

but in each of these latter places, there are but two clergymen, namely, the Rev. Messrs. Wollastown and Wittenom in Swan River, and the Rev. Messrs. Howard and Farrell in South Australia—the Rev. Mr. Farrell, however, deriving no support whatever from the colonial government. How far the voluntary principle, as it is called, may suffice for the erection of places of worship, or for an adequate supply of the ordinances of religion, in the distant rural districts, is a matter upon which we intentionally abstain from any expression of opinion at present. As far as the experiment upon this principle has as yet been made, it augurs well for its success, although it must be confessed, that we see but few objections to an application for assistance to the local government for aid in religion, which do not equally apply to those representations made to religious societies at home, and on the strength of which large sums of money for religious purposes are sent out. Were there to be a return to the constitution and order of the Church of Christ, as laid down in the New Testament, we should have no doubt of the success of the voluntary principle in this or in any other country upon the face of the globe, but so long as the different denominations of christians depart so widely from the primitive practise in the erection of places of worship, or in the manner of dispensing divine ordinances, we are not ashamed to avow our conviction, that the result of the experiment will remain doubtful.

But leaving these preliminaries, we now proceed to what is more particularly deserving of remark in connexion with the different denominations of christians in South Australia separately.

The places of worship belonging to the Episcopalians in South Australia are five in number, namely, Trinity Church, North-terrace, and St. John's, Halifax-street, in the city of Adelaide, St. Paul's at the Port, St. Peter's at Lyndoch Valley, and St. Mary's, near the River Sturt. The cost of Trinity Church was about £2,700, of which £2,109 remains upon it as a debt, at the interest of seven and a-half and ten per cent. St. John's Church is not yet finished, but has already cost about £2,600. The total cost of St. Paul's is £460; that of St. Peter's £100; and that of St. Mary's £90. The Rev. Mr. Howard officiates stately in Trinity Church, and the Rev. Mr. Farrell in St. John's. St. Paul's and St. Mary's have no minister attached to them, but the Episcopal clergymen of Adelaide attend them once on the Lord's day, and, in their absence, laymen officiate. An application has been made to the bishop from parties connected with St. Peter's to ordain a gentlemen of that neighbourhood as clergyman to the district, but no answer has as yet, we believe, been received. Besides the above places, divine worship is performed in connexion with the Episcopal body in North Adelaide and Hindmarsh weekly, in Mount Barker monthly, and in Gawler Town occasionally. A subscription has been entered into towards the erection of a church in North Adelaide, but the sum at present does not, we believe, exceed £40. The general attendance at these places of worship varies greatly, the highest ranging between three and five hundred, and the lowest between thirty and forty. Trinity Church and St. Peter's are built of stone, and St. John's of brick, but St. Paul's and St.

Mary's are wooden churches, the former being freehold property vested in trustees, and the latter freehold conveyed to the bishop.

And here, perhaps, is the most proper place to mention what strikes us as a fundamental error in the erection of places of worship, and that is, the enormous debt contracted in these erections without anything beyond a very distant probability of its ever being paid off. As long as this course is persevered in, there can be little chance of the success of the voluntary principle. The mere interest upon the debt of £2,109 upon Trinity Church, would be nearly sufficient, without any assistance from other quarters, for the support of the minister, but is now swallowed up in liquidating the outstanding claims without any rational prospect of the diminution or ultimate liquidation of the original debt. A mere temporary erection of pisé, or shingle, under all circumstances, would not only have been more respectable to this highly esteemed body of christians, but would have contributed vastly to the ease of parties upon whom the responsibility of raising such an amount of interest now rests. We know not what expectations of assistance from the local government, or from societies at home, may have been entertained, but we do know, that the whole sum raised did not exceed £728 10s 7d, or little more than one fourth of the original cost. The rashness of thus rushing into debt has received abundant countenance elsewhere, but it is no sufficient excuse for our want of foresight, that others have been guilty of like imprudence.

In leaving this very delicate ground, however, for that which is still more delicate, we preface our remarks with the assurance, that we would not willingly give a moment's unnecessary pain to the modesty of any christian minister, much less to gentlemen so highly esteemed as those whose pulpit exercises we are about to describe.

