

There is Something Rotten in Denmark.

Our readers have no doubt been as much astonished as ourselves, at the exhibition of such wonderful love for the "inevitable nigger," as manifested by the radicals in and out of Congress. One would suppose, from reading their speeches and resolutions, that the negro was the dominant race on this continent; that the government of right belongs to him, and that he has been defrauded of his birthright by white interlopers. They seem to think that all the virtues, natural or acquired, that should dignify human nature, find their proper lodgment beneath the black skin of the Ethiopian; that high-toned morality, chivalric honor, and delicate refinement, are only to be looked for among those who can neither read nor write; who have no regard for the sacred obligation of the marriage tie, or the solemnity of an oath, but whose sole claim to notice is the color of their skin. We have been at a loss to understand, and unable to account for, this marvellous infatuation. It cannot be that the whites at the North are really willing to admit the equality of the races; that they are really in earnest, when they say that the negro is as good as a white man. Do they fully comprehend the meaning of that expression, so frequently and flippantly used, "as good as a white man?" In the name of heaven, in what single respect is there the faintest shadow of an approach to equality? We will not insult the intelligence of our readers by argument on this point, but we may be allowed to offer some reflections upon what we think would be the natural results of such an equality. And first, the right of suffrage. Will any one pretend to say, that the negro, as a class, is capable of appreciating that inestimable privilege of freemen? Is he morally fit to be trusted with it? Do we not know that, as a class, they are totally devoid of moral principle, and can be swayed at will by the arts of the designing and the unprincipled? Perhaps it is this very fact—the peculiarity of their organization—which may account for the determined effort of the radicals to give them the elective franchise. They want their votes for their party, and it may be their wish or intention, to neutralize a portion of the foreign vote by theirs. The Dutch and Germans, in the Northern and Northwestern States, generally vote the republican ticket, under the lead of Carl Schurz, but the Irish almost invariably vote with the democrats. And they are a power which is generally felt in the election.—To overcome this power, is doubtless the wish of the dominant party, and the means by which they expect to do it, is, as usual, the "inevitable nigger." Hence their great desire to invest him with the rights of a freeman, to make him a power in the State. They argue that as the negro is indebted to them for his freedom, ordinary gratitude would induce him to follow their instructions and be guided by their counsels. He probably might be governed by them, but not from any feelings of gratitude, for in our humble judgment no people that ever breathed, either before or since the deluge, ever exhibited such a total want of the above-mentioned virtue, as this same negro race. They do not know the meaning of the words gratitude and affection.

It remains to be seen whether our ideas are correct in regard to the motive which prompts the action of the radicals, as to universal suffrage.—If correct, then, the "milk in the cocoanut" is readily accounted for, and it is not so much the love for the negro as the accomplishment of their own party purposes, the maintenance of the republican party in favor for all time to come. If the right of suffrage is granted, it follows that the right to testify in our courts must also be allowed, and as a natural consequence, there must be no social distinctions, for it is not the cardinal principle of the party in power that all men are equal, and that "the negro is as good as a white man." Having given this declaration to the world, with what show of consistency can they close their doors to any application for admittance by members of that "heroic race," as they delight to call them? Can any one conceive of a greater degradation than the enforced commingling of the two races on terms of social equality? and are there any, North of the Potomac, who, in reality, desire or would consent to such an amalgamation? We cannot believe it; the bare idea is too abhorrent and revolting to any civilized community. Every instinct of our nature revolts from such obscene alliance. We will have none of it; better be

"Where the extinguished Spartans still are free, In their proud charnel of Thermopylae," than consent to such a hideous degradation. In our day and generation it can never be; and while we are willing to concede to them certain privileges, yet "so far may they go, and no farther."—The hand of God has stamped the distinction between the races, mentally, morally and physically, in language too plain to be misunderstood. Art cannot improve nature,—the leopard cannot change his spots, the Ethiopian his skin, or a negro become the equal of a white man.

