

PRESERVED POTATOES.—An importation of considerable novelty and interest has recently taken place by a vessel arrived from Gottenburgh, consisting of some casks of potatoes in a state of preservation. It is known that this description of vegetable is free of duty, when imported into this country in a raw state, the privilege extending to all foreign countries, and for a definite period, without reference to the mode of introduction and the existing navigation laws; and the parcel was entered by the importers as being free of duty. On examination, however, by the officers of the Revenue, the contents were found to have undergone a process of preserving, by which they were considered to become liable to an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent. as manufactured goods, the process which they had undergone being the division of the potato into small pieces and drying them. We believe that this is a perfect novelty with respect to the importation of the vegetable from foreign countries. A patent is in existence for a preserved preparation of the potato in this country, which is supplied to the East India Company; and emigrants, and of which an analysis is given by Dr. Ure, the eminent professor of analytical chemistry, to the effect that it is found by chemical analysis to contain the whole nutritious principles (properties) of that root in a pure concentrated state, also 60 parts in the hundred at least of starch, nearly 30 of a soluble fibrine of demulcent antiscorbatic quality, five of a vegetable albumen of the nature somewhat of the white of egg, and five of a lubricating gum,—that the fibrine and albumen render it more light of digestion, and the gum more demulcent to the stomach than wheat flour, with which also it may be regarded as nearly equally nutritious, and more so than peas, beans, sago, or arrow root. It was a matter of some doubt whether this importation was in any way affected by the existing patent alluded to, but we believe it has been decided in the negative, and is of entirely different character, although similarly designated. Notwithstanding that the importation is a novel one, it is understood to be a common preparation of the vegetable in Sweden (from which country this supply took place), and to have been so for a long period, and that the only process in manufacture to which the potatoes have been subjected is that of being dried and forced through a sieve or cullender, which, however, is considered to render them liable to the *ad valorem* duty before mentioned.

NEVER GIVE UP.—What if you fail in business? You still have life and health. Don't sit down and cry about mishaps, for that will never get you out of debt, nor buy your children frocks. Go to work at something, eat sparingly, dress moderately, drink nothing exciting, and, above all, keep a merry heart, and you'll be up in the world.—*Franklin.*

REMARKABLE EXPERIMENT.—A recent work of science gives the following novel experiment, which settles questions of some importance in philosophy—"Two hundred pounds weight of earth were dried in an oven, and afterwards put into an earthen vessel. The earth was then moistened with rain water, and a willow tree, weighing five pounds, was planted therein. During the space of five years the earth was carefully watered with rain water, or pure water; the willow grew and flourished; and, to prevent the earth being mixed with fresh earth or dust blown in it by the winds, it was covered with a metal plate perforated with a great number of small holes, suitable for the free admission of air only. After growing in the air for five years, the tree was removed, and found to weigh 169 pounds and about 3 ounces: the leaves which fell from the tree every autumn were not included in this weight. The earth was then removed from the vessel, again dried in the oven, and afterwards weighed; it was discovered to have lost only about two ounces of its original weight; thus 160 pounds of woody fibre, bark, or roots were certainly produced; but from what source? The air has been discovered to be the source of the solid element at least. This statement may at first appear incredible, but, on slight reflection its truth is proved, because the atmosphere contains carbonic acid, which is a compound, or 714 parts weight of oxygen, and 330 parts by weight of carbon."

DANGER ATTENDING THE TOO EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE MENTAL FACULTIES IN CHILDREN.—There can be no doubt that many a child has been sacrificed in early youth to the pride of parents, who, delighted with the intellectual activity of their children, have striven to make them prodigies of learning. But in these cases of early and undue employment of the brain, inflammation of the hemispherical ganglion, or of the lining membrane of the ventricles, with serous effusion, has usually been the cause of either a fatal issue or of subsequent mental imbecility. The late Mr. Deville related to me an interesting case of this kind. An extremely intelligent boy, of about twelve years of age, was brought to him for phrenological examination by a parent who was very proud of the intellectual endowments of his child. Mr. Deville gave his opinion of the boy's character, at the same time cautioning the father of the dangerous course he was pursuing. But the father's reply was, "all that other boys considered labour and hard study are mere child's play to him; that his studies could not be hurting him, he enjoyed them so much." Again Mr. Deville endeavoured to save the child, but the father would not attend to the warning. Two years from that time the father again called on Mr. Deville, and in reply to his enquiries after his child, the father burst into tears—his child was an idiot.—*Solly on the brain.*