THE LAMENT OF AN ANTIQUATED BEAU.

A PARODY.

The sun upon the ocean wave,
With lovely face is sinking sweet;
The surf, the gentle breakers lave,
The sea lies sleeping at my feet.
Yet not the landscape to mine eye
Bears those bright hues that once it bore,
Though Lizzie listens to my sigh,
And chides my passion as before.

With listless eye along the plain
I see the buggies swiftly ride,
And coldly mark the golden chain
Of Henry and his youthful bride.
The lively scenes, the balmy air,
The sky, the shore, the surf so free—
Are they still such as once they were,
Or is the dreary change in me?

Alas! the heart with years grown cold,
How can it feel as once it felt;
The tongue with tale so often told,
How can it Lizzie's bosom melt?
To weakened eyes each landscape fades;
To feeble pulse the heart is a stone;
And Art with vain assistance aids
A bosom cold as frigid zone.

Newport, Sept. 18, 1860.

LETTERS FROM AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN SYRIA.

From The Boston Traveller, Sept. 29.

The following are extracts of letters received in this city from American missionaries in Syria:

The Rev. Henry H. Jessup, writing from Beyrout, Aug. 29, 1860, to the Rev. Dr. Anderson, of the American Board says that he is almost overwhelmed with the labor of dispensing charity, and that the town is occupied by 6,000 French troops. Of Damascus he remarks:

"Summary punishment is being dealt out by Fuad Pasha in Damascus, and a small number (160) have already been executed. Yet with all this the Moslem spirit there is not broken, and it is the candid opinion of the foreigners that Damascus will never be a safe residence again for Christians. There are 200 000 Moslems in Damascus and vicinity; and even if 2,000 or 3,000 be executed, which is not probable, the great mass will only be exasperated, and take the first opportunity for revenge. While Fuad Pasha remains there with a strong military force at command, and a large military and naval foreign force at Beyrout, there will be peace; but Fuad Pasha cannot remain long, and if European political jealousies should cause the withdrawal of foreign troops and navies from this coast leaving only the Turks to protect the country, farewell to security and order."

We make further extracts from his letter:

"There is yet no safety for a Christian in Southern Lebanon, and the Druses are yet to be punished, so that the return of the people to their homes must be quite remote from the present time. They have nothing to eat except what they receive from charity, no clothing, and no shelter. Should they return home tomorrow they would go in utter destitution. Think of 100 000 people settling down at once in a country desolated by savage warfare. There are no houses to shelter them from the storms of the coming Winter. They have no beds no clothing, not an ounce of food, no cooking utensils, no implements of husbandry, no cattle, sheep, nor goats, no mules, camels, horses, seed, wheat, barley, nor lentiles; nothing stored for Winter as usual, and nothing to look to but foreign charity, and then, in addition to this, who is to care for these *thousands* of widows and orphans and families of which there is *no male survivor?* We are now distributing daily to nearly 10 000 of the most needy refugees about us. I give my whole time to the work, and Dr. Thomson and Dr. Van Wyck are busy in the hospital department. We have some hired agents to assist in the work, and two of the native Protestants, Brutus Bistany and M. Araman, give a good share of their time to distributing to the needy. Mr. Ford returned to Sidon on Thursday, the 23d inst., and will no doubt have a large business to do in looking after the suffering refugees who are now being brought in thousands from the vicinity of Rasheiya and Hasbeiya. Merj Ajun, that large and beautiful district west of Hasbeiya, where there are so many Protestants, is now a desolation.

"Two villages only remain unharmed, and the Protestants have all fled either to Sidon or Beyrout. We also hear from Mr. Gauni, our native brother in Tripoli, that there are no less than 3 000 refugees from the vicinity of Baalbec, now gathered in the vicinity of Beherry, near the course of the Lebanon, and all are in great suffering. Indeed, it may be safely said that there is no spot between Palmyra on the north-east and Tyre on the south-west, through all that vast region, recently containing so many Christians, where a Christian can now live in safety, unless it be in Damascus, under the very eyes of Fuad Pasha. A few hundred Christians still remain in Mount Lebanon among the Druses, south of the Damascus road, but they are in great fear, and every day they are making their escape in small parties to Beyrout. The next great political movement will no doubt be an attack on the Druses by the Turkish forces alone, or in connection with the French troops. The result of such an attack will be either the surrender and disarming of the Druses, or their fleeing to the Hauran, which is not probable, or else a severe conflict in which latter case the Druses will be driven out or destroyed, and the remaining half of Southern Lebanon be converted into a ruin, leaving absolutely nothing unscathed.