To the Rev. Mr. Howard is doubtless to be attributed much of that cordiality and good feeling, which has existed among all denominations of christians, from the establishment of the province up to this hour. Uniformly urbane and gentlemanly in his deportment, he has succeeded not only in attaching to himself the members of his own congregation, but in raising himself in the esteem of all others to whom he is personally known. On no occasion, that we remember, or of which we ever heard, has Mr. Howard mixed himself with any of the petty quarrels incidental to small or newly-organised communities, but, on the other hand, has avoided the "beginning of strife" as the "letting out of waters" not easily to be stayed. As an early settler, his example to the members of his congregation was deserving of imitation, much of the labour of putting up his own house, and fencing in his own land, having been performed by his own hands. Mr. Howard's style of preaching is simple and pleasing, but it possesses neither sufficient unction nor fervour, to make him what is usually called a popular preacher. Without diving deep into the intricacies of theological disquisition, or venturing rashly into any elaborate defence of particular doctrinal sentiments, there is sufficient in his ordinary preaching to secure a variety, and to convince you, that you are not listening to a mere moralist in religion, but to one who has an implicit regard to the doc-

trines of the new testament. If he startles you with no new discoveries in truth, he leads you into none of the subtleties or mazes of error. If his preaching possesses but few of the variegated beauties, which embellish the pulpit exercises of some of our modern popular preachers, it is at least free from that insidious poison, which, in the shape of a gilded pill, is swallowed down as a universal panacea by thousands, who are crying to themselves—"Peace, peace," when "THERE IS NO PEACE." His preaching is not that of a man, who has obtained the king's charter, empowering him to trade in divinity, and whose public addresses are consequently confined to a dry exposition of the thirty-nine articles, but that of a man, who is slowly treading in the footsteps of others of greater eminence, in regarding the sacrifice of Christ as the sum and substance of doctrine, and the example of Christ as the only sure guide to practise. With Mr. Howard, there is much of "the foolishness of preaching," of which the apostle speaks, as that by which God is pleased to "save them that believe," but none of that "foolish preaching," which leads the minister of religion to exhibit himself as a mountebank at a country fair, or which constrains his hearers to regard him as a mere scavenger in black. In attending the preaching of the word, it is the system of revealed truth as laid down by Christ and his apostles, that men go to hear preached and enforced, and it is to this, that the attention of the christian minister should be uniformly directed. Passion may think this system wants heat—pride that it needs ornament—blind zeal that it wants power—the voluptuous may say it is not pleasure—black robes may declare it is not learned—long robes may vow it is not law—coxcombs or lunatics may even deny it common sense—yea, knaves or idiots may take heart and call it a cheat—but what says the cool and consistent christian—nay, what have thousands of such men said? Why, that it "IS THE POWER OF GOD, AND THE WISDOM OF GOD, TO US WHO BELIEVE."

The Rev. Mr. Farrell, the only other Episcopal clergyman in South Australia, is of a somewhat different school to the Rev. Mr. Howard. Both these gentlemen are Irishmen, and each of them possesses excellencies peculiar to himself. To those who are acquainted with the Dublin Rotunda school of clergymen, there will be no difficulty in forming a general opinion of the character and style of Mr. Farrell's preaching. Not that the gentlemen accustomed to figure in the Irish metropolis do not possess a diversity of gifts and talents—the addresses of some of them resembling a thunder storm, whilst those of others are a shower of the softest dew—but that they are all charged with high notions of episcopacy, and with unmitigated severity towards doctrinal errors, arising probably from their occasional contact with arianism in the Synod of Ulster, and from their frequent disputes with the priests and members of the Church of Rome. Deeply imbued with doctrinal sentiment, and sincerely anxious to benefit his hearers, Mr. Farrell drives away at the fundamentals of religion, but he never lets you forget that there are grievous errors around you, against which you are to set your faces like a flint. It is not for us to express any very decided opinion on this style of preaching, but it may be permitted to

