

forgot that throughout the war Russian exports have continued by way of land, and that thus we shall not be compelled to sell the old stocks cheaply. The supposition of a great quantity of Russian merchandise prepared in anticipation is equally erroneous. Russia cannot at this moment export any other grain than that already found in our sea-ports, or in their neighbourhood, since there would not be time to bring anything from the interior for the navigation of this year. The corn in store in the southern ports will have probably been already purchased on the account of French merchants. It is only, then, between the autumn and next spring that Great Britain can hope to find corn cheaper in Russia than in America." We must, as a matter of course, receive the above with some reserve; but, at the same time, it is evident that from the crippled state of the resources of Russia, a very large outflow of grain cannot be expected; hence, it follows that a low range in the value of English produce is an event not likely to happen this year.

The enormous produce of the potato crop in all parts of the United Kingdom last year, and the fine condition in which it was secured for winter use, are now more and more apparent. Even up to the present time, immense quantities are coming forward perfectly sound and fit for use. This important feature has no doubt greatly interfered with the consumption of the better kinds of food, and assisted to keep prices in check. The present prices in the London market vary from 35s. to 95s. per ton.

In Ireland and Scotland agricultural operations are very forward; indeed, they have experienced no interruption during the whole of the month. Shipments of grain to England have been small, and prices almost generally have been drooping.

How to START MELONS.—A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* gives the following plan for starting melons:—

"My plan for obtaining early plants is, to construct a rude basket or wicker-work of willow or other twigs, something like a bird's nest, without the inside filling up. Make a hole in the soil of the hot-bed of sufficient size to admit the basket, fill up, plant and cover the seeds, rake and smooth the surface. When the weather is warm enough, and sufficiently settled to admit of outside planting, I make my hills, and lift the little baskets containing the plants, and carefully remove them to their places, where they quickly strike through the open net work of the basket into mother earth, and soon repay all trouble for giving them 'a start in the world.'"

SOIL FOR FRUIT TREES.—Fine fruit can only be grown upon a soil naturally or artificially dry and firm. A wet soil, or a very loose peaty one, never produces fine fruit. Sandy soils, gravelly soils or clayey soils, as well as what are called loamy soils, can all be made to grow fine fruit, if properly cultivated, provided the subsoil is porous enough to permit the water to escape rapidly downwards a sufficient depth to allow the roots of trees at least three feet of soil which is never filled with stagnant moisture—and the greater the depth of perfectly drained soil, the greater the certainty of success.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT.—A curious circumstance connected with the growth of clover is, that by cutting the clover twice and removing all the hay, a much better wheat crop is obtained than by feeding it off by sheep, even if some artificial food is used. This is owing to the fact that the growth of roots of clover in the land is in exact proportion to the growth of the leaves in the air. Each leaflet that shoots upward sends a radicle of root downward. *If the leaf be bitten off or destroyed, its radicle ceases to grow.* It therefore follows that grazing clover by sheep materially diminishes the amount of vegetable matter accumulated in the soil by the roots, and consequently the produce of the succeeding crop.

The above is sustained by the following:—

"A friend of mine in Northamptonshire had a field of clover; it was divided into two portions, both were cut at midsummer, and one part was then fed off with sheep, and the other left to grow till September, when it was again cut and the hay removed. Equal portions of the several pieces were then compared. Where the clover had been cut once and fed off, he got 35 cwt. of clover roots per acre. Where he cut twice, he got 75 cwt., there been a difference of two tons of vegetable matter per acre."

VEGETABLE SEASONERS.—Parsley, celery, thyme, sage, onions, garlic, and other seasoners, should not be put into soups or stews until the soup is nearly done; chop fine, and put in five minutes before the soup is taken from the fire.