MISCELLANEOUS.

THE LOST FALCON.

A friend of Colonel Bonham—the late Colonel Johnson of the Rifle Brigade—was ordered to Canada with his battalion, in which he was then a captain; and being very fond of falconry, to which he had devoted much time and expense, he took with him two of his favourite peregrines as his companions across the Atlantic. It was his constant habit during the voyage to allow them to fly every day, after feeding them up, that they might not be induced to rake off after a passing sea-gull, or wander out of sight of the vessel. Sometimes their rambles were very wide and protracted; at others, they would ascend to such a height as to be almost lost to view of the passengers, who soon found them an effectual means of relieving the tedium of a long sea-voyage, and naturally took a lively interest in their welfare; but as they were in the habit of returning regularly to the ship, no uneasiness was felt during their occasional absence. At last, one evening, after a longer flight than usual, one of the falcons returned alone; the prime favourite, was missing. Day after day passed away, and however much he may have continued to regret his loss, Captain Johnson had at length fully made up his mind, that it was irretrievable, and that he should never see her again. Soon after the arrival of the regiment in America, on casting his eyes over a Halifax sewspaper, he was struck by a paragraph announcing that the captain of an American schooner had at that moment in his possession a fine hawk, which had suddenly made its appearance on board his ship during his late passage from Liverpool. The idea at once occurred to Captain Johnson that this could be no other than his much prized falcon; so, having obtained immediate leave of absence, he set out for Halifax, a journey of some days. On arriving there, he lost no time in waiting on the commander of the schooner, announcing the object of his journey, and requesting that he might be allowed to see the bird; but Jonathan had no idea of relinquishing his prize so easily, and stoutly refused to admit of the interview 'guessing' that it was very well for an Englisher to lay claim to another man's property, but 'calculating' that it was a 'tarnation sight' harder for him to get possession of it; and concluding by asserting in qualified terms his entire disbelief in the whole story. Captain Johnson's object, however, being rather to recover his falcon than to pick a quarrel with the truculent Yankee, he had fortunately sufficient self-command to curb his indignation, and proposed, that his claim to the ownership of the bird should be at once put to the test by an experiment, which several Americans who were present admitted to be perfectly reasonable, and in which their countryman was at last persuaded to acquiesce. It was this: Captain Johnson was to be admitted to an interview with the hawk—which, by the way, had as yet shewn no partiality for any person since her arrival in the New World, but, on the contrary, had rather repelled all attempts at familiarity—and if at this meeting, she should not only exhibit such unequivocal signs of attachment and recognition as should induce the majority of the bystanders to believe that he really was her original master, but especially if she should play with the buttons of his coat, then the American was at once to waive all claim to her. The trial was immediately made. The Yankee went up stairs, and shortly returned with the falcon; but the door was hardly opened before she darted from his fist, and perched on the shoulder of her beloved and long lost protector, evincing by every means in her power her delight and affection, rubbing her head against his cheek, and taking hold of the buttons of his coat, and champing them playfully between her mandibles, one after the other. This was enough. The jury were unanimous. A verdict for the plaintiff was pronounced: even the obdurate heart of the sea-captain was melted, and the falcon was at once restored to the arms of her rightful owner.—*Cnox's Game-birds and Wild-fowl.*

Five glasses of whiskey and a gallon of beer will enable one to see a sea-serpent even on dry land.

MAKING THE BEST OF IT.—A Yankee out a-walking in Virginia, at Wheeling, while to himself a-talking, experienced—a feeling—strange! painful and alarmin'! from his caput to his knees, as he suddenly discovered he was covered o'er with 'bees!' They rested on his eyelids, and pierched upon his nose; they colonised his peaked face, and swarmed upon his clothes. They explored his swelling nostrils, dived deep into his ears, they crawled up his "trousers," and filled his eyes with tears! Did he yell like a hyena? Did he holler like a loon? Was he scar't, and did he "cut and run?" or did the critter—swoon? Ne'er a one. He wasn't scar't a mite; he never swoons—or hollers; but he hived 'em in a nail-keg tight, and sold 'em for two dollars!

IF you employ your money in doing good, you put it out at the best interest.

A baker has invented a new kind of yeast. It makes bread so light, that a pound of it weighs only fourteen ounces.

A lady having occasion to write to an acquaintance who had just been blown up in a steam-boat explosion, commeneed her letter thus—"My e-*steamed* friend!"

ONCE, at table, Pitt was expatiating on the superiority of the Latin over the English language, and cited as an instance the fact, that two negatives made a thing more positive than one affirmative could do. "Then your father and mother," said Lord Thurlow, "must have been themselves two negatives to have introduced such a positive fellow as you are."

TAKING IT EASY.—"Mr. Smith, your hogs are getting into our corn-field." "Never mind, Billy, I'm sleep; corn won't hurt 'em."

