rigour the encroachments of authority—I would choose Mr. Hayne.

As debaters, M'Duffie is superior

to Hayne, and Webster to Wirt—but, as a writer, Wirt is far superior to them all.

Improvements in Agriculture.—The greatest and almost exclusive obstacle to improvements in agriculture, is the prejudice existing in favor of old systems, or rather want of system. The practices learned from their forefathers are taken for granted to be the best, and any attempt at improvement upon them is treated with derision and contempt. There are many worthy exceptions to this, it is true, but if we take a view of our agricultural community as a whole, we shall find the remark not only generally true, but much more so than a casual observer would be willing to believe. Go where you will a thoughtless and careless adherence to old customs will be met with on all sides, with but an occasional exception. Here and there, a beautiful mansion, well arranged barn-yard, well tilled, luxuriant and properly fenced fields, healthy and thrifty orchards, and improved stock, will be seen like a bright star in the wilderness of ephemeral and misty meteors of the system. The most unaccountable circumstance in this state of things is the fact, that the great success that universally attends these instances of improved practice does not disperse the doubts and prejudices of the neighboring farmers; but so it is. They view the fine crops, fine cattle, and all the other fine things, results of a wise practice, as the result of accident. "O! he is a lucky farmer," say they, and give themselves no further trouble about the cause of his prosperity. Indeed his great success is itself, by the weakness of human nature, no small obstacle to his example being followed by his neighbors. It too often excites envy instead of emulation, and from this cauldron the vials of all the malevolent passions are filled, and their contents directed towards him. How happy would be the condition of farmers in this country if the reverse of this state of things existed! There is no country on earth in which the condition of the agricultural community is susceptible of being made so comfortable and happy, as in the United States. While in the most favoured country except this, the labour of farmers is taxed to almost a moiety of its earnings, it is here comparatively unvisited by the tax-gatherer. We know well that much and loud complaint is made by our farmers against the oppression of taxes; but let them look at the amount of taxes paid by the agriculturists of any other, we care not what country, and their complaints will cease. That their condition is at present not prosperous, is readily admitted, but we contend that the fault is with themselves; and nothing but the unexampled fertility of our natural soil, and the propitiousness of our climate saves them from utter ruin. How long would the farmers of England keep themselves from starvation, if they pursued the system generally practised in this country?

It is not for want of sources of information that so little improvement is made in our agriculture; but from the neglect of them. This arises from, besides a prejudice against "book farming" that has brought our agriculture even to its present state. The fact is that agriculture has derived as much benefit from the invention of printing as any other department of human industry. Through the medium of the press farmers have been informed of the objects of agricultural attention in distant parts, and thus been enabled to introduce such of them as were adapted to their soil and climate. But that every subject of agricultural attention is susceptible of improvement is easily proved; and if so, that it is the interest of farmers to make the improvements will not be denied. Let us glance at a few instances of improvement that are now considered in a state of perfection by farmers generally. Wheat in its natural state was scarcely any thing more than *cheat*. Potatoes were small contemptible roots such as we at this time would scarcely think of taking from the ground. Cabbages in a state

of nature, are little better than wild mustard; and cotton, now one of the principal staples and a source of wealth to our country, in its original state could scarcely be appropriated to the use of man. These are but few instances; the whole catalogue of agricultural products were in the same state till human wisdom and industry improved them by cultivation. If, then, such has been done, may we not fairly conclude that the process of improvement may be continued? for as it is not allowed to human nature to attain a state of perfection, so we may fairly conclude that the works of man are imperfect and incapable of improvement *ad infinitum*.

Leaf Manure—Orange Farm.—The recommendation of leaves as a manure by Mr. Meade of Virginia, merits attention. Their value has been satisfactorily ascertained at Orange Farm, in the vicinity of Baltimore. At this farm, they are collected by large rakes, large baskets and large carts. They are in the first instance, spread in great abundance as a bedding for about 100 cows, besides calves, oxen, horses and hogs. The cow stables being spacious and well ventilated, the cows are kept in them, day and night, during the whole winter, and during the cold, cool and wet weather of the other seasons. Each cow has her appropriate stall and hister. Their dung and urine fall into a trough, which extends the whole length of each stable, so that they lie not at all on their own dirt. Into these troughs, certain portions of the leaves are occasionally raked. Their entire contents are twice every day removed by wheelbarrows into the barn-yard, and thence they are taken into the fields in carts, with wheels so broad, that this all important work is never interrupted by the wet and soft condition of the ground. At this farm, it has been found that dung mixed with leaves, is spread on the fields much more easily, and what is infinitely more important, much more equally, than if mixed with straw.