"We all feel that Beyrout and its people have had a very narrow escape from the fate of Hasbeiya, Deir el Komr, and Damascus. On the 23d of June, when the panic was at its height in Beyrout, the Pasha was in league with the Druses, who had fixed a day for the destruction of Beyrout and Sidon, just as they fixed a day for the places which were actually destroyed. Day after day, and night after night, we were in the greatest anxiety, in the very agony of suspense, expecting at night never to see the morning light again, and spending the days with our families in listening to stories of atrocious butcheries which chilled our blood. We did actually plan 'converting our mission press into a fortress,' hoping, in case of a massacre here, to be able to hold out with a few guns until succor could reach us from the ships in the harbor, and many were the suggestions as to how the more delicate ones among our number could stand a siege with a scanty supply of food and water. Some of us actually went on board the vessels in the harbor, and others were to go, and this state of alarm and suspense continued for nearly a full month, until we felt our strength giving out in this hot climate, but the Lord most graciously protected us, and we are living to praise him. Does it not seem as though this city had been preserved in the providence of God to be a city of refuge to the thousands of poor sufferers? If Beyrout had been destroyed, whither could these thousands have fled? Who would have cared for the thousand widows of Deir el Komr, the five thousand widows of Damascus, and the tens of thousands of all ages and sexes and classes who have gathered here? Truly, it is of the mercy of the Lord that this city and Sidon have not been laid waste. The latest news from Damascus is that all the young men of the city are to be taken away to Constantinople to serve as soldiers in the army. Three principal departments of the Moslem quarter of the city (he Kaimariyeh, the Bal Toome, and the Jorah), have been evacuated by the Moslems at the command of Fuad Pasha, and are to be occupied by the Christians."

The Rev. Dr. W. M. Thomson, in a letter dated Beyrout, Aug. 29, corroborates the statements as to destitution and misery among the people, and, among other things, says:

"We are now spending for food, clothing, bedding, shelter, hospital, and soup kitchen at the rate of about 60,000 piastres ($2,000) a week; and yet we seem to make little impression on the mighty mass of misery around us." "Mr. Jessup has the enormous business of distributing for bread to about 6,000 persons daily, and two of our native brethren have the daily distribution to about 2,500 poor. The English merchants devote much of their time to our committee meetings, and cheerfully help in managing the large financial business connected with this vast charity. The funds are, as yet, supplied almost exclusively by the princely liberality of the people in England." "Not a Christian can yet return to his habitation, to begin the work of rebuilding and preparing at least one room before Winter. Not a family has secured its silk crop or harvest. Even the figs and grapes are all lost to them and, unless far more haste is made, the olive crop will be lost also." "At present everything here is uncertain. No human sagacity can predict the end of these things. The French are landing enormous stores and I do not think they expect to leave in six months."

The letter speaks also of the great number of widows and orphans; of one friend who has nine widows in his family; of another who has five; and of the numerous female children who are orphans, the males having many of them been slaughtered.

THE LIVERPOOL, NEW-YORK, AND PHILADELPHIA STEAMSHIP LINE.—It is a singular fact, and one for which great credit is due, that all the steamers of this popular line, except one, have been boarded at Cape Race during the past Summer, and the exception was alone caused by the prevalence of a dense fog. The Press and the public are under many obligations to the proprietors, agents, commanders, and pursers of this line for their manifold efforts to serve all classes of the community.

A MURDERER WANDERS SIX YEARS AND THEN GIVES HIMSELF UP.

From The St. Paul Pioneer, 22nd ult.

Thursday afternoon a man came to the jail in this city, and inquired for the Sheriff, and on being told that he was confined to his bed (on account of his late accident,) he went away, but returned again before dark, and finding Deputy Sheriff Miller, he told him that he was charged with the commission of a murder some six years ago in Virginia, and that since then he had been a wanderer and desired to deliver himself up, and to have notice of his detention forwarded to the officers of the law in Virginia. After having his interview with the Sheriff his request was complied with, and the Sheriff wrote yesterday to Virginia, notifying the proper officers. He came into town with a small Red River cart, drawn by a yoke of small steers, which, together with his gun, he desired the Sheriff to sell to the best advantage, that he might have the proceeds to pay his board, in case he was not sent for, and for his defense in case he should be tried in Virginia for the offense acknowledged to have been committed.

By the favor of the Sheriff, we had an interview with the prisoner yesterday. He is about five feet eight inches in hight, weighs about 140 pounds, dark, sallow complexion, black eyes and black whiskers and mustache, and is dressed like a lumberman. He said his name was Samuel Stanley, and that he is charged with murdering a Mr. Peyton, in Cable County, Va. He tacitly confessed the homicide, in stating that it was caused by his having discovered Peyton in criminal connection with his wife, and by saying that he did not think his punishment would exceed a short term in the Penitentiary. He stated that he had worked on the Black and Chippewa Rivers in Wisconsin, and had been in Minnesota three years, although he was a native of Ohio, and had a residence there when the murder took place. He had worked in Lower Sauk Rapids, on the Red River, at Pembina, and in many other places.