us, perhaps, to say, that the best mode of undermining error is to fill the mind with truth. Before the full blaze of gospel light, error will never be able to maintain its footing, and it may be fairly questioned, therefore, whether a simple exhibition of the doctrines of the gospel, however feebly handled, is not vastly superior to most kinds of controversial preaching, however skilfully conducted. At all events, there can be little propriety in continued expositions or denunciations of particular errors, unless in cases in which danger from such errors is to be apprehended. Such a style of preaching exhibits a want of confidence in truth. It is as though we saw a giant and pigmy striving for the mastery, and should rush to the rescue of the former, whilst the latter was writhing under the influence of his withering and demolishing grasp.

Much as we esteem the above-named gentlemen, and highly as we prize their zealous exertions for the spread of the truth, it must notwithstanding be confessed, that they are very inadequate to the demand at present made upon their labours. During the stay of Col. Gawler's private secretary in the province, Mr. George Hall, he was accustomed, we believe, occasionally to address small congregations in the rural districts, and it is much to be desired, that some of the more zealous and consistent members of the Episcopal church might be found to tread in his steps. Without some such arrangement as this, it is clear, that a large proportion of the members of the Episcopal church must be altogether neglected, so long as the present scarcity of ministers continues.

In a future paper, we shall proceed to a notice of the numerous other denominations of christians in this province.

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#### MY NATIVE LAND.

The moonlight of a milder clime  
Is round me poured o'er scenes sublime:  
But I would fly from all earth's light  
And grandeur to behold, to-night,  
My native land!

To-morrow's sun will beauteous rise  
In Australasia's summer skies;  
But more than beautiful to me  
Would winter's wildest morning be,  
In that dear land!

And green woods wave which ne'er are sere  
In this December summer here;  
But I would turn from Eden's bloom,  
To hail, in winter's waste and gloom,  
My native land!

It may be here that Britons find  
Scenes brighter than they leave behind;  
But oh! the countercharm for home  
Is found not yet, where'er I roam,  
O'er sea or land!

## A CHAPTER ON MANURES.

OUR farmers must e'er now have made the discovery, that the soil here, in order to return a remunerating reward for the labour bestowed upon it, requires stimulants equally with the soil "at home." At the same time, they may have made the more disagreeable discovery, that they will not be so easily procured. A few brief hints, therefore, on the subject, gleaned from the most approved sources, and adapted to this soil and climate, may not be altogether thrown away.

In cropping the virgin soil for the first or second, or perhaps third time, the want of manure may not be felt, though even in these cases many portions would be much improved by it; hence, perhaps, the carelessness on the part of many on the matter: but every succeeding year will shew, not only the propriety, but absolute necessity, of keeping up fertility by artificial means.

Owing to the genial climate, and the facilities hitherto possessed, of procuring an abundance of natural pasture, the system of raising artificial grasses and roots, so universally and beneficially practised at home, has neither been required nor adopted; hence, one of the great causes—so long as that practise exists—why manure will be both difficult to raise, and of inferior quality besides. Another cause, and which partially arises out of the first, is, from the cattle not being house-fed, by which the whole of their manure is lost. For it must be recollected, that, under this vertical sun, it does but little good its being dropped on the field. As the country, however, becomes more thickly populated, and the settlers obliged to confine their herds to their own lands, they will be compelled to raise green crops whereon to feed them, both because two-thirds less land than what is at present required, will maintain the same number of cattle, and also produce manure to keep up its fertility.

**ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MANURES.**—It is well known that the fertilising effects of these manures are caused by certain gases which they contain; that when these gases are disengaged by putrefaction or decomposition, and conveyed into the ground by the medium of *fluids* or *moist* substances, they form the food on which plants live; and unless a sufficient quantity of that food be kept constantly supplied, as a matter of course the plant must become stunted in its growth, and ultimately perish—literally die for want of food! It cannot be too strongly borne in mind, that unless *complete* putrefaction has taken place, the material laid upon the ground, called manure, is not of the slightest use, and further, that if, *after* putrefaction, the gases are allowed to escape, before being buried in the soil, the manure is equally worthless.

