

In the south-west,—Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas,—heavy frosts have occurred during the last few days of April, seriously injuring the corn, and affecting the cotton through a wide range of the country.

On the banks of the Mississippi great injury has been done by crevasses in the levees, and great extents have been submerged, causing severe losses to the planters. But these losses are but partial, and on the whole, will be, as regards the entire harvest produce, inappreciable. In Virginia the peach crop has suffered severely, and our neighbours must look to Ohio for a supply of this delicious fruit. As with ourselves, the entire crop of this year will be looked forward to with unusual interest—trusting that, under the direction of a kind providence, it may in some degree compensate for the disasters and deficiencies of the last year or two. We trust the too threatening danger of another financial crisis may be thus providentially averted.

J. A.

TESTING OF SEED CORN.

We have ever been strong advocates for the testing of seed corn, and seeds of all descriptions before sowing—select a fair sample from the mass. Sow in a box, in a good situation, and on examination, even before coming up, it will easily appear whether the seeds—and what proportion of them, is sprouting. Surely it is better to do this, than to make the experiment, on hazard, on a large extent, and risk the years crop.

J. A.

MANURES, AND THE PRACTIBILITY OF INTRODUCING THE MANUFACTURE INTO CANADA.

(Continued.)

The use of fish as a manure has long been known; on the shores of Scotland, Cornwall, Brittany, some parts of the United States, and on our own sea-coasts, the offal from fisheries, as well as certain bony fishes of little value for food, are applied to the soil with great benefit. The idea of converting these materials into a portable manure was however I believe first carried into effect in France by Mr. Démolon, who seven or eight years since, erected an establishment for this object on the coast of Brittany and in Newfoundland. For the details of this manufacture I am indebted to the *Chimie Industrielle* of Payen. Concarneau, in the department of Finisterre, is a small town whose inhabitants are employed in fishing for sardines, and it is the refuse of this fishery which is employed in the manufacture of manure. The offal is placed in large coppers and heated by steam until thoroughly cooked, after which it is submitted to pressure, which extracts the water and oil. The pressed mass is then rasped, dried in a current of hot air, and ground to powder. 100 parts of the recent offal yield on an average 22 parts of the powder, besides from 2 to 2½ parts of oil. The manufactory of Concarneau employs six men and ten boys, and is able to work up daily eighteen or twenty tons of fish, and produce from four to five tons of the powdered manure.