Without manifesting much contrition for the crime, or fear of punishment, he imagined, wherever he lived, that everybody looked upon him as a murderer. The elements even whispered in his ears, when he had abandoned the society of men and lived alone in the depths of the forest. Consequently he has had no abiding place for six years, but has roamed through the country from Texas to Minnesota, suffering, as he says, "more than a hundred deaths." At last, almost worn out, he came to the conclusion to deliver himself up, that after the sentence of the law had been executed, he might again live among his friends, or make a home where he would be undisturbed by its terrors.

The tale of his wanderings is strange and interesting—so strange that it occurred to us his mind was not sound, but we could detect no evidence of mental aberration, and nothing in his conduct that could not be reconciled, in view of the awful crime he had committed.

ESCAPE OF A MANIAC.

HE MARRIES A RICH WIDOW.

From The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

About a year since a gentleman in the interior of Wisconsin became insane, and was sent to the Lunatic Asylum at Madison, in that State. He was a physician by profession, and was a gentleman of superior cultivation and of remarkably prepossessing appearance. He was about 30 years old. Some six weeks ago he escaped from the Asylum and went to Chicago. There he encountered an old friend, who loaned him quite a sum of money, having no suspicion of his insanity. With this money he supplied himself with new and elegant clothing, and started for Laporte, Indiana, a thrifty village on the line of the Michigan Southern Railroad. He remained there long enough to win the affections of a young and wealthy widow, and was married to her. During the brief courtship he exhibited no signs of lunacy, but shortly after his marriage he commenced conducting himself in a manner which startled and shocked his wife and her friends.

Among other mad fancies he believed he was a sheep, and insisted upon crawling around on his hands and feet, bleating in a most absurd manner. He would then fancy himself a rattlesnake, and make frantic attempts to bite members of his household. The unhappy lady, at length worn out with watching him and endeavoring to restore his reason, made preparations to send him to the Asylum at Indianapolis. But as is frequently the case, insanity had sharpened his wits, and he adroitly escaped. We next hear of him in Syracuse, N. Y., where he actually purchased a block of buildings. The necessary papers were made out, and he was to call the next day with the money. He was to pay an outrageous sum for the property, and it is said the parties with whom he made the bargain chuckled vastly over the propitious winds that had blown them so profitable and fresh a subject. But they saw no more of him. The lunatic started westward. At Buffalo he bargained for an immense amount of corn, to be delivered in New-York city, and then proceeded to Cleveland. He arrived here last week, and endeavored to negotiate for some property on Kinsman street, but he talked so absurdly that the parties with whom he had interviews refused to treat with him.

Meanwhile his friends, and particularly his wife, in Wisconsin (for he has a wife and two children in that State), were making every effort to ascertain his whereabouts. They traced him to Syracuse, and from there to this city. His brother arrived here on Saturday morning last, but found that the lunatic had left on the previous evening's train for the West. He followed on Saturday morning. At Toledo he learned that he had gone West on the Michigan Southern train, and he perseveringly continued the search. At Adrian he found and captured him, and took him home.

When not in his rabid fits few would discover the unfortunate man's true condition. He would make very absurd propositions, and offer exorbitant sums of money for property that hit his fancy, but he would do so in so candid and captivating a manner as to in most cases disarm suspicion.

VALUATION OF TAXABLE PROPERTY IN BROOKLYN AND KINGS COUNTY.—The Committee on Equalization of Assessment Rolls of the Board of Supervisors presented a comparative statement of the valuation of taxable property in the various wards and towns for the years 1859 and 1860, at the last meeting of the Board. The following table shows the valuation in 1860, with the increase over the previous year:

Ward, Brooklyn.	Real.	Personal.	Total.	Increase.
I	$5,573,225	$963 237	$6 536 462	.....
II	3 014,500	1,301 996	4 316 496	$57,177
III	8 225,450	3,697,770	11,923,220	533,001
IV	4,311,626	852,927	5 664 553	9 402
V	2,053,725	23,904	2,377,629	29,200
VI	10,395,950	1,021,537	11 417 487	64,973
VII	4,001,046	58,275	4,054,341	239,075
VIII	3,638,320	199,850	3,830 170	171,472
IX	6 527,139	369,523	7,037 062	120,318
X	9 284,253	243,488	9,523,741	284 441
XI	10,020,290	316 859	10,337 149	418 851
XII	4,146,085	20,775	4 166,810	232 070
XIII	5,097,240	1,224,027	7,312 067	26 124
XIV	3,221,575	207,029	3,428,504	54,923
XV	1,612 448	4,000	1,616 448	45,545
XVI	1,756 915	21,250	1 778 165	55,265
XVII	2,156,141	15 245	2,171 386	.....
XVIII	1,599 480	80,635	1 677,115	27,370
XIX	3,330,394	24,878	3,365,272	178,499
Total City	$92 472,651	$11,068 505	$108 501,156	.....
New-Utrecht	$1,589,497	$304,400	$1,893,897	.....
Flatbush	1 249,011	465,250	1,714,261	$171 164
New-Lotts	845,285	164 450	1,009,735	52,630
Gravesend	546 106	128,000	674,106	24
Flatlands	579 137	143,425	722,562	.....
Total Towns	$4,809,056	$1,205,525	$6,014 581	.....
Grand Total 1860	$97,241,707	$12 274,030	$109,515,737	2 691,615
Grand Total 1859	84,757,314	12,157,318	106,914,632	.....