A happy fireside is half the battle of life. It is the duty of husbands, therefore, to study the politics of home. As the earth and the moon revolve in harmonious regularity, so should the husband and wife regulate their conduct to each other. The music of kind words ought to hallow their love. Temper demands nice regulation, for as perfection is impossible, the best-hearted and kindly-intentioned will sometimes be hurried into a passion. Silence is the best remedy. It is a preventive, because it has a tendency to disarm hostility. A reproachful glance from a woman's eye, has more effect on a man than a thousand harsh words. But where there is mutual confidence there will be seldom any material differences. Wives and husbands should never forget their relative positions. The care of home belongs to both, and it is simply wicked nonsense to say, that it is peculiarly a wife's duty. The care of children, the treatment of visitors, and the management of servants, all belong to domestic politics—in fact, a multitude of other matters are included in the same category, and if they were diligently attended to, much unhappiness would be prevented.

WE have a great respect for the strong-minded woman, but candidly confess that we have no very frantic desire to be frequently in her society. Gentleness sits more gracefully on the delicate shouider of woman than harshness, or an attempt to force herself out of the sphere assigned to her by her mental and personal endowments and the exigencies of society. Man loves a quiet lady—he prefers the fawn to any imitation of masculine idiosyncracy. Love likes its opposite, and the law is the same with woman as well as man, and we can confidently assert, that the strong-minded woman is no great favourite with the majority of her sex. Bashful timidity and reserve are prettier mantles than coquetry and affected assurance.

A LADY IN DISGUISE.—The old Duchess of Bedford, if born, as herself once declared, before nerves came in fashion, had not at least been born before it was fashionable to paint. Her Grace was, indeed, notoriously addicted to rouge, which she used in uncommon quantities. Lord North one day asked George III. when his Majesty had seen the old lady? The king replied, "He had not seen her face, he believed, for more than twenty years."

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Editor;

Education is a subject that should be kept continually on the tapis. In importance it is second to none, therefore it should receive the warm support of all right-thinking men. Right thinking men, I repeat, for if men do not *think* right they will not *act* well. The press, in particular, as it is the medium through which information is generally diffused, should ever be its faithful advocate. No other possess such a range of power—no other exercise so much influence on the public mind: hence we may see the influence the press exerts either for good or evil.

In the same proportion that a country fosters education, so will that country prosper. As the public mind becomes enlightened, so will ignorance, wretchedness, and crime decrease. Educate the people and after a time it will depopulate the prisons. Educate the child or pay for the ignorance of the adult.

Scotland is a country where *education* has long been sedulously cherished; and its happy effects are to be seen on its national character. I have put an emphasis on this word, because they educate their people in the true sense of the term. Theirs is not an education which merely embraces a knowledge of the arts and sciences, but includes the cultivation of the heart. With them the Bible occupies a prominent position in reference to education. Not so with us, for whole, or semi-infidelity would fain exclude or allow this divine Right to be extinguished. This appears from the use that is occasionally made of portions of the inspired volume in some of the editorials of one of our leading journals, where they appear like pearls in the snouts of swine.

Some of the United Statss may also be mentioned, but we will come nearer home. Nova Scotia is a province which pays considerable attontion to this important subject. The Novascotians have long cherished education. For this are they poorly repaid; no; there is not a British province of the same extent that has produced as many eminent men. To prove this we have only to point to their clerical staff, and to their legislators. Take for an example of the latter, the Hon. Joseph Howe, a man equal in talent and principles, if not superior to some of the members of the House of Commons.

In this Island much has been done, during the last three or four years to forward education. Much has been done I grant; and much more still remains to be performed.

At the renewal of the Educational Act experience, I think, will shew, that it will be requisite to make many additions and amendments, in order to secure its advantages to *all* the youths in our island. At present, I imagine, I may safely assert that few more than half the children; (at least not more than two-thirds,) feel the benefit of the present Act owing to the sordid dispositions of their parents. Hence arises the complaint of teachers; "The attendance is very fluctuating."

I have now been teaching two years in a district, and this year had curiosity enough to ascertain how many days on an average each of my most regular attendants was absent. I was quite surprised to find, that the number was 75,(not including days there was no school.) This is more than three months allowing 24 days to the school month, and adding one more for vacation, leaves eight only for the school year.

In this District there are as many as 60 children of a teachable age. Of this number 54 were registered. The average attendance for one half the year was about 30, and for the other half about 25, which leaves about 30 who receive little or no instruction either secular or religious.

With respect to books, during the last 4 months, I was under the necessity of adopting the expedient which they are reported to have had recourse to, in one part of Scotland at one period, respecting that celebrated beef bone employed for making soup; viz; lending from one to another. By acting on this principle we made *one* set of books serve *two* classes. Who would expect to meet with the like in a settlement where the inhabitants would fain be considered intelligent? Such parsimoniousness is, doubtless unparalleled! Alas! for the public spirit of this district. Alas! too, that the blessings which education confers should be so lightly esteemed by nearly all. And what does this criminal delinquency proceed from? From sheer indifference; contracted views; and narrow-mindedness.