These two things are the principal ones to be attended to, and guarded against, in a hot climate like this, it requiring much greater care and attention to do so, than was either usual or necessary in England.

To provide against the highly injurious effects of exposure to the sun, the place where the manure is collected ought to be covered or

roofed over; and, in place of collecting it in a *hill*, it ought to be done in a *pit*, say four feet deep. If the bottom be not of a close impervious nature, such as a stiff clay, it ought to be puddled and paved, otherwise the best portion—indeed the essence of the manure—will be lost. One of the sides should slope, so that carts might be easily backed in, and loaded. Before proceeding to deposit or collect manure in these pits, a good layer of earth should be laid on the bottom—say six or eight inches thick—this would absorb all the superabundant liquid, which is the best portion of the manure, and be equally fertilising with the remainder of the heap. Collections from open stockyards or folds, or styes, ought to be made in the morning, before the sun exercises its baneful influence upon it, and all the different sorts should be spread throughout the pit equally, otherwise there will be an irregularity in its effect and value. A neglect of this will frequently account for those patches of strong rank growth which are oftentimes seen in fields of apparently equal quality of soil throughout. There should also be butts to catch the rain water at proper places round the “shed,” by which water could be turned upon the pit at any time when it appeared to require it. This would tend greatly to promote putrefaction, and improve the quality of the manure. If the distance be not too great, the farmer would find it much to his advantage, to have a drain leading from the house to the pit; for the conveyance of refuse and waste water.

The manure collected from a stable is very apt in the winter season, from the rapid changes from rain to sun-shine, to heat and smoke. The moment this is observed, it ought to be covered with earth from eight to ten inches thick; and this earth, from the absorption of the steam or fertilising gases,—which were so rapidly escaping, and rendering the heap totally valueless—will be equal to the best manure. One-half of the manures we have seen driven from Adelaide were not worth the labour of throwing on the cart, let alone spreading on the field, being as dry and moistless as so much chaff; and before being fit for use would require to undergo the whole process of putrefaction or decomposition; and this entirely arose from a continual exposure to the sun.

In order, however, to render the construction above recommended, for the preservation of manures remunerative, or almost necessary, “soiling,” or green-feeding must be resorted to. The manure produced by cattle so fed, is fully 40 per cent. richer and better than that made on dry food. But in addition to this, it is from green-feeding that “LIQUID MANURE,” by far the most valuable of the “animal and vegetable” class is obtained. In a dry and warm climate as this is, its value is almost beyond calculation; and the extraordinary success that has attended its application in other countries, particularly Holland and Belgium, enabling them, notwithstanding their still rude implements, to contend successfully with their better provided neighbours, ought to impress itself on our enterprising farmers here, and cause its universal adoption.

The turnip is the grand basis of this manure, aided by lucerne, clover, &c.; and it has been found by repeated experiments, that

“cattle fed upon common white turnip will each yield about two-thirds of the weight of the turnip” in liquid—or about one gallon for every twelve pounds; and, as cattle should never receive less than from sixty to seventy pounds, or even one hundred pounds daily, two cows would consequently produce about ten gallons, or sufficient in six months to manure an acre of land—it requiring to be considerably diluted, and also to undergo considerable *fermentation* before use. The quantity applied to an acre should be about three thousand gallons, and turnips sufficient to produce that quantity could easily be raised on half an acre of land. In addition to the turnip, of course a proper allowance of hay, straw, clover, or other fodder, must also be given.

To preserve this manure, a large (covered) cistern, lined with brick and mortar, convenient to the cow-house, should be made, with a drain therefrom, leading into it. The cistern should contain a division, with a valve, connecting the two together, so as to admit of its being run off, fermented, and diluted as required. The rain water would be sufficient for the latter purpose, and could easily be diverted into it.

For potatoes and drill crops this manure ought to be applied just before the shoots make their appearance. For grain crops it may be applied either before or after sowing—after, however, is to be preferred.