By thus using leaves, all the straw and corn stalks are cut, and by a simple steam apparatus, are boiled with certain short feed and converted into food. It may appear that the cutting of so large a quantity of straw and corn stalks, must be excessively laborious. The fact, however, is, that the labour of cutting is performed by two or three dogs, and the labour of feeding the machine, may be performed by a boy or a woman. These dogs, moreover, without the attendance of any person, do pump all the water necessary for the whole stock, as there is no spring or running water on the farm. They also cut the hay which is generally fed, with a view to saving, in the troughs. They likewise perform other minor jobs, such as turning the grindstone for the sharpening of the scythes, hoes, axes and other tools.

In the hogpen, the leaves are turned to a great account. It is a long and wide building. Through the middle and its whole length, is a feed passage with troughs on each side, which, upon the plan of a chicken coop, are fixed on the outside of the pen, so that not even a foot can be put in them. On each side of the feed passage, there is a range of partitions to suit the heads of the hogs of different sizes.

It is in aid of Mr. Meade's recommendation of leaves as a manure, that reference has been made to the long continued practice at this farm, and especially as the result of this practice goes to sustain his ideas. This farm consists of 300 acres, of which about 200 acres are in cultivation. And it may not be out of place here, to state, that the amount of the sales of its products, has for a series of years, been gradually increasing, and that the sales of last year, amounted to \$9,669. 73.

From the Journal of Law.

BURKE'S OPINION OF ENGLISH COURTS OF JUSTICE.

We insert the following as a curiosity not generally known.
Extract from a Letter written by EDMUND BURKE, to French Laurence, dated 15th February, 1797.

"—But no wonder, that such villains as Owen should proceed as they do, when our Courts of Justice seem

by their proceedings, to be in league with every kind of fraud and injustice. They proceed, as if they had an intricate settlement of ten thousand a year to discuss, in an affair that might as well be decided in three weeks, as in three hundred years. They let people die, while they are looking for redress; and then all the proceedings are to begin over again, by those who may think they have an interest in them. While one suit is pending, they give knaves an opportunity of repeating their offences, and laughing at them and their justice, as well they may. I wish heartily, that if the lawyers are of opinion that they may spin out this mockery a year or two longer, I may not vex my dying hours in chicanery, but let the villainy which their maxims countenance, take its course. As to any relief in the other courts," (he had been speaking of the Court of Chancery.) "I have been in them, and would not trust the fame and fortune of any human creature to them, if I could possibly help it. I have tried their justice in two cases of my own, and in one, in which I was concerned with others in a public prosecution, where they suffered the House of Commons in effect, to have the tables turned on them, and under colour of a defendant, be criminated for a malicious prosecution. I know them of old, and am only sorry at my present departure, that I have not had an opportunity of painting them in their proper colours. —But I allow, that it is better that even this kind of justice should exist in the country, than none at all."

Signs of a spirit of Liberty in Canada.

From the following article in the Montreal Gazette, it would seem that the Canadians contemplate the probability of following the example of the people of the United States, in separating themselves from the mother country. "A change has taken place in the Representative of his Majesty, and a new Legislature has been convoked to transact the business of the country. It is most sincerely to be hoped, that by their united exertions an end may be put to all party differences, and that an adjustment of all points of dispute may be obtained to the satisfaction of all parties. The province is rapidly advancing in wealth—her commerce is extending—and her population increasing. With a good soil and a healthy climate—with great capabilities and valuable internal resources, her future destiny is easily seen, and the fostering hand of an enlightened Legislature will tend much to advance the period, when she will enter into comparison with the older countries of Europe, and take her place among the nations of the world."

POLITICAL.