A decrease in the value of property is shown in the First Ward of $54,600; in the Seventeenth of $28,930; in New-Utrecht of $1,330; in Flatlands of $5,550—making a total decrease of $90,410, against $2,691,615 increase.

THE PRINCE IN BOSTON.—Mayor Lincoln has received the following letter from the Duke of Newcastle in response to an invitation to attend a Ball in Boston:

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 26, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR: The Prince of Wales will have very great pleasure in accepting the invitation of the citizens of Boston to a Ball during his short stay in their city. I think the evening of his arrival, the 17th, would not be altogether convenient, but whichever of the next two days is most convenient to the citizens would be perfectly agreeable to the Prince. If both are equally convenient to them, I would suggest the 18th, as it will be necessary to leave Boston very early on the morning of the 20th.

I cannot say with what kindness the Prince has been received in those cities which he has yet visited in the United States. If each individual had been instructed what to do, the whole people could not have shown greater delicacy of feeling and consideration for the position he occupies in England, though without the slightest surrender of their own claims to independence of action. They have all looked upon him as a guest, and resolved to treat him as such, but without overdoing the character of host.

In return, of course, every effort has been made, and shall continue to be made elsewhere, to gratify the amiable curiosity of our good cousins to see the son of a Queen whom they love and respect almost as much as we do.

I am, my dear Sir, yours, very truly,
NEWCASTLE.

His Honor the Mayor of Boston.

PROFESSOR HORSFORD'S MODE OF PRESERVING CIDER.—We have been asked so many times to reprint the excellent recipe of Professor Horsford for arresting the fermentation of cider or other saccharine juices at any desired point, that we feel bound to comply. We have tried the experiment so as to satisfy us of its value, and recommend our readers to do likewise. Our plan has been to add the sugar at an early stage of the fermentation, and the sulphite soon afterward, and in somewhat larger quantity than here recommended. The sugar-makers add the sulphite as soon as the juice is expressed. Dr. Ure says the action of sulphur is to obstruct the fermentation by absorbing oxygen, and thereby preventing the elimination of yeast particles. The following is the recipe:

"When the cider in the barrel is undergoing a lively fermentation, add as much white sugar as will be equal to half or three-quarters of a pound to each gallon of cider and let the fermentation proceed until the liquid attains the right taste to suit; then add an eighth to a quarter of an ounce of sulphite (not sulphate) of lime to each gallon of cider in the cask; first mixing the powder in about a quart of the cider, and then pouring it back into the cask, and giving it a thorough shaking or rolling. After standing bunged up a few days, for the matter added to become incorporated with the cider it may be bottled or used from the cask.

Don't mistake sulphate of lime, which is a natural production, and known as plaster of Paris, for sulphite of lime, which is a manufactured article and is worth by the barrel about 3½ cents a pound and by the cwt. 87½ cents and by the single pound 50 cents. It has been of late years much used by sugar-makers to prevent fermentation of cane juice; and in our opinion it will be found more effective as a preventive of fermentation in cider than as an arrester of it after it has proceeded nearly to completion."

NEW-YORK STATE FAIR.

From Our Own Reporter.

ELMIRA, N. Y., Tuesday Evening, Oct. 2, 1860.

The weather to-day has been so favorable, compared with the continuous drizzling, cold rain all day on Monday, that all parties connected with or interested in the State Fair are quite buoyant with hope. The rain yesterday kept back a great many persons who had entered their stock and other things for exhibition, delayed the work of arrangement, and threw it upon to-day.

The floral and fruit hall appeared the most backward of any part of the exhibition this morning, and would hardly have been ready to-day but for the highly praiseworthy conduct of some of the women of Elmira, who, in spite of rain and mud, and the chilly, fireless room they had to work in, turned out early, and worked all day upon the decorations of the hall, so that, with a few hours of finishing strokes this morning it was made ready for the fruit and flowers which will undoubtedly burst upon the view of visitors in great splendor to-morrow morning. So far, the fruit show is splendid.

The rain greatly delayed the arrangement of agricultural implements and machinery; consequently, that department has been a busy one to-day. It will be a grand feature of the exhibition to-morrow.

The show of dairy products and seeds, I fear, will not be what it should be, even for the single County of Chemung, although the number of entries on the books indicate an abundance. The visitors who will come in to-morrow morning will probably bring in many things, and there may be many more entries, as the books remain open till 11 o'clock Tuesday. The count which I made—something over 1,900 entries—I took from the books at 3 o'clock, and I know many were made after that.