Mr. Jones' Report. In publishing the report of the joint select committee on Banks and Banking, submitted a few days since by Mr. Jones, of Columbus, in the Senate, we must, with due deference to the committee, enter our protest against doctrines so demoralizing in their tendency and so completely subversive of our rights. We cannot assent to the proposition that our country has passed under the centralized dominion of a conqueror. The Constitution is still the supreme law of the United States and the States, and with President Johnson, we hold that the Union will be as effectually destroyed by the destruction as by the secession of a State. We are firmly laying the foundation of monarchy, so much desired by some, if the President in the exercise of his sovereign power can, with a conqueror's might, destroy the legal existence of corporations and all the muniments of title throughout the land. It is much to be regretted that such a document should have the sanction of any Southern; it certainly cannot have the approval of any believer of democratic institutions or a constitutional union.

Another time we will show the fallacy of its objectionable propositions, and how illusory are the hopes of gain to the State to be derived from their adoption.

Negro Testimony. A letter from Gov. Graham, dated Hillsboro, Feb. 6th, addressed to Messrs. J. Holderly and J. W. Burton, Commissioners from the county of Caswell, expressing his opinion upon the question whether negroes shall be allowed to testify before Courts of Justice, appears in this morning's Journal. This letter coming from the source it does, will receive, as it deserves, the thoughtful consideration of all reflecting minds.

Now and Then. When Mr. Bates, as Attorney General of the United States, delivered an opinion sustaining the constitutionality of the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*, the Black Republican partisans were loud in their paragonies and insisted in their tributes to his sagacity as a constitutional lawyer, and his profundity as a statesman.

Are they equally pleased with his recent opinion on the test-oath, which contains among other expressions the subjoined: "Test oaths, odious, oppressive and cowardly always, are always the result of desperate parties who (as violent as finally can make them) seize upon this method to weaken their adversaries, whom they are afraid to meet in fair and open controversy. It was of frequent occurrence during the French Revolution; and of its experience in that period the philosophic historian writes: 'This formality of an oath, so frequently employed by parties, never could be considered as a guarantee; it has never been anything but an annoyance of the conquerors, who have taken delight in forcing the conquered to perjure themselves.'"

The Council of Generals. We learn from the Richmond *Examiner*, that the Council of Generals recently held in Washington City, has finished the business for which it assembled. The report of their proceedings will be submitted to Congress in a day or two.

It is said they will make the following recommendations in regard to the Senate army bill: They approve the number of men for which the bill provides and the proportion to be taken from each arm of the service. They also recommend that, in addition to the Major and Brigadier Generals now in the regular army, five Major Generals, ten Brigadiers, and a number of Adjutant Generals be appointed from the volunteer forces, these offices to cease with the death or resignation of their incumbent. The only recommendation of importance in regard to the militia bill is that the commander of the army shall have power to order inspections. They also report in favor of taking the Superintendent of West Point from the army at large, instead of confining the appointment to the corps of engineers.

Admiral Semmes. The New York *News* thus speaks of the letter addressed on the 15th of January, by Admiral Semmes to the President.

Frank, fearless and able as is this letter in all its parts, it is the concluding paragraph which impresses us most deeply, and which will linger longest in the thoughts of most men. Right bravely and worthily does the proud old Admiral, speaking as an American citizen to the Chief Magistrate of an American Republic say: "We live in times of high party excitement, when men are torn by conflicting passions, and are torn to shreds by the passions of the moment, and after death comes history. In the future, Mr. President, when America shall have a history, my record and that of the gallant Southern people will be engraved upon the pages of your history, and the pages of which you are now acting; and the prayer of this petition is, that you will not permit the honor of the American name to be tarnished by a perjury on your pages. In this paper I have stood strictly upon legal defenses; but should the justice be done to me, and the rectitude of my conduct throughout a checked and eventful career, when the commerce of half a world was at my mercy, and when the passions of men, North and South, were tossed into a whirlwind by the current events of the most bloody and terrific war that the human race had ever seen, I shall hope to justify and defend myself against any and all charges affecting the honor and reputation of a man and a soldier. Whatever else may be said of me, I have at least, brought no discredit upon the American name and character."

