

who have good stocks of wool, can quite as well afford to hold it as those who often borrow the money to purchase for that object.

It is not our purpose now to discuss the relative value of coarse or fine wool sheep, or the superior qualities of any breed in either class. We are free to say, however, aside from the consideration of wool-growing, as a secondary object, that we think farmers near the cities and populous villages will find it profitable to raise sheep and lambs for the butcher.

Very few understand the proper method of raising mutton, as the great mass of sheep killed and sold at market are only in fit condition for wintering. Feeding is as essential to the production of "good mutton-chop," as to the furnishing of superior "sirloin steak," with the difference that sheep can be fattened, and well fattened too, at much less comparative cost than beesves. For fattening purposes, the large-bodied, coarse woolled sheep, as the South Downs, and their grades, with others of a similar character, are preferable.

We hope to induce farmers to an investigation of the subject, which they have ample time to do during the winter upon which we are just entering. More correct notions of the propriety and profit of sheep-raising and wool growing are needed—not for speculative purposes, but that those who would enter that field may do so with a better understanding of the subject. So also of fattening sheep. It is little understood, and practised less, except in a few instances. In summer they are easily kept in pastures, growing and fattening, to a certain extent, very cheaply. In the fall and during winter, they may be kept with good hay, turnips, barley corn meal, with the addition of a little oil-cake, occasionally, and be ready for market at any time during the latter part of winter or early spring. They should have good shelter from storm and cold, and access to clean water, and constant and regular feeding, to ensure success.—*Perth Courier*.

CURIOUS AGRICULTURAL NOTIONS.—M. D. Urie, a French botanist, assumes that wheat is not an annual but biennial plant, and he has adopted a new method of cultivating it, so as to bring it to perfection according to his views. The ground for the reception of the seed is first well manured, either before winter or at the beginning of spring, to receive the seed between the 20th of April and the 10th of May, this time being chosen to prevent the chance of blossoming during the year. But the time of sowing may be advanced from year to year. Each grain is sown separately, allowing a large area of ground if the soil is rich, but diminishing according to its sterility. It is deposited in rows, in holes at regular distances, from nine and a half to twenty-three and a half inches asunder, in each direction, the holes in one row opposite the spaces in the next. Each hole is to contain four or five grains, two and a half inches asunder. When the plants have attained a height of four inches all but the finest one in each group are pulled up, and the single one is then left for the harvest of the succeeding year. This curious process is stated to increase the produce greatly but in our opinion it will not pay the expenses of its three years' cultivation, in comparison with annual cropping.

AGRICULTURE IN IRELAND.—The land in cultivation, excluding rich permanent pastures, is 6,000,000 acres. The former prevalence of disease in potatoes has increased rather than decreased the breadth of the land under cultivation. The increase in potato culture is upwards of a quarter of a million of acres, and the value of one to two millions of pounds more. After allowing for the quantity and value, the corn crops covered 2,748,401 acres, and the green crops upwards of 3,000,000 acres, viz., 1,617,958 acres of roots, 91,555 of flax, and 1,424,572 of clover and meadow. The succession is grain, roots, grain and grasses, hewing a four years shift. The fact that the live stock of Ireland, which was worth £33,053,478 in 1855, is worth £34,276,175 in 1858, having increased to the extent of £1,222,697 in that period, is itself a proof that Irish agriculture is in a very satisfactory and improving state; but there is an incomparably stronger proof than that, in the wonderful improvement which has taken place in the condition of the Irish people during the last ten years. From being the most wretched people in Europe, they have become one of the happiest and most prosperous.

USE OF THE POTATO.—This valuable and nutritious esculent is not only useful to us in the many tempting forms in which it is presented in its unmistakeable character, but the farina extracted from it is largely used for other culinary purposes. The