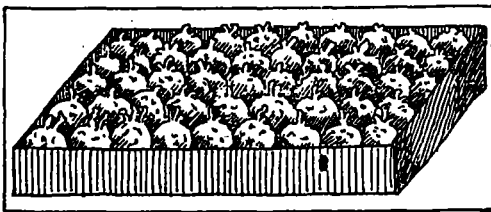


record-breaking character. Seldom, if ever, has been experienced such gales with snow, frost, rain, and hail for more than four days; and yet, after a few days of genial weather, but little ill effects are apparent.

"I have carefully examined my early-sown barley, and cannot discover that it has suffered in the slightest; indeed, I think I never saw it more promising; it is growing at a wonderful rate. I suppose that during the cold weather which followed *its being drilled in the middle of February*, that the plant was busy making root instead of so much growth upwards, and now that the moisture and the warmth have come there is nothing to hinder its rapid growth. The land could not possibly be in a better condition where it has been worked properly, but I regret to notice a much greater acreage of land which is not half cultivated. This spring there has been no possible excuse for this great neglect, at least so far as the season has been concerned; it could not possibly have been more favourable for the tillage farmer, scarcely a single day during the whole winter has the land been too wet or too hard for the ploughs to work."

**Water cress.**—"Water-cresses! Nice fresh water-cresses!" "This," says a correspondent of *The New-England Homestead*, "is one of the cries of the London streets." Well, all we can say is, that if the cry is "*Water-cresses*," nowadays, education has made vast strides since we lived in London: it used to be "*creuses*," just as no corkney ever spoke of "*shrimps*," but always left the *h* out: *s'rimps*. But call them cresses or creases, as you will, they are capital good things and can be grown without much trouble wherever there is a small stream, preferably from a limestone source, as thus: Sow the seed, early, in a frame; transplant once in the open ground; when well rooted, make up balls of clay in each of which pack the roots of a plant, not too tightly, and set them in the stream near the side. It would be as well to place stones in the water in such a position as will lead away the main flow of the stream from the plants, to prevent washing.

We tried this simple plan at Lachine, in 1889, and found it answer admirably. A plantation of ten feet by one foot, requiring about a dozen plants, would supply a family with more than it can consume: unless a very numerous one. Our English cresses are grown on a large scale, and almost invariably in the Chalk district. Six to fourteen acres in a plot are no uncommon sizes. Of the kinds, the *bronze-leaf* is by far the most succulent.



Box of Sprouted Seed-Potatoes.

**Early - potatoes.**—We have often mentioned in this periodical a plan we have practised for many years when growing early potatoes. The engraving gives a good idea of the box and its packing of seed-tubers. It should be placed in a well lighted room, frost-proof of course, and started, in this district, about March 1st.

**Irish crops in 1897.**—Owing to its damp climate, very little wheat is grown in Ireland, oats being the favourite grain-crop. In 1897, the product of the wheat-crop in that country was 1,355,240 bushels, at the rate of 28½ 60 lb. bushels to the imperial acre. Oats yielded 16,264,733 cwt. (112 lbs.); barley, 2,587,137 cwt.; potatoes only 2.2 tons (88 bushels of 56 lbs each) an acre; turnips and mangels 14 tons; sown grasses gave of hay 2.3 tons; permanent meadow, 2.4 tons.

**Winter-wheat in U. S.**—The condition of this crop is more promising than it has been in April in any year since 1894. California gives the worst showing: only 62 o/o of a full crop; and Kansas the best: 101 o/o; though how a crop can be 1 o/o more than perfection we do not see!