The contrast between this Fair and the first one held by the New-York State Agricultural Society, which was at Syracuse in 1841, is worthy of particular notice. That was in an open common, without stalls for cattle, or buildings for small articles, and without much order or good results, except as it planted the seed which has produced the present growth, and given to the State, indeed to the whole country, an impetus in agricultural improvement that can hardly be measured in our ordinary method of calculating dollars and cents.

Little, almost no preparation or expense was given to the accommodation of the first exhibition, and some of the structures of later years have been deficient in many particulars. Now, as I have before stated, the accommodations are of the very best order, and nearly all things in readiness to receive the articles before they begin to come in. The Secretary, Col. Johnson, and the General Superintendent John Harrold, cannot be spoken of in terms of too high commendation for what they have done to make everything comfortable and pleasant to exhibitors, and pleasant and instructive to visitors.

In regard to cattle stables, all other societies may learn some useful lessons from this exhibition. All the neat cattle are shown broadside to the visitor, with the side upon which they are used to being approached in front, and they are covered with a good roof, and sheltered upon one side by a close-boarded fence. Before the animals came in, all the stables were nicely littered with straw, and good hay placed ready in the feed-boxes.

The horses were provided in the same manner, and are so comfortable that there has been a most persistent effort on the part of owners to smuggle in their ordinary driving horses to live a day or night at free-quarters, the owners getting four tickets of admission for ten dollars paid for the entry. This cheat was largely practiced at Albany last year, as it has been at other places, and will be to a small extent here, notwithstanding the vigilant effort of the officers to prevent it. There is one way which I think would stop it: charge every horse four dollars for entry, and refund the money to all which are proved to be entered actually to compete for prizes.

Among the many valuable articles of machinery and improved agricultural implements to facilitate the labor of farmers, I can only notice a few new ones, or those which I happen to see, and think most necessary to call the attention of farmers to for their interest.

The very best thing in this line that I see, is an attachment to the steam engines, built by Wood of Utica, for farm use, which makes them entirely safe in the hands of inexperienced persons. It is placed on the side of the boiler, and shows the hight of the water in a glass tube as it stands in the boiler: but if the engineer should fall asleep, or be away, when the water gets below a given point, the steam opens a valve which starts the pump and throws in a supply of water. Should that be out of order, or the water in the supply tank fail, so that it falls a little lower in the boiler, a whistle is opened which blows a shrill scream to give warning of danger. One of these engines, of four horse power, can be had complete for $400, and is quite portable; or with wheels and geering to move itself, $500.

I found a straw-cutter, called Root & Lloyd's union straw-cutter, constructed upon an entirely new principle, which I like very much for its simplicity and great ease of working, and its efficiency. The knife is a straight blade, set firmly in a slanting form upon two posts, and the box containing the stalks or straw is hung on pivots and attached to the axle of the crank, so that it lifts above the knife, when a feeding arrangement pushes the straw forward, and then the box comes down, making the cut almost by its own weight. It looks to me as though it could be made and profitably sold for $6, and would not be likely to get out of repair, and the knife is easily kept in order.

Davis's self acting accumulative power press, for cheese, wine, cider, etc., strikes me as one of the best and most powerful cheap hand-presses that I have ever seen.

There is a willow peeler, patented this year by J. M. Wood, which I am almost certain must work to the full satisfaction of those who grow osiers. It is extremely simple, and is composed of a graduated screw which lies across a disk, so that the small ends of the willow being inserted in the small end of the screw, are rolled over and carried through to the but of the willow, which then has arrived at some of the large threads according to the length of the stick, and in its passage is entirely stript of its bark. The whole machine can be carried upon a man's back.

There is a whole field full of mowers and reapers, and these, as well as all the implements, appear to be got up, not for show, but for sale, in a highly finished manner. In this respect there is great improvement every year.

Not being able to say which is the best mowing machine, I applied to A. B. Dickenson, of Hornby, N. Y., who has used many of them with his own hands, and seen almost every variety carefully tested, and has finally settled upon one manufactured by Hubbard at Ithica. It certainly looks well.

There is a new attachment to a mowing-machine exhibited here, patented by Bartlett this year. It is a potato-digger. A circular flat bar of iron, with teeth in the rear, in a half-circle form, is made to scoop under the potatoes and sift them out of the dirt.

Other valuable improvements in agricultural machinery I shall point out as I chance to discover them.

ELMIRA, Wednesday morning, Oct. 3, 1860.