WE FIND upon our table the Richmond *Medical Journal* for February, being No. 2 of Vol. 1. We don't know that we could do Drs. Gaillard & McChesney better service than to allow them to introduce themselves to the public in their own way.

This Journal is published as a Monthly octavo of eighty pages. A respectable number of the best writers in this country have promised their support, an ostentatious display of talent, and a liberal contribution to pay, at the highest rates, for articles, essays, correspondence and reviews of recent works. It is hoped that the original department of the Journal will respect and confidence.

The pages of the Journal will be devoted to original articles, and to the publication of correspondence, a Department of Medicine and Surgery during the late war, an Eclectic department, (which will be a chief feature of the Journal,) a record of cases, and a department of clinical lectures; reviews and bibliographical notices, medical news, editorials, miscellaneous matter, etc.

With a view to the interests of the Editors will endeavor to make this Journal acceptable to its supporters.

The Tax on Cotton. The New York *News* of the 2d inst., contains what we think quite a sensible editorial on the subject of levying a tax of five cents per pound on all cotton raised in the South. We say South—for cotton is not raised elsewhere on this continent. The following is the article alluded to. We would commend it to the attention of our members in Congress, but we have not that privilege. We have no representation in that body.

(From the New York *News*.) The Tax on Cotton. The Commissioners appointed by the Congress of last year to consider the question of taxation, have included among their recommendations on the subject, that of a tax of five cents per pound on raw cotton. The gentlemen who have made that report appear to have been actuated by a bitter spirit of hostility to the prosperity of the South; and to have shown it, in the teeth of the principle that taxation has an economical limit. That cotton, the great source of Southern wealth, should have been selected for so enormous a tax, while wheat, corn, and the immense basis of taxation made up of the staples of the North, go free of excise, is a clear indication of the conclusion that the Commissioners were actuated by feelings of bitter sectionalism. That the tax proposed should be so enormous as twelve per cent. on one special branch of our history, the government tax on the gross value of the production—leads to the conclusion which we have stated above, that the gentlemen are ignorant of the fact that industry cannot carry an indefinite load of taxation. Statesmanship would have suggested to the tax commission inquiry, that public policy should foster those interests, which are placed under exceptional suffering. The cotton culture of the South is, in this moment, pining for want of capital; and languishes at less than half its usual energy, for want of seed, tools, buildings, stock. And besides these heavy disbursements, it is bowed down by political uncertainties, and almost crushed by the derangement of its system of labor. With its fences gone, its fields overgrown with weeds, social necessities leave it but doubtful hopes, save in the importation of white labor; and to meet a condition of things so discouraging, its pockets are empty! And at this point the fostering hand of the Federal Government, is told to come in to mulct it of an eighth of the gross results of its industry; and they place an effectual barrier between it and the last hope of its restoration. A debate arose in the Senate, which would sustain such a policy, can certainly claim no longer to be paternal; but, on the contrary, proves itself destructive of the best interests of its citizens. If any great branch of the industry of this country should be dealt with at this moment tenderly, mercifully, by the central authorities, it is that of the golden yield which has so long balanced our accounts with Europe—cotton. Five cents per pound on raw cotton! Ordinarily the market price of that staple has been but about ten cents! And when in those days of hard currency, and cheap food and low tariffs, and non-legal taxation, it fell below ten cents, the production

fell off. It had ceased to be profitable. Corn or hogs took its place. Does not the fact that the Commissioners, whose report we object to here, that there is a net profit at which cotton industry may still cease to pay, and at which it will, therefore, decline or disappear? That commodity is, it is true, quoted in the market at from fifty to fifty cents per pound; and that, we grant, continues to carry some such price for a greater or less length of time to come. But flour, pork, beef, are double now what they were before the war; coffee, sugar, clothing, and other elements entering into the net cost of the article, are doubled. Imperial authority, these happy days, trouble. So far as these items of its cost enable us to judge, cotton cannot be held to be more than *unprofitably profitable* now at the rate of about twenty-five cents per pound. But special circumstances, of its kind, are present, suggest that to reach its ordinary profitableness, the price of the staple must be set still higher.