It has also been clearly established, that land, dressed with the liquid manure will yield one-half, and sometimes two-thirds heavier crop than when dressed by common manure. To the garden, it is no less beneficial than the field, and when applied to young plants and bushes immediately before budding, acts with the most powerful effect, causing them to send forth their shoots with extraordinary strength and vigour.

Liquid manures, too, in place of being used or applied in their liquid state may be most beneficially converted in forming composts—and in no part of the world more so than here. Let the prepared pit be nearly filled with that fine black vegetable soil so abundantly met with in the valley, and the liquid led into it for a few months, until the whole mass becomes completely saturated and fermented, by which the vegetable matter will become decomposed. This compost is spread on the ground in the usual way, and though not perhaps so *immediately* stimulating to the soil as the liquid, yet from the vegetable matter with which it is combined, it is ultimately much more so, and more lasting in its effects, and at the same time, equal to the best farm yard manure.

It is not to be supposed, however, that the production of “liquid manure” is the only advantage to be derived from turnip and other green feeding—that is only one of the benefits which follows its adoption—the increase of dairy produce independently of the manure would more than repay the labour and expense. Cows would yield in many instances, *double* and even *treble* the quantity of milk they now give, when judiciously mixed with clover and other fine grasses of a much richer quality. The cattle, too, would become those beautiful quiet domestic animals one was accustomed to see “at home,” in place of

the wild untamed brutes now among us, ever ready with horn and hoof to assert their independence.

It could scarcely be looked for here as yet, that "soiling" could be carried into active or extensive operation; there were many other matters which demanded a prior attention—such as fencing, building, &c.; but so soon as these necessities are accomplished, and the farmers get fairly settled down, it is to be sincerely hoped that they will—indeed they must—turn their earnest attention to the raising of green crops. In concluding this branch, its advantages may be stated as fourfold.—1st, less land will keep the same number of cattle.—2nd, manure for keeping up the fertility of the land will be made.—3rd, the soil will yield heavier and better crops.—And, 4thly, the cows will produce a larger quantity of milk. This last advantage is almost the only one which, in many instances, is obtained—because from carelessness or ignorance, the *liquid* portion of the manure is oftentimes wholly lost; and in these cases, this last single advantage alone is found sufficient for the expense.

Originally it was intended to have confined the foregoing remarks exclusively to a notice of "farm yard manures"—the others, such as ashes, bone dust, lime, marl, chalk, saline mixtures, &c., being so very simple in their nature, and well understood by every practical man; but the subject of the title would not be altogether complete without a glance at them.

As it is intended, however, to give a short description of the prevailing soils of South Australia, a notice of the various manures—and their natures—and also composts—together with their adaption to the different soils, will, it is presumed, come in more appropriately while treating on that head, without lengthening this notice any farther.

CINCINATUS.

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#### NOAH'S HYMN IN THE ARK.

O God! for a new earth, whercon  
A sinful race hath never trod,  
Where waters ne'er again may drown  
The budding tree, and flowering sod.

Spread thou thine arm Almighty o'er  
This waste of waters, vast and wild;  
Let us the earth thy footstool see,  
And streams that to thy sunbeams smil'd.

Lord of the heavens, and earth, and sea,  
Here none can help, on thee we stay;  
Some token grant our fainting souls  
That earth's not lost to man for aye.



## JANE'S LETTERS—No. II.

DEAREST EMMA—Two years ago, few, even of the first settlers, had ventured to scale the steep ascent of the Mount Lofty range; all seemed spell-bound to the region round about Adelaide; and at a more recent period, curiosity, and the love of change, both singularly failed in urging the citizens, of either high or low degree, to seek a more extended acquaintance with the land they had periled so much to make available to their interests and pleasure. The charming districts beyond the mountains were a sealed book to all, save the scanty number who, squatting with their flocks and herds, “were monarchs of all *un*-surveyed;” or those who, having purchased land, determined at once to go and occupy. Difficulties, appearing as insuperable as they were varied, afforded reasons or excuses for this. Some thought town occupation, and its then sure result, money-making, a much better thing than venturing on a somewhat dread unknown; others disliked the personal inconvenience attendant on the rude style of travelling, uncertain accommodation, and the thousand ills that flesh was necessarily heir to when leaving the snug precincts of home, and regularly administered creature comforts—

To slowly trace the forest's shady scene,  
Where things that own not man's dominion dwell,  
And *while man's* foot had ne'er or rarely been.