The prospects of the Fair this morning are rather gloomy. The weather did not come off as clear as was hoped for last evening, and early this morning an overcast sky looked threatening of rain, and doubtless has a tendency to keep back a great many visitors; certainly the early trains did not bring in such large accessions as came here by the same conveyances at the corresponding time when the Fair was held here five years ago. Perhaps the increased rate of fare has had some effect to keep the people back. Yesterday, however, the trains were more crowded than usual on Tuesday, and the town was pretty well filled, but not to such an extent as rendered it out of the question to get comfortable beds, though in general somewhat upon the order of steamboats or sleeping-cars. By the by, I tried that way of lodging, I won't say sleeping, on my night passage from New-York up the Erie road, which has, I believe, as good arrangements for sleeping as any other road—better than any narrow gauge road can have—but with us it was lodging without sleeping. It was different with some of my fellow-lodgers, judging from the small thunder sent forth from their nostrils. The worst fault with the sleeping cars generally is want of ventilation. Where that is dependent upon passengers keeping the ventholes open right alongside of their berths, ventilation never will be perfect, and sleeping-cars will only be used by force of necessity, not because they are comfortable or healthy. At hotels, at a time like this people put up with little inconveniences without grumbling, because temporary, but sleeping-cars are becoming a permanent appendage of railroads, and must be made to afford a degree of comfort in accordance with their importance.

In connection with this Fair, this town, which has emerged from the woods and becomes a small city since the Erie road was built, is entitled to a most honorable mention. Beside fitting up the Fair grounds in the most excellent manner mentioned, it is affording most comfortable accommodations, without exorbitant charges to the hosts of its visitors. The "Brainard House" is certainly an A No. 1 hotel. The rooms and beds are kept neat, and well attended, and I have never found a better table in a crowded house, and everything goes on so quietly and orderly that one can take "my comfort in mine own inn." Its management is honestly entitled to this very just notice among those of the State Fair.

As the morning wears on, the weather prospects are a little more favorable, and there is the nucleus of a crowd upon the Fair grounds. The country people begin to come in in great numbers in their own vehicles and I have no doubt will find much to interest and improve their minds, but in their expectations of a show fine of cattle they will be sadly disappointed.

It does not appear to me that half that have been entered upon the books are here. Great numbers were expected to arrive last night, but they have not come, and now I see no hope of the stalls being filled. Has that bugbear of pleura pneumonia frightened the owners of neat stock so that they will not bring them out of their own stables? Better remember that pleura pneumonia is a resident of stables; that the disease orig nated in stables, has been bred in stables, and in stables it will continue to exist. It never will hurt your stock to bring it away from your own farms. It will hurt the credit of the State Society and the character of the State as a great producer of good stock, not to show it at these annual exhibitions; and it will have a sad effect upon the spirit of improvement, which has been fostered by these exhibitions until it has got a good hold of the mass of the people, and for that reason I am sorry to see any falling off in the numbers of good animals exhibited. In this respect I am obliged to report this fair almost a failure. It is true there are a few very choice animals here, which are carefully scanned by a great many farmers, and it will have a good effect upon them; but there is a great want of numbers. It is that which produces the strongest impression in live stock, as well as Wide-Awake processions.

I close this letter with satisfaction to see the weather improving and a crowd of people gathering.

ELMIRA, Wednesday evening, Oct. 3, 1860.

The results of the day upon the whole have been favorable. The unpromising appearance of the weather this morning has doubtless kept back a great many people, but it finally cleared away handsomely, and in the middle of the day, when the sun shown brightly, it was a little too warm for the costume used in the morning, but it is now cool enough to make overcoats and woolen shawls very comfortable to the thousands who have to ride home by moonlight.

Although the crowd has not been a dense one in the show-grounds at any time to-day, it has been quite large enough for the comfort of the visitors in Floral Hall, which is always the center of attraction to the masses of crinoline—that article has expanded to the full size of the hall, so as to make locomotion difficult. The show of fruit, also, has very much expanded since yesterday, and is now very fine.

The receipts of cash to-day are very considerably below the corresponding day at Albany last year, but are quite equal to Syracuse the year before, and that, the people of this smaller town consider quite satisfactory. The character and general appearance of the crowd of visitors, and the earnest manner evinced by them to see and comment upon the quality of the stock, and the uses of machines and tools, is enough to convince me that this Society is very certainly doing a great work for the State. There is no occasion, at these meetings of farmers' families, for "armed intervention," for the people themselves are the bulwarks of quiet good order, and conduct themselves so that there is no occasion for the services of the little squad of police who have their office within the inclosure, except to watch the "outside barbarians," and now and then an individual, not of the farming class, who might show a disposition to break over some of the rules and regulations.

The show of people that attended these fairs clearly proves the rapid advance they are making in all the arts of civilization. The standard of the cultivators of American soil is constantly being elevated, and these annual exhibitions do much toward the accomplishment of such a good purpose.

The determination of the managers of the Society to exclude everything that would have a tendency to lower its character has a very beneficial effect, for it keeps out nearly all that portion of visitors who only attend to see a balloon ascension or a horse race. This was proved to-day, for the race between Flora Temple and Patchen this afternoon drew off all of that class who were in the fair grounds, but it did not much lessen the crowd.