The capital which the planter had sunk formerly in its growth cost him nothing, whereas now that which he employs burdens him with an enormous interest, which amounts to an over twenty per cent. per pound; and, in the present, suggest that to reach its ordinary profitableness, the price of the staple must be set still higher.

But, assuming the profit on cotton culture at its present rates to be even twenty cents on the pound, the proposed tax is actually over twenty per cent. on the net income. A rate of taxation so high has never yet, in the experience of public financing, been borne by any industry in any country.

The general objection to the exceptional policy of taxes upon exports, applied to our cotton, is that it is a protection to the industry of the same character in foreign countries, the five cents proposed to be levied on our cotton is, neither more nor less, than a protective duty in France and England in favor of the cultivation of that staple in Algeria, Egypt, Brazil and India. It leaves *about* five cents additional profit on the labor of the *negro* who toils in his cotton field in the East. Now, there is nothing better known among gentlemen who understand the subject, than the climate and the soil are not the reasons which have given American growers control of the market, so much as their cheapness.

All the companies in England occur in the statement that staples equal to the best American can be grown in many parts of the globe, but that their production in these parts cannot be maintained at the American prices. The world's depression of our fibers during the war, led to a large expansion of the culture in foreign countries; but that result was checked by the constant apprehension that peace would, at any moment, throw us again into the competition. The export tax, which it virtually is, of five cents per pound, will, during its continuance, in the present, suggest that to reach its ordinary profitableness, the price of the staple must be set still higher.

The Proposed Union of Churches. The overtures for a union between the Anglican and Greek Churches, and between these and the Church of Rome, though earnestly pressed by the High Church of the Anglican Establishment, are, as might be expected, meeting with violent opposition from the Evangelical party and their outside allies—the Dissenters. The question is no longer restricted to religious controversialists, but is come to be handled with freedom by the secular press.

The Manchester *Guardian* of the 10th, we observe, is out in an editorial leader in opposition. The editor warns Dr. Pusey and his Oxford friends "they may go too far," and stir up even within the bosom of the Establishment another reformation before they are aware of it. The *Guardian* asks: "Can Dr. Pusey be so sanguine as to imagine that in the prospect of a union with the Anglican Church, the Pope would surrender the spiritual authority which he actually exercises over the Roman communion in this country, or does he flatter himself that Parliament will abolish the coronation oath and the coronation ceremony? For one of the alternatives is an indispensable preliminary to a union with the churches. Either the English Romanists, with the sanction of the Pope, must come within the pale of the English Establishment, recognized by the British as a sister Church, or the Anglican Church must be severed from the Royal supremacy, must pass under submission to the see of Rome. Can Dr. Pusey really think for a moment that either of these alternatives is within the bounds of possibility? By process of casuistry, the people may, we suppose, succeed in convincing themselves that there is no absolutely irreconcilable divergence between the canons of Trent and the Thirty-nine Articles. With that part of the controversy we have nothing to do. But how do the Unionists propose to get over our acts of Parliament? The Sovereign of England swears to support the Protestant reformed religion as established by law, and every clergyman of the Church acknowledges the supremacy on oath and renounces the spiritual authority of any foreign potentate whatever. The *Patent* of the Anglican Church, as if speaking for the High Church branch of the Episcopals in the United States, is earnestly advocating measures looking to union, especially with the Greek Communion. The editor says:

"So far as terms of Communion are concerned, we have no objection to the Oriental churches; it is the way of consecration of their part. The only question is as to what they shall demand of us on their part. And in this view, the Rev. Dr. Craik, the President of our House of Clerical and Lay Deputies in General Convocation, in a book just issued, has given a very full and explicit answer. It is a safe saying that the New Birth, entirely coincides with the tradition that we ought to give up the *Filioque* if that that shall be found the sole obstacle in the way of intercommunion."

