

CRITICAL NOTICES.

The Plough, the Loom, and the Anvil, edited by J. S. SKINNER. (A monthly Magazine, devoted to the interests of Agriculture and of Home Industry.) Philadelphia: J. S. Skinner, 81 Dock street.

We have received a copy of this valuable publication, for the first time, this month, or we should long ago have taken occasion to notice it, notwithstanding that it is, in a certain sense, a rival.

Many years ago we were in the habit of reading English periodicals devoted to arts, science, and industry, and we can testify, from extensive observation, to the exceedingly skillful editorial management of this work of Mr. Skinner's.

First, as to the mechanical execution of the work: we find it clearly and handsomely printed, with a page not divided into columns, on paper of very good quality.

The number before us, for August, 1849, has a green vignette cover, representing the industry of the plough, the loom, and the anvil, in very tasteful wood-cuts, which are pleasing to the eye and the fancy.

The number contains 64 pages of printed matter, which is rather more than one half the quantity given in a monthly number of the *American Review*. The subscription is three dollars per annum, which brings it nearly to an equality of price with ourselves, if the engravings which we give are thrown out of the question.

We take occasion to say in this connection, that it is a false opinion, industriously circulated by our enemies, that the subscription price of the *American Review* is much larger than it should be. We beg our subscribers to remember that a newspaper is supported chiefly by its advertisements, and that but a very small part of the matter in a newspaper is paid for by the publishers; besides which, the different style, and superior execution of a journal with engraved illustrations and original matter, brings it to cost nearly three times as much as a daily newspaper of equal circulation.

If it were possible to sustain the *Review*, in its present size and shape, on a three dollar subscription list, the price would be \$3; but as prices are at present, \$5 per annum does not cover losses and expenses, unless by a very large subscription list.

To return to Mr. Skinner's book, "*The Plough, Loom, and Anvil*." The 64 pages of

the August number are divided into thirty articles, of which a large proportion are from the pen of the accomplished editor himself, the most agreeable and judicious periodical writer upon agriculture and topics of economy with whose productions we are acquainted.

The first article in the number is a letter to Col. C. M. Thurston, from J. S. Skinner, editor of "*The Plough, Loom, and Anvil*," on the best means of bringing into activity the resources of Cumberland, a region of coal mines in Maryland. It is a powerful argument, demonstrating the necessity for the land-owners of Cumberland to bring the artisan—the iron-worker, the coal-miner, and the manufacturer—upon their land, if they wish to ensure the prosperity of the farmer; that for this purpose legal protection is necessary to them, against the over-production and pauper production of Europe.

The third article is a lecture on agricultural chemistry, entitled "*Who is the Practical Man?*" by J. C. Nesbit, Esq. An article on Georgia Railroads and Manufactures; a very interesting article on Dairy Husbandry, and an account of Mr. John Holburt's splendid farm. It would occupy too much room to attempt even a descriptive list of the valuable and interesting matter of this number. The work generally avoids technicalities, and omits everything dry and heavy in its descriptions of farming operations.

On page 119, there is a really elegant engraving on wood of the magnificent horned pheasant, with a description of the pheasant family. We wish every success to this work; we believe it to be the most valuable of its class.