

The healthy condition of the potato and the...
The potato disease, which was so severely visited by the so-called potato disease in 1846, damp, cold, rainy weather followed a series of very hot days; and in 1847, cold and rain came on, after continued drought, in the beginning of September, exactly at the period of the most luxuriant growth of the potatoes. In this at least there is no novelty. It is the same view as that taken by ourselves in this journal in August, 1845, when the disease first broke out, which was very generally adopted, but which we have long since shown to be erroneous. The opinion was just that which would be formed upon the first hurried glance at the phenomena, but which a full knowledge of the facts soon compelled its advocates to relinquish. The only material difference that we remark between Professor Liebig's discovery and the old hypothesis referred to, consists in his introducing it in 1848 as something new, and surrounding it with an array of quotations from the experiments of Hales which are familiar to every student of vegetable physiology, together with some observations of his own on the motion of fluids in living bodies, the connection between which and the potato disease we fail to discover. We wonder that Professor Liebig should not have perceived that the seasons of 1845, '6, and '7, in all which the disease was prevalent, were very dissimilar; we wonder still more that he should not have weighed the mass of valuable evidence that has been collected on the subject in every country in Northern Europe, before he jumped to his present conclusion. It is still more extraordinary that he should not have asked himself why impeded perspiration, influenza, cold, or whatever else he terms the disease, should not have attacked the potato crop before the year 1845, and should have continued to do so every year since, three seasons essentially different from each other.—Gardener's Chronicle.

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MODIFICATION OF THE NAVIGATION LAWS.
The British Ministry has now prepared a plan for the modification of the Navigation Laws. It is contemplated to preserve to British interests the navigation connected with the coasting trade, and the coast and inland waters, but the foreign trade, the foreign trade, the "long voyage," as it is called, from Asia, Africa, or the distant parts of America, "the landing clause in Europe," the colonial and inter-colonial trade, will be thrown open to the world, upon the preliminary condition that foreign powers will consent to grant to England equal terms of complete reciprocity. The building of British ships is to be no longer confined to our own ship yards, but to any of our British possessions, but a register may be obtained for a vessel built and owned by British subjects (the ownership must be "on and out" British, even though the vessel be built in any part of the world. The masting of coasting vessels will continue to be, as well as the masting of vessels in the foreign trade, namely, three-fourths of the crew will be British; but the necessity of taking a proportionate number of apprentices is done away with. The better regulations of the Merchant Seamen's Fund, Light Dues and Pilgrage will be under the control of separate acts, together with, perhaps, the compulsory examination of masters of merchant vessels. A department of the Board of Trade, consisting of professional men, is contemplated, for the purpose of watching over, and improving our merchant navy. Such is the outline of the plan of the Government.

The changes proposed by Ministers in the Navigation Laws, are considered as a very important interest in this country and in our colonies. The effects of it are not unconditionally and unreservedly, would be of the most extensive and perhaps alarming kind for existing interests. But coupled with the proposed modifications are with the possible regulations in the present bill, in all cases, (except the discretion reserved in the colonial trade, where it is not actually indispensable), under, upon a perfect reciprocity, we think the operation of the change will be slow, and not so detrimental to the shipowners as they anticipate. With regard to the progress of the measure, our confidence is not high. The measure, if it becomes necessary, were it not under the auspices of the country and for the commoner, the sooner it is carried the better, for the other hand, if

public opinion has, contrary to our prediction, the abolition of all these regulations, and protective laws, will not altogether be having country to their own interests in prolonging the present doctored system.

An important meeting is announced to take place in London, on the 27th inst., of all persons desirous of opposing the system of free labour in the British Colonies, and of preventing England from becoming dependent for a supply of sugar and coffee upon the extension of cultivation by means of slavery and the slave trade. The object of this meeting was to have a full and unobscured discussion of the subject, and to elect a committee to carry out the object of the meeting. The meeting will be held at the Corn Exchange, London, from 10 to 12 o'clock, on the 27th inst. We observe with much interest that the improvement which we noticed in trade last week will continue, though in a very partial and limited degree.

The value of the market for Liverpool is now about 27. 6d. for the very best West India Coffee, and 25. 0d. for the second best. The market for the other grades of coffee is also very quiet. The market for the other grades of coffee is also very quiet. The market for the other grades of coffee is also very quiet.

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nationality, that the clubs are suspected of concealing views dangerous to the peace of France. An attempt on the part of the clubs to intimidate the National Assembly would, at any time, cause just alarm and excitement in the capital; but on the present occasion the excitement is greatly increased by the postponement of the franchise vote, which was to have taken place yesterday. The demonstration of today in favour of the Poles will be a formidable one. The following placard has been issued by Bianqui's club:—

The central committee of all democrats that the manifestation in favour of Poland will take place this Monday, the 10th current, at 10 o'clock a.m. The citizens will meet at the Place de la Bourse, at any convenient hour, but this must be considered as a fact.

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At a meeting of the grand Orange Lodge of the county Antrim, held at Antrim, on Tuesday, April 25th, Sir Wm. Verelst, grand master, in the chair, it was resolved:—That in the season of constant excitement, when false rumours are constantly circulated, and alarm on the part of the friends is thought to justify suspicion, we feel called on to express our hearty sympathy with the principles, and to pledge our loyalty to the British monarch, and to the British constitution, which we will support with our every power, and to the British religion, which we will support with our every power, and to the British religion, which we will support with our every power.

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