In short, to those who had not tasted the ineffable sweetness of its quiet independence, “bush life” was a horror. But the rich treasures of nature, her beauty and fertility, could not be permitted to remain hidden and neglected. No sooner did the prosperity and excitement of town life begin to decline, than the country, its pursuits, and pleasures, as if by a magic illumination, became the general theme and desire.

The old adage—“Where there is a will there will be a way,” has been realised, and the most astonishing revolution in the migratory inclinations and habits of our population has obtained. Where formerly was only to be seen the bullock dray dragging its slow length along; no sound to break the deep silence save the rude oaths of the brutal driver, the loud crack of his oft applied whip making sad even the adamantine hills, which seemed to express their reproach by the growling half articulated echo they returned; or groups of over-toiled Germans wending their way to or from the city, in either case heavily laden, almost sinking under their burthens; may now be met the well known parson on pious cares intent, going to visit his distant folds, where he is gladly welcomed, his sacred functions the better prized, because of the efforts required to secure them;—or parties of pleasure, more aristocratic, or more Gilpinian, just as it happens, all looking exuberantly happy, invigorated by the mountain air, feeling no anxiety respecting their whereabouts, but indicating perfect contentment in the knowledge of some friendly welcome which awaits them, or some hostelry ready to do them honor.

And the Germans—how changed their condition—now looking as

much at home as though they had never left Vaterland. Their peculiar little carts, some with one poney, some a pair, busily plying the road; all looking well-to-do, yet never abating a jot of their industry and frugality; cheered by the sweet consciousness that necessity is no longer their hard task-master, but that now they labour to add cow to cow, field to field, pound to pound. A most meritorious set of people are these Germans.

To childhood, this change is a blessed emancipation from the trammels of exclusive town life. The advantage to health is obvious, but the benefit ends not there; it is rousing their little spirits to the reception of the ennobling sentiment, love of country. It was quite refreshing to overhear the emulation of praise which proceeded from a party of dear little creatures under eight years, who had all been to spend the holidays with friends in the country, fifteen, twenty, or thirty miles distant. "How I do love Mount Barker! And I am asked back again, and be sure I shall go, for mamma said I should; you never saw Mount Barker?" "No," said the one appealed to, "but I do so love to live at sweet, pretty, dear G—; if you saw G— you would like it far, far better than Mount Barker." "But our hills," said one—"but our beach," said another—"and our cows"—"and our potatos"—"but our beautiful vines"—and here, as if description could no farther go, they burst into a carol of merry delight, each having cast in a mite of past enjoyment to the rich treasury of their expectations. Those children already love this country; their associations are derived from their own buoyancy, innocence, the beauty of the scenes around them, and are indestructible.

The original road across the hills—and it was long dubious whether there were any better—was in many parts terrific from the extreme steepness of the ascent, and appalling correspondence of the suddenness of the descent. It required a very steady head and practised bridle-hand to continue seated at such passes.

"Had you seen our roads before they were made,

You'd have held up your hands and bless'd General Spade—"

aye and they too who keep the spades a-going.

The road now wends through a romantic pass, formed by the course of a little stream, which cheats the labour we would fancy awaited us when first raising our eyes to the summit, so gradual is the ascent.

From the open plains we plunged at once into a verdant glade-like spot, delicious to tarry in, and tempting to linger as you go, the mountains on either side giving the impression of great height by the waning and varied steep from their dark summit downwards. For the time, we supposed ourselves restored to some former scene, beautiful and precious to memory, and now suddenly realized to our sensations and perception, some green mountain-land of the north. After a few miles gentle winding we gained with little increased effort the edge of a long shooting range, a spur from the Mount Lofty chain, and were brought suddenly to the brink of a vast chasm, closely wooded, and seeming to penetrate into the bowels of the mountain. At this point I had to rally my courage, for I felt somewhat fearful