Meanwhile, the Episcopal Recorder, of Philadelphia, is organ of the Latinizing party, a shot at what it calls Romanizing tendencies in a certain community of clerical gentlemen who have just published a volume of devotions called "The Book of Hours." It contains "offices for the seven canonical hours, litanies and other devotions." The Recorder asks: "Have we then a community of monks of our communion? If we have, where is it? Do any of our Bishops know of its existence and sanction it? \* \* \* We regard the publication as a Jesuit device, to put into the hands of our Romanizing ritualists a formula of devotion which shall foster and feed the taste for Liturgies and Litanies which are the productions of a secondary inspiration, and which cannot be satisfied with our confessedly uninspired Book of Common Prayer."

Tr CURED HIM.—The following story is told of the Rev. Dr. Morse: At an association dinner a debate arose on the subject of the red in bringing up children. The doctor took the affirmative, and the chief opponent was a young minister, whose reputation for veracity was not high. He maintained that parents often do harm to their children by unjust punishment, from not knowing the facts of the case. "Why, then," he said, "the only time my father whipped me was for telling the truth." "Well," retorted the Doctor, "it cured you of it, didn't it?"

The Sack of Bagdad. Demolition, Pillage and Outlawry.

The Matamoros Ranchero, of the 9th, thus fastens the responsibility of a war between Maximilian and the United States on the latter country: "The Federal commander, upon being apprized of the unholy and heinous pillage of Bagdad by his own soldiers, left Brownsville for that place. Two days after the pillaging commenced, he crossed into Bagdad a force of three hundred men, with the object, we are told, of protecting the lives of the non-combatant population. But, remarkable as is the fact, that he should have been so ordered, he recognized the authority of a pack of highway robbers, who received the place from his soldiers, and who went into it from the Texas side. Thus he recognizes the right of his soldiers to take and sack a town of the Mexican Empire and to sack a town and commands the peace, but instead of putting the place in the hands of those from whom his soldiers took it, he virtually turns it over to Liberal robbers and makes himself and his soldiers a law to the Mexican Empire."

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[From the Richmond Medical Journal.] Cholera.

Cholera, once more, attracts the attention, and excites fear of the civilized world. The approach of a disease so fatal should arouse all the talent and energy of our profession, to prevent its access, if possible, and if not to moderate its extension and mitigate its severity, when it does make its appearance.

My present object will be, not to attempt a systematic treatise. On the subject, but to present such salient points, and discuss such general principles, as will lead to practical results. The history of cholera corresponds very closely with that of most other great epidemics. Like the comet, it has its cycle, and encircles the earth, every sixteen or eighteen years. Like some monstrous bird of prey, it nestles for years about the mouths of the Ganges, pluming its wings, and testing their strength, by occasional flights, until at last, conscious of power, it wings its course over continents and oceans, when its circuit completed, it returned to its nest, there to rest for a series of years, and again prepare for its mission of Death. Traversing great rivers, overtopping the highest mountains, and crossing the widest oceans, it everywhere defied and scorned the feeble efforts of man to stay its progress. In every region of country traversed by the shadow of its wings, it left the fatal marks of its passage, and wherever, enticed by the abundance of food, prepared for its sustenance, it tarried for a season, a carnival of death was speedily inaugurated.— Whether assisted by favorable, or opposed by adverse winds, whether resting in sunshine or breasting the storm, its course was still onward; breaking through all barriers and penetrating every stronghold, designed by the ingenuity of man, for its exclusion.

In considering the history of such a disease, the first inquiry which presents itself, is, what are the causes, first, What is its cause? and second, How is this cause propagated? In answer to the first question, various hypotheses have been offered, but no one of them is rendered even probable, much less certain by any weight of argument or demonstration. These are all alike unsatisfactory; and it is to be feared that the mystery of its essential cause can never be revealed. Some have attributed it to animalcules, others to different species of fungi, whilst others have imagined it to be caused by the absence of ozone from the atmosphere. These different hypotheses are mentioned, not for the purpose of refuting any one of them, but merely as an illustration of the obscurity which attends the subject. Whilst the essence of the poison may never be determined, we can yet reach a reasonable conclusion as to its mode of propagation, by carefully analyzing the facts connected with its history.

