

From the Connecticut Farmers Gazette.

THE POTATO.

As an article of profit for general cultivation, none can compare with the Potato in the vicinity of large cities and navigable waters. The farmers of the town of Greenwich, in Fairfield county, made this discovery more than 45 years ago. Since that time it has been their principal crop, gradually increasing, by which they have become the most wealthy town in the State, according to its population. Bordering on the Sound, with a number of good harbors, and their proximity to New York city, their facilities for transportation, and advantages for a market, were highly favorable to their pursuit.

This township is composed of several ridges ranging north and south, with a considerable portion of rough, rocky, broken surface, and all furnishing stone sufficient to fence it into small lots, which is a great industry and enterprise of its inhabitants has, in a great measure, accomplished. The soil is chiefly loam, with some small portion of gravel, well adapted to the use of gypsum, and the production of grass, corn, oats, potatoes, and other roots.

In raising potatoes, no manure has been so generally and profitably used as gypsum. Very little has been done in the business of making compost. The prevailing notion, that gypsum has no effect on the sea-shore, does not hold true here. More of it may be necessary than in the interior, to produce good effect. But, provided by any alkaline substance as lime or ashes, in any soil where there is any vegetable mould, there is no failure in effect, unless, temporarily, from a drought. The free use of lime in this town would greatly enhance the effect of gypsum on any crop. The mode of cultivation in Greenwich has been tested by nearly half a century's experience, and may therefore be safely recommended.

Turf land is generally preferred, plowed twice or more, till well plowed. The ground is marked with the plow into squares of about 30 inches, which barely admits a horse with a small plow to go between the rows. One large, or two middle size, or three, or four small potatoes, are dropped in a hill, generally without cutting. A small table spoonful of gypsum is then dashed on the seed where it is covered. When the tops are mostly out of the ground, two or four inches, a plow is passed between the rows, turning the soil from the hills. Then a light brush harrow is drawn across the rows, which in part covers the tops, and smother, or eradicates all young weeds. No hoe is used at this plowing. After the second plowing, turning the furrows towards the rows, the hoe is used to clear around the hills, and give them a little fresh earth, where the plow has not already done it. Previous to the next plowing, (generally with one horse,) another small handful of gypsum is sometimes dashed on the hill, and perhaps more frequently broadcast. The plow, in good tillage, is passed between the rows often enough to subdue the weeds, previous to, or about the time the blossoms begin to put out; but the hoe is seldom used more than twice, and without much hilling up.

Where gypsum is applied, the potatoes are all nearly of one size, and more so than when barn, or any compost manure is used. An average crop on any well tilled, plastered land, is about 200 bushels per acre. Farmers, with one hundred acre farms, generally raise from 800 to 2000 bushels regularly, in favorable seasons, besides corn and other grains and vegetables. We know one farmer who, ten or fifteen years ago, frequently planted from 60 to 60 acres, and remember one crop of 16,000 bushels.

CHOICER BREEDING HORSES.—It may therefore be worth while to make a few remarks on the breeding of horses, for there is no part of the world where there are more spirited, and at the same time more sensible, breeders of horses than in the limits of the circulation of this paper. The first axiom I would lay down is, that "like will be like"; that the progeny will inherit the qualities, or the defects, and qualities of the parents. It is also certain that the foal will inherit the diseases of the parents, or at least the predisposition to them. There are proofs upon proofs that blindness, roaring, brooding, spavins, curbs, &c., &c., have been bequeathed both by the sire and the dam to the immediate or more distant offspring.—The similarity of form and constitution will also be inherited. The skillful or careless breeder will often so badly pair the animals, that the good points in each will be in a manner lost, the defects will be increased, and the produce will be far inferior to the sire and dam. Of late years these principles have been much neglected in the breeding of horses, and the following is the ex-

planation. There are nearly as good stallions as there used to be. Poverty or indifference have induced many of the farmers to neglect that mare on his farm which has cost him little money but still he determines to have a foal from her, and she is put to the horse; and by what rule does he select the horse? Why, a horse is selected because "they say" he is a good one or because they only charge so and so for his covering, and a foal is still a foal; or neighbour So-and-So has a horse, and you know we must not go by him, it would not be neighbourly. Under these considerations, not having the least reference to the points of the horse or the mare, a foal is produced, in all probability a worthless animal. I wish to impress upon the minds of all farmers that the excellence of the mare is a point of quite as much importance as that of the horse, and that out of a bad mare, let the horse be as perfect as he may, a good foal will rarely be produced. Farmers should also bear in mind that a foal which, when arrived at maturity, will sell for £15, requires as much food as one that will sell for £100; and that the latter (if worked) will perform as much work for the breeder as the one that sells only for £15, but should the £100 horse happen to receive a blemish during his work, he will at any rate bring as much as the unblemished £15 horse. I have been induced to make these remarks in the hope they may catch the eye of those farmers who breed horses, and are careless about the stamp of mare they put to the horse, and who by being thus indifferent, are the cause of producing the inferior class of horses we have recently witnessed at Horncastle fair, and which I trust we shall see by degrees diminish in number.—*English paper.*

A Geological Report upon the Fowche Core and its immediate vicinity, by Dyrd Powell, M. D., with a Geological Map, Little Rock, Arkansas.—We are indebted to W. W. Stevenson, Esq., for the above brief, though valuable report. The author has well set forth the money saving benefits resulting from a knowledge of science, in the following remarks:

"Geology lies at the foundation of a large portion of those great improvements by which society is civilized and placed in advance of barbarism. The improvement of a country in canals, rail roads, mining operations, and in the discovery of those natural productions which are indispensable to the arts of civilized society, must advance very slowly, empirically, and expensively, unless guided by the lights of Geology.

"In Pennsylvania, at the Mauch Chunk Coal Mines, a company lost, in one enterprise, \$80,000, which could have been prevented by three hours' labor of a practical geologist: or, if the company had possessed such a knowledge of the science as should constitute a part of the education of every gentleman, the occurrence could not have happened. Blunders of equal magnitude, but not of equal expense, are committed, to my own knowledge, in every part of this country, in digging and boring for salt and fresh waters. It is not unfrequently happens, furthermore, that articles, indispensable to domestic life, are imported, when, at the same time, they exist, perhaps, upon our own possessions. In confirmation of this remark, we have before us the fact, that roof slate has been freighted here from the north, while the same article exists in abundance within three miles of the city. It is also true that a comparatively fragile and decomposable sand-stone has been brought from Cincinnati to this place, for architectural purposes, when a granite of a more beautiful and enduring character, and admirably adapted to the same purpose, obtains in great abundance within four miles of the city. I think it probable, furthermore, that hydraulic lime has been shipped from Louisville to this place, when it might have been procured within the corporate limits of the city. Finally, the great abundance and variety of geological productions used in, and almost indispensable to, the arts of civilized society, which I have developed in a few weeks, and that, too, within a very small compass, ought to induce every young man who is receiving an education, and every gentleman of leisure, to devote a liberal portion of his time to this subject. We should be happy to increase these extracts did our limits permit.—*American Agriculturist.*

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.—In a late admirable report by Horace Mann, Esq., Secretary of the Board of Education of Massachusetts, the following striking exemplification is introduced of the maxim that "knowledge is power":—

"M. Redelet, in his work, '*Sur l'Art de Bâtir*,' gives the following account of an experiment made to test the different amounts