

THE CORN TRADE.—The *Banker's Circular* says:—

"It is the opinion of one of the principal operators in the corn trade that we shall import ten million quarters of foreign corn before the end of July next, which cannot cost much less than twenty millions sterling. Observe, we do not indorse this opinion, but pass it on. All we can say is, that it is the opinion of an eminent man in the corn trade, who might still pass for an authority in its movements if he had not so obstinately, violently, and wrongfully opposed our views throughout the last year of consumption, ending with August. Be the quantity of imported corn more or less, there can be little doubt of a large amount being brought to our shores before the end of July, 1848."

RATE OF DISCOUNT.—In order to show the extraordinary character of the present policy of the Bank in maintaining a "prohibitive" rate of discount, the following statement of the amount of bullion in the Bank, and the rate of interest charged on good commercial bills at the undermentioned periods, may be useful:—

Bullion. Rate of Discount.

1815.—28 Feb...	£2,037,000...	Five per cent.
1816.—29 Feb...	4,641,000...	Five per cent.
1820.—29 Feb...	4,911,000...	Five per cent.
1826.—28 Feb...	2,460,000...	Five per cent.
1832.—29 Feb...	5,293,000...	Four per cent.
1837.—28 Feb...	4,077,000...	Five per cent.
1889.—October..	2,522,000...	Six per cent.
1840.—25 Feb...	4,311,000..	Five per cent.
1847.—13 Nov...	9,258,520...	Eight per cent. <i>min.</i>

The rate of eight per cent. has not been charged by the Bank of England before for upwards of a century and a quarter.

EXTRAORDINARY INSTANCE OF THE TILLERING OF BARLEY.—A Single grain of barley was sown in the garden of Mr. Squires, of Cirencester, in the spring of this year: it produced 75 stems, 50 good ears, 20 indifferent ones, and 1,795 grains of barley. The plant and produce are carefully preserved, and presented to the museum of the Royal Agricultural College.

CHEAP STEAMBOAT TRAVELLING.—This morning the original London, Westminster, and Vauxhall Steamboat Company commenced running their boats every ten minutes between Nine Elms and London Bridge, at the reduced fare of a penny.—*Globe*, October 30.—[They have since extended the distance to Chelsea for the same amount.—Ed. M.L.E.]

It has been stated, that 107 parts of wheat, 111 of rye, 147 of oats, 130 of barley, 138 of Indian corn, 177 of rice, 895 of potatoes, 1,335 of turnips, are equal in nutritive power.

A CURE FOR THE POTATOES.—A correspondent of the *Limerick Chronicle* writes as follows:—"I am convinced from practical experience that manure is the principal generator of disease in the potato, and from that conviction I would advise every potato grower to raise his tubers for his own planting upon a piece of good ground, well-worked, but taking care to give no gross food, either vegetable or animal. It is obvious that vitality of the plant is impaired by the blind kindness of nursing it off its legs, and feeding it above its strength; and I contend that the likeliest method of reclaiming that vitality is to give the plant less to do for a time, and study a little closer its natural habits, 'until you get rid of the disease. Can any one tell me if they have seen this parasitical fungatic disease in the root or branch of a potato which had been entirely deprived of manure? or has any one seen the disease in bogs, where the gross particles of the manure are absorbed, and held by capillary attraction in the poor spongy moss? I am sure any one must have observed the difference of flavour of the starved potato from the one which is grossly fed; the former is a ball of nutritious flour, when the other is a tasteless fungus."

At the present time, when everything respecting public health is engaging so much attention, perhaps the following statements, by a celebrated chemist, may not be uninteresting: A healthy man will pass about 10 cubic yards of air through his lungs in 24 hours. But there cannot be a greater error than to suppose that a man could possibly exist, if so situated as not to be able to procure any more than this quantity of air. If we imagine a number of men placed in a room where each had only 10 cubic yards of air, instead of breathing there comfortably for 24 hours, symptoms of asphyxia would soon show themselves, and death put a period to their sufferings long before that time could elapse. *This shows the necessity of ventilating our dwellings.* Numerous experiments have convinced me that a healthy man will require not less than 6 cubic yards of fresh air per hour. Suppose then we pass 9 hours in our bed-chamber; in order to render it perfectly healthy it should not contain less than 60 cubic yards for each individual sleeping in it; or, in other words, 4 yards square by 10 feet high. How seldom these conditions are fulfilled!—(*From the French.*) If there be any truth in the above statement, can we wonder at the fever and sickness in the close streets, crowded workshops, and miserable dwellings of the poor?—(Translator.)—C. E. D.

ARBOATH CATTLE DISEASE.—A most virulent distemper is at present raging here amongst our cattle, which baffles the skill of our most experienced surgeons. Some byres have been completely emptied.—*Dundee Advertiser.*