And first, is cholera a contagious disease? This question has divided the profession, and very properly elicited many facts, and much able discussion on both sides, as upon its determination depend many points of the first practical importance. The propagation of animal poisons, universally acknowledged to be contagious, seem to be governed by different laws, in different diseases. In gonorrhoea actual and intimate contact, with pure local development, is the essential condition, which constitutes the general rule. In syphilis and glanders, intimate contact, followed by absorption of the poison, and its reproduction within the blood, giving rise to local manifestations of constitutional disease, furnish some of the laws which govern their propagation. In typhoid fever, cholera, and in the work of pillage. Only a few—very few.

We were told that goods taken at Bagdad continued to arrive in Brownsville, and are already affecting that market. The number killed and wounded at Bagdad, is so great, that it is difficult to estimate, and more reliable it would not be worth while to make an estimate. General Sherman on the Condition of the South. In response to a resolution of the Senate, the President, on Friday last, transmitted to that body a letter of General Sherman, giving a report of the condition of things in the Southwest, and more particularly in Arkansas, his observations having been taken during a recent tour in that section.—The General says: "The negroes in Arkansas can all find profitable and lucrative employment, and are protected in all their rights and property by the civil authorities. I met no one, citizen or soldier, who questioned the freedom of the negro, as well as the fact, as asserted in Arkansas as in Ohio. Governor Murphy told me that negroes could acquire title to real estate, or any kind of property, and that the courts, both Federal and State, could and would protect them.

There was an universal expression of confidence in the good faith of the civil authorities, except on the part of some former rebels, who thought the present test oath prescribed for them was too stringent and severe. A convention of them, convened I know not how, was in session at Little Rock when I was there. A committee from it waited on me, and they were invited to attend. We agreed to go, provided no debate or proceedings were in Congress during our visit.—On our entrance to the hall, the president addressed us in language as loyal and earnest as possible, and asked our advice. I responded, and gave them the following reply, amounting substantially as follows: The political and military conclusion of hostilities had progressed, and were still progressing, as fast as they could expect; that I doubted if any action on their part, as a convention of the State, would be regarded as a step towards the settlement of the respective capacities of facts from their individual capacities, in the nature of a petition to General Reynolds, to President Johnson, or the national Congress, would doubtless receive every possible consideration; at the same time I called their attention to the fact, that the more they would do, the better it would be for them to give their personal attention each to their own affairs, rather than both themselves with general matters of politics.

After leaving Little Rock I learned that the convention had adjourned, so that I hoping they would remain as quiet as before. Indeed, so far as my observation goes, there is perfect satisfaction felt by all classes of the people, except on the part of a very few who are looking to future combinations involving the local and unimportant State interests. I found, everywhere in the South, a large number of our officers and soldiers looking out for land and employment, and I doubt not that during the next year all the land which is cleared will be under cultivation, a large part of it under the direction of energetic young men, and that all frames of business in Arkansas will be stimulated by the presence of a class of men which has not heretofore existed in that State. Single individuals now travel unarmed from one part of the State to another, and General Reynolds is rarely called upon to afford military protection to any one, white or black. I am, with respect, your obedient servant. W. T. SHERMAN, Major General Commanding.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE SMALL-POX.—In the *Mobile (Ala.) Tribune*, of a recent date, Dr. E. P. Gaines gives some interesting results of observations made chiefly in Europe. These, he says, "go to show that, though there are some persons with whom the preventive effects of vaccination take a long time to prevail, and that they are re-vaccinated whenever the disease prevails in their neighborhood. If the system retains the effects of a prior vaccination, a new one will not take, if it does take a second or third time, it is proof that the system was liable to small-pox in some form. Second, that the disease is not so contagious as is about forty thousand soldiers, who, after being re-vaccinated, the number on which it had effected a second time was about eighteen per cent., and of Danish soldiers, more than one-half took a second time. Individual cases have been known in which re-vaccination at periods as early as eight months and three years after the first operation took perfectly. Some persons, however, can never be re-vaccinated. It is believed that vaccination once perfectly performed has the effect of life. And it is contended that even small-pox has commenced vaccination will modify the disease. Second attacks of small-pox are referred to, but the mortality in such cases does not appear to have been as great as in original attacks."

