

**A GOOD EXAMPLE.—SPADE CULTURE.**—Lord Cloncurry has published the following offer to his tenantry, in the Limerick Reporter:—"Convinced of the superiority of spade cultivation, both as to amount of produce and improvement of the ground, I offer to my tenants in Limerick the following prizes:—"To the farmer, on my estate, holding not more than one hundred acres, who shall have the greatest quantity of land cultivated by the spade, not less than nine inches deep, and sown with oats before March 20, 1849, a prize of £50; to the second largest quantity, £10; to the farmer holding not more than 40 acres, £20 for the greatest quantity, and a prize of £15 for the second largest quantity. —*Cloncurry.*"

**NEW VARIETY OF WHEAT.**—Advices from St. Petersburg mention that a new variety of wheat has been recently discovered and cultivated in Bessarabia. It is called the Kolus, or large-eared wheat, on account of the peculiar beauty of its ears. At present it is limited to mere seed-wheat, and fetches twice the price of the ordinary Arnautka. One other and more important peculiarity of this grain is, that it is less affected by drought than any other varieties. At the same time, it possesses several other features being distinguished by its greater fertility, its deep amber colour, and its early ripening. This important discovery was made by a peasant of the name of Bulatowisch, in the village of Troitzk, in the district of Bender, who, being a strict observer of nature, detected in his crops certain ears which were longer and became ripe earlier than the rest of the crop. These were collected, and sowed separately, and the result was an abundant harvest, and the introduction of a new and valuable variety of wheat. The Russian Government, it is to be hoped, will not let such an opportunity pass, of rewarding one so deserving of a substantial mark of its favour. The event has created a great sensation amongst the agriculturists and dealers in grain, and the new wheat well merits being named after the discoverer.—*Morning Post.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**THE TESTIMONY OF ANOTHER JUDGE.**—At the late Yorkshire Winter Gaol delivery, which commenced on the 18th of December last, and continued for a fortnight, (there being above 200 criminals for trial) Baron Platt, in passing sentence on a prisoner for horse-stealing, said, "In your case, like all others of a similar kind, tried at the assizes, drink is at the bottom of all. You spend all your money in drink, and then you go and take property belonging to other people, to supply the deficiency occasioned by your own profligacy." In a case of stabbing, his lordship observed, "that he believed, in every case but three which had come before him during those assizes, drunkenness had either made the parties robbed the victims, or the parties robbing had gone out on their unlawful errand in a state of drunkenness."—*Bristol Temperance Herald.*

**THE FIRST SPREE.**—"Never was drunk but once in my life," said a chap in my hearing; "never mean to be again. The street seemed to be very steep, and I lifted my legs at every step as if I was getting up stairs. Several cart wheels were making convulsions in my brain,

and at one time I fancied my head was a large carving and turning establishment, the lathes of which I was keeping in motion with my own feet. I couldn't conceive what was the reason that the town had turned into such an enormous hill, and what made it worse was that it seemed all the time growing higher, and threatened to pitch over on me. Stop, stop, thought I, and I'll head this old hill yet, or at least it shan't head me. So I turned round to go down and get to the bottom—but hang me if the town didn't turn round with me, heading me all the time, and presenting the bluff in front of me. Well, sure enough, the ground soon flew up, and struck me in the forehead, and as soon as the stars cleared away, I commenced climbing with my hands and knees. The next thing I saw was a big brick house coming full split round the corner, and I believe it ran right over me, for I don't remember any more."

**INTEMPERANCE.**—Some years ago, Mr. Poynter, Under-Sheriff of London, made the following declaration before a committee of the House of Commons:—"I have been in the habit of hearing criminals refer all their misery to drinking, so that now I almost cease to ask them the cause of their ruin. *This evil lies at the root of all other evils of this city and elsewhere. Nearly all the convicts for murder with whom I have conversed, have admitted being under the influence of drink at the time of the act!*" The great and learned Judge Hales, after more than twenty years' observation on the bench, says—"I have found that if the murders and manslaughters, burglaries and robberies, riots and tumults, adulteries, fornications, rapes, and other great enormities that have happened in that time, were divided into five parts, four have been the consequence of excessive drinking—of tavern and ale-house meetings!"—and the Rev. Dr. Beecher, in his sermons on intemperance, has the following striking passage:—"Supposing that one-half of the 1800 licensed houses which are in Glasgow (*and at present there are a vast deal more!*) send forth a drunken man, there are 900 men in that city, spreading around them, every day in the year, beggary, wretchedness, pestilence, and crime!" What pictures of demoralization and misery do not these various statements exhibit to the human mind?

**IS FRANCE A SOBER NATION?**—It appears that the annual consumption of wine in France is 746,571,429 gallons; of brandy, 9,245,425; spirits, 2,250,000; cider, 221,705,450; beer, 74,021,550. In this aggregate consumption of 1,052,797,854 gallons, there is 137,298,767 gallons of pure alcohol, giving to each of the thirty-two millions of people no less than 4½ gallons of alcohol annually; considerably exceeding the amount of alcohol used by any other nation. There is more, far more of drunkenness or unnatural excitement from the use of intoxicating liquors in France, than the world are usually acquainted with.

**NEW-YEAR'S-DAY IN EDINBURGH.**—This morning brought in the year 1849, and with a quietness unexampled during the last half century. The peace and quiet of last night may be attributed to Hogmany falling on Sunday, and to the stringent clause, 136, of the new police act, which compels all drinking shops, &c., to be shut at 11 at night. But as a salutation to the few revellers for the want of stronger stimulants, a great number of orange sellers set up their stalls in the High Street and elsewhere, about half-past twelve, and music was furnished by Italian burdy-gurdies, &c., till a much later hour.—*Mercury.*