The department of agricultural implements and machines calculated to facilitate the labor of the husbandman appears to me to be the most important feature of these shows, and I am glad to see a great crowd of practical men are of the same opinion, and are devoting a great deal of their attention to these things. I continue my notes upon some that mostly attract my attention as new or valuable improvements which farmers may advantageously become acquainted with. One of these is a hay-fork to unload hay by horse-power, vastly improved upon the original, which had a stiff handle, and a difficulty in discharging its load that prevented its use at a shed-window, and also an unpleasant way of blistering the operator's hands by drawing the rope through them rapidly. The fork, as improved by Gladding of Troy, Penn., has a joint in the handle, and a very easy working catch, which is opened by a slight pull upon a cord, and then springs shut of its own specific gravity, and works with great ease to the operator, and in situations where it is absolutely impossible to work the stiff handle fork. It is eminently a labor-saving implement, and should be owned upon every farm that has five tuns of hay a year to be pitched from the cart or wagon to the mow or stack, as it can be worked in any place where a pulley-block can be hitched over head, and another at the ground. Then a tun of hay can be unloaded in five to seven minutes. The whole fixtures cost about $12.

Plows.—This most important farming implement comes up every year in some new form, claiming the attention of farmers. I notice one improvement, which at first view I did not see the importance of, which upon a closer inspection, I am convinced will pay to apply to all plows. It is called a "swing beam," and consists of a crooked flat bar of iron along side of the beam, and attached to the inside of the mold-board, near the ground, at its junction with the standard, so that the chain being attached to the forward end of the bar, which moves loosely up and down in the staple attached to the beam, makes the point of draft exactly as though the chain was attached to the share a little back of the point, and is a swinging motion keeps the draft in line upon uneven ground.

The wooden beam is also attached by a movable adjustment to the handle, so as to regulate the line of draft to a wide or narrow furrow.

Another inventor has such a numerous set of adjustable shares and appliances to one beam that he can make up a plow for almost any kind of work, but I do not see all the advantages which this new candidate claims. It is called a combined plow, and it may combine more advantages than I am able to see. Its contrivances certainly show much ingenuity. This and the swing beam plow both claim to run with 25 per cent lighter draft than ordinary plows cutting the same sized furrows.

A mole-plow is also exhibited, which claims the ability, with the labor of two men and a team, to make 100 rods a day of blind drain, equally serviceable in clay soil to one laid with tile. Such drains have endured many years in some of the stiff clays of England; and they have been largely made in Illinois within a few years, and found to work well. It consists of a short piece of round iron, pointed, and attached to a thin bar of iron that is held by a very strong beam, so that the mole can be made to run from one to three feet below the surface, and so presses the sides of the hole that it does not readily close again. This plow is made to be moved forward by a powerful windlass, and it has an attachment for drawing in a string of tiles on a rope, like Fowler's machine in England. A. B. Dickenson, who was probably the originator of the practice in this country of draining with the mole-plow, does not use a windlass, but hitches on a strong team, say six yoke of oxen, and moves right along across the field.

Straw and Stalk Cutters being also among the most valuable of agricultural implements, I call attention to another one just come upon the ground, called the "Empire Feed-Cutter," made by Gordon, at Rochester, the patent for which has just been applied for, which appears to me to possess advantages over any four-knife machine I am acquainted with, for simplicity, compactness, strength, and consequent durability. Its ease of management by ordinary laborers commends it very highly over some other machines here, which are excessively complicated. This machine makes its cut upward, and it is said that one of the advantages of that is, the knives keep sharp much longer, as the stroke tends to jar out any grit, instead of forcing it down forward of the knive, by which it is dulled. The cost of these Cutters is from $20 to $30.

Pumps and Well-Buckets are some of the articles which do, or should attract universal attention, since the necessity of lifting water from wells exists upon almost every farm in the country, and upon nearly every village lot, so that every improvement that makes this universal labor easier is of vital importance to almost every member of community. There are several contrivances for filling and emptying the "old oaken bucket," as it is operated by a windlass. The one which appears to me the best which I have examined here or elsewhere, is one patented the present year by S. L. Avery, Norwich, N. Y., particularly in the arrangement of the catch and brake upon the crank, which is very ingenious. The bucket is filled by a valve which opens when the bucket touches the water, and is closed as it lifts out of the water, and is emptied by catching upon an iron as it comes to the spout which conducts the water into the pail. Then a little backward motion of the crank loosens the catch, and lets the bucket run slowly down again to the water, without touching the other hand to any part of the machinery.

Of pumps for farm use, I still look upon Gay & West's pump of the ordinary size, as the best that I am acquainted with, it being all iron, not liable to get out of repair, and easily repaired if it does, and not liable to freeze up in Winter. It operates easily, both as a suction and force-pump.