These are some of the prominent and uniform laws, known to regulate the propagation of this form of poisons. It remains to discuss the question, whether, under these rules, will stand the test of a contagious disease. As was before stated, cholera lingered, for a number of years, about the mouths of the Ganges, before it asserted its empire over the world. During these years, the ordinary channels of trade were unrestricted, and the same facilities existed for propagating the disease by contagion, that were found at a subsequent period, and yet it maintained its endemic character. Having once thrown off this character, it did not spread gradually in every direction, but taking a northwesterly course, it affected thousands of persons, almost at the same time, in every city and country through which it passed. In this general course it continued to go until it encircled the whole earth. Some peculiarity in the atmosphere seemed to be necessary for its propagation, and wherever this existing continuously, there was to be found its steady line of march. But it has been stated, as an argument in favor of contagion, that the disease follows closely in line of communication between different countries, and between different points of the same country.—This fact, which is admitted to be true, proves nothing in favor of contagion; it only adds color to the view of its propagation through an atmosphere, per se. Until the introduction of railroads, the great lines of communication were the

rivers, navigated by steamboats, and the oceans and inland seas navigated by vessels of large size. To say nothing of such rivers passing through the richest and most densely populated portion of each country, thus generating an impure state of atmosphere generally, these large vessels are ordinarily the receptacles of dirt, and the abodes of a crowded and filthy population. Nothing is more natural than that a disease, propagated by atmospheric infection, should be found to travel along such channels.

Top-Dressing Meadows.

We need more experiments in top-dressing grass lands. We must, however, remark at the outset, that scattering straw in bunches, manure in lumps, and compost in clods, is not top-dressing, or at least not deserving of the name. The efficacy of spreading manure finely and evenly upon the surface is well known. If done early in autumn it is found to be more efficient than when performed at the beginning or during winter; and it is more useful in winter than when it may fall spring.—There is no more than one reason for this. The reason is the protection afforded to the soil, from cold and sweeping winds by the covering spread above the roots. When the top-dressing is scattered early in autumn the protection and enriching together, and the tendency of the top-dressing to preserve moisture on the surface causes immediately a rank growth of green grass; and this rank, green growth will often render the dressed portion conspicuous from the rest when seen a long distance. This increased growth not only renders the plants stronger at the root, but gives them an additional covering against the cold of winter.

So far, but little has been done in the way of top-dressing with other substances than fertilizers. A few experiments have, however, proved that the mere mulching—the covering of the surface for the purpose of protection, and giving depth and strength to the roots, has accomplished important results. A. B. Dickinson's mode of spreading a finely pulverized stratum of earth over his meadows, by irrigating with muddy water, is well known—by which he has obtained three tons of hay almost upwards per acre from the large meadows. A striking experiment is mentioned in the *Country Gentleman*, by a correspondent at Pepperell, Mass. He spread at the rate of about a thousand bushels of muck per acre, which had been somewhat enriched by the manure of swine. This would form a coating less than half an inch thick, if spread perfectly evenly. The next season he obtained two crops of grass in the same season, both amounting to five tons per acre. The experiments which we need in relation to this subject are the application of various substances to the surface of meadows, in order to observe the various results. The best way to do this is to give fine pulverization—for if thrown down in lumps or heaps, so as to be several inches thick in one place and entirely absent in another, they cannot accomplish a great deal of good. Sawdust, which is abundant in some places, may be spread with great facility, but its effect and porous nature would probably render it less valuable than an equal coating of strong soil. It is, however, well worthy of experiment. Fine peat or muck, dry enough to form into powder, might be spread with nearly as much facility, and would doubtless prove most efficacious. The best way to do this is to give fine pulverization—for if thrown down in lumps or heaps, so as to be several inches thick in one place and entirely absent in another, they cannot accomplish a great deal of good. 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