Now, to obviate these evils, and secure the advantages which the existing Act intended to impart, but which to a great extent are shamefully nullified, should be the determination of the legislators who renew it. And not a determination alone, but it should be accompanied by a well-directed effort.

Lycurgus, the once famous Spartan lawgiver considered, that the education of youth was one of the most important objects of a legislator's care. "His grand principle was" says Goldsmith "that children were properly the possession of the state, and belonged to the community more than to their parents."

To a certain extent, he was right; and our legislators, when renewing the Act, should, in my opinion, take a similar view of the subject.

When a province provides for the education of its children, they should not be deprived of it by their parents, as is the case with us to a considerable extent.

Teachers, too, must receive a fair remuneration for their services, instead of the pittance they now receive, and on which they are merely subsisting. The smallness of this sum has induced me to resolve soon to leave the land of my nativity, to seek a place where my services may be more appreciated and better remunerated.

SHER.

Queen's County, Sep. 4th, 1856.

Committee Meeting, Royal Agricultural Society, 15th August, 1856.

PRESENT—Hon. George Coles, Judge Peters, Hon. W. W. Lord, Henry Longworth, Esq., Thomas Pethick Esq., Daniel Hodgson, Esq.

Ordered, that the Secretary write to the Hon. Mr. Warburton, in Liverpool, requesting him to communicate with Mr. Whalley, and offer his services in the purchase of stock for the Society; stating that any expense Mr. Warburton may incur in so doing will be repaid to him by the Committee.

Resolved, that the following goods be ordered from Liverpool for shipment this autumn. viz:—

10,000 lbs. Red Clover Seed,
3,000 " White do. do.
700 " Skirving's Swede Turnip seed,
50 " Hop Clover,
25 setts Grays plough mounting No. 4,
20 " do. do. " 5,
50 Extra soles Wilkie's No. 1,
100 Plough shear plates,
2 Doz. Scotch spades } Ordered last
2 do. Fly shuttles } spring

Ordered, that the Reaping and Mowing Machine imported by the Society be advertised and offered for sale, by auction, in front of the Society's premises, on Wednesday next the 20th inst. at 1 o'clock—terms made known at time of sale.

Ordered, that the Secretary write to Mr. Whalley, requesting him to obtain through his agent in Dublin a "Potato Digger" and forward the same immediately by ship, if possible—if no ship chance offer—by Cunard's Steamers to Halifax.

Resolved, that Messrs. Haszard and Owen's tender for printing and publishing, in the *Gazette*, the Society's advertisements for the ensuing year be accepted, it being the lowest.

By Order
W. W. IRVING, Sec'y and Treasurer.
R. A. Society.

Royal Agricultural Society's Committee Meeting, 10th Sept. 1856.

PRESENT—Henry Longworth, Esq. President, Hon. George Coles, Hon. Captain Rice, Hon. Captain Swabey, Thomas Pethick, Esq. George Wright, Esq., William M'Gill, Esq., Daniel Hodgson, Esq.

Read minutes of last meeting.

The Secretary informed the Committee that the Mowing Machine was offered for sale on the 20th August; as ordered at the Committee meeting of the 15th, but that there were no bidders excepting the Hon. Mr. Coles, who offered £25. Subject to approval of the Committee.

Resolved, that in consideration of the trouble taken by the Hon. Mr. Coles in perfecting the working of the machine, that no charge will be made for the use of it prior to this date, so far as regards the cutting of grain, and that it be offered to him for £30, which offer was accepted by the Hon. gentleman.

The Secretary read letters from the Western Branches complaining of the quality of the turnip seed, furnished them last autumn, and requesting to be allowed to destroy all that remains on hand.

Resolved, that while the Committee agree to take back the seed in question, they are of opinion that the seed sent to the Branches and Depots last fall, being of the same description and imported at the same time, as the seed retailed in Town which has all proved to be of good quality—must have received serious injury, from not having been properly attended to after leaving the Society's premises; It is, therefore ordered, that the Secretary reply to the letters referred to, and direct the parties to return the turnip seed on hand, being the residue of the seed supplied last autumn, for examination previous to making a final order in the matter, and to state, that in future no seed will be delivered to the Branches or Depots—unless desired by the managers—until near spring and not until the quality of the seed has been properly tested.

Resolved further, that in future all seed made up to order, for any of the Branch societies will be at their risk, after leaving the Society's Warehouse in Charlottetown.

Ordered, that the yearling rams, on the Society's farm be brought into town on the day of the cattle Show, and divided equally between the three Counties, and that those for Queen's County be sold, by auction on that day—and that Messrs. Henry Longworth, Hon. Captain Rice, and the Secretary be a Committee to attend to the above division and to purchase any well-bred ram lambs they may be able to procure, for a like distribution next year—Ordered further, that the English Ram imported by the Society, in the possession of Mr. Charles Haszard, be sold by auction on the day of the Cattle Show.

By Order
W. W. IRVING, Sec'y and Treasurer,
R. A. Society.