Elderberry Wine.—I happened to be one of a large circle of friends on the tasting Committee of a specimen of Elderberry Wine, made by Alfred Speer, Passaic, N. J. Although I do not approve of growing hedgerows of elder bushes around farms, I must say that while slovenly farmers do let them grow, I have no objection to converting the fruit into such beverage as this made by Mr. Speer, particularly since it undoubtedly possesses a medicinal quality which makes it valuable, and this of Mr. Speer's has been pronounced a little superior to any other manufacture.

There are a good many samples of domestic wine, of grapes and other fruit, in the exhibition, and I find that in several parts of the State extensive preparations are being made to manufacture wine. A vineyard in sight of the Fair-grounds, upon one of the southern slopes of the amphitheater of hills that surrounds Elmira, has been commenced, with great prospects of success; and I heard the owner say that he should extend it as rapidly as possible to seventy acres, as he was convinced, from what he had done, that these hillsides will produce as fine grapes as can be grown in the State of New-York and will make a more profitable crop than the richest land in the bottom; and that, for ordinary farming purposes, is hard to beat.

The weather prospect this evening is quite favorable, and there is good reason to believe that the cash results of to-morrow will be entirely satisfactory. The town is very full of people, but all, I believe, will be comfortably provided for.

I must close, to attend a meeting of the Farmers' Club, which is a popular feature of the State Fair.

The books of entry for things to be exhibited at this show closed to-day at 11 o'clock, and I find the following the grand result. The number of entries, often including a great many things under one number, are as follows in each of the several classes:

Horned Cattle of all sorts, 219; Horses, Mules, &c., 235; Sheep, Swine, and Poultry, 424; Implements and Agricultural Machines, 343; Grain and Vegetables, 313; Articles in Domestic Hall, 297; Articles in Floral and Fruit Hall 342; Miscellaneous Articles, 365—Total number of entries, 2,478.

ELMIRA, Thursday Evening, Oct. 4, 1860.

This has been an unfavorable day for the pecuniary interests of the State Fair. The weather gave indications of rain early in the morning, which began to fall before noon, and served to keep back the great crowds which is usual upon this day of the exhibition. The attendance, therefore, has not been as good as yesterday, and very far below Thursday last year. It is hard to get up enthusiasm enough to spend a day for pleasure under umbrellas, standing or walking upon damp ground. The day, however, terminated not so gloomily, as the sun came out finely before night.

The Plowing Match.—This was the day set apart for the plowing match, which took place near the Fair grounds, notwithstanding the rain, and was participated in by sixteen contestants. It is needless to say that there was some remarkably good plowing. The ground selected was on a smooth piece of turf, upon the soft, loamy soil of this valley. The most remarkable thing, however, was that this most important operation in farming attracted so little notice that the plowing match was not witnessed by a hundred of the thousands of farmers who were at that time present at the exhibition. They were more interested in looking at about the meanest show of horses ever exhibited at any State Fair. And Gov. Seward's Arabian did not redeem the character of the exhibition, for it was looked upon as a rather mean specimen of horseflesh. Still, the announcement that he was to be exhibited, together with Flora Temple and Patchen, drew about nine-tenths of all the people present around the horse-track. It was more attractive than the much more useful exhibition of plowing. Perhaps the most interesting feature of that exhibition was the great improvement that has been made within a few years in plows, and the form and adaptation of plows to every kind of land, and every variety and purpose of plowing. There was also exhibited with the plows a locomotive road-scraper, mounted on wheels, which takes up a load of dirt, and carries it away and dumps it where needed. It looks as though it would prove a valuable implement for moving dirt short distances, such as cellar-digging and road-making.

Mowing-Machines.—It is interesting to see how much interest is felt in this branch of farming tools. There are great numbers exhibited, and they constantly attract a crowd, not of idle spectators, but farmers really seeking useful information. Sherwood's attachment for binding seems to attract the most interest of anything connected with mowing machines, and is probably the greatest labor-saving invention that has been made for automaton raking, several plans for which are exhibited. Sherwood's apparatus rakes the grain together, which is then rapidly bound by a small wire by the binder who rides on the machine.

Horse-Rakes have also been very much improved. A wire-toothed one, made by Houston & King, in Orange County, appears to me the best of the lot; it is neatly and strongly made, and is not high-priced, and is very easily operated by the man who rides and drives.

Steel plows, in some soils, are the most valuable of all, and one exhibited by Rennington, Markham & Co. I think the best one I have ever seen. Its form and workmanship are both superior; the beam is made movable upon the handle so as to adjust the cut to a wide or narrow furrow. The same firm exhibited several steel-tooth cultivators, of various forms, superior workmanship, and great value to farmers.

A new churn; or, rather a new way to operate the old dasher, is exhibited, which certainly appears as though it would have to be labor-saving. The churn is hung in a frame, so that it swings like a pendulum, by a very small amount of power, and the motion of the drum gives motion to the dasher. It looks as though it might be useful to those who will use no other but a dasher church. For my use I prefer the one exhibited by Mr. Viel, an air-tight barrel, revolving end over end upon an axis, turned by a crank, dash