There are certain editors who profess to advocate the cause of free trade, but who, through carelessness, or want of reflection, admit into their columns, without a single word of comment, articles extracted from other papers, the tendency of which, is to promote the views of the opposite party. This conduct reminds one of the fable of the Stag and the Peasant.—When that noble animal sought protection from the pursuit of the huntsman, it was promised by the peasant; but, whilst the latter denied to the pursuers that he had seen the stag pass that way, he pointed with his finger to the spot where the unfortunate victim was concealed. The efforts of the tariff party to fasten the restrictive system upon the country, are unceasing.—Every means is resorted to which can possibly operate upon the public mind to render it palatable, and to clothe it with the charms which fallacy alone can confer, and it therefore calls for a corresponding vigilance on the part of the friends of free trade, to counteract the efforts which are thus constantly making. It is, indeed, a duty which they owe to the cause of truth and to the country, not to be instrumental, in the slightest degree, in giving countenance to any publication which favors the policy which they know to be unsound and injurious to the public interests; but, if to please any portion of their subscribers, they feel themselves bound to administer poison to the community, let the bane be always accompanied by an antidote. There is no danger from error when truth is

allowed to travel by its side; and we would not hesitate to publish the strongest conceits which have ever been put forth by the school of political arithmeticians, if we were allowed, as we happily are in this Journal, to accompany them by the refutations of which we know they are all susceptible.

The present day may very appropriately be called "a time to try men's souls." This country has never been so near a political vortex as at this moment. If the freedom of industry, in its most full and unlimited extent, is not now rescued from the hands of those who have, for some years, trampled it under foot, what possibility will there be for its redemption under the CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT, which is now erecting with all the speed of which so hideous and gigantic a structure admits, under the forms of a limited Constitution? Is not this a question calculated to excite the zeal, and arouse the patriotic spirit of every man in the land, who believes that the liberty of the hand is one of the most precious birth-rights of a nation descended from freemen? Can there be a political economist even amongst those whose literary pursuits exempt them from the turmoil and bustle of the political world, who can stand by and see the vital interests of a whole nation forever sacrificed, to gratify the avarice or the political ambition of those who can only rise to wealth and power upon their country's ruin? Is there any editor, whose mind is imbued with the truths of economical science, and who is, of course, convinced that the prosperity and true liberty of this whole people, depend upon the unimpeded right of pursuing the business or occupation for which their mental and physical powers best qualify them, who is prepared to stand neutral in a contest involving the dearest rights of the present age, and the best hopes of posterity? Unfortunately, we fear there are too many such, and sorry are we to believe it. The day, however, will come, when the timid and lukewarm will in vain endeavor to mitigate the fury of the storm, which they could now avert by their interference. The day will come, when the power of the press, north of the Potomac, which is wielded now in the cause of truth and justice, of Liberty, the Constitution, and the Union, would be impotent, will be as feeble as the idle wind which passes by unheeded. The responsibility, then, resting upon the conductors of the press, who conscientiously believe in the truth of the free trade doctrines, is of no ordinary magnitude. They have a high duty to perform, one which is greatly paramount to the duty they owe to any party or sect of politicians, or body of monopolists. They owe a duty to the country, and one which they are, at this crisis, solemnly called upon to perform. Can they look at the proceedings of the Legislatures of South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, and to the style and tone of the Messages of the Governors of those States, and of Virginia, and fancy that such a devotion to the cause of liberty, as has been by them proclaimed, is idle vapor? Can they look at the style and temper of the great mass of the papers published south of the Potomac, and read the opinion candidly expressed, even by some of the most moderate politicians, that, upon the abandonment of the restrictive system, will, in a great measure, depend the salvation of the Union, and not see that danger is at hand? It is impossible. Why, then, will they not step forward, and assist in averting the calamity, for calamity it will be, whether the issue be disunion or consolidation? Between those two awful results, we see no middle ground, except in the abandonment of the restrictive system. They are the Scylla and Charybdis between which our ship of state has to steer, and to avoid them both requires nothing but that those who sail in the ship, should have a compass to direct their course.—This they cannot have but through the instrumentality of the press. If the press, therefore, do not assist, upon the press lies the weight of the responsibility of a shipwreck.