

if the operation has been well performed in the fall, and a heavy cultivator substituted; but a new prepared seed bed is of primary importance. It is also of importance to sow the tares as soon as the state of the land and weather will admit; say in this climate about the middle of April; but this operation cannot be regulated by the day of the month. Late sown tares, however, will seldom succeed, unless the soil be in excellent order, and the season prove particularly favourable. If sown broadcast for forage,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 bushels per acre will be required; if for seed, a less quantity will suffice. If the seed be small, and the ground rich, and in good tilth, the quantity may be diminished; but in crops of this sort it is the best policy to sow plenty of seed. The plants should be sufficiently thick to cover the ground, and thus prevent the growth of weeds, which are often very troublesome among these kinds of crops, when too thin; and they should not be attempted but upon land that is comparatively rich and clean.

If the season should prove moist, and the before mentioned conditions observed, the crop will come to cut before clover is ready, and a second mowing may be obtained; and, sometimes, even after that another slight growth may be obtained, in time to be ploughed in for winter wheat, for which in heavy lands tares are an excellent preparation. In this way abundance of forage may be obtained for silage stock during the summer months, naked fallow dispensed with, the land manured and kept free from weeds, and well prepared for our staple article—fall wheat. Tares make excellent hay, but being so very succulent the operation of saving is somewhat difficult and tedious, except in dry, hot weather. They should be cut when coming into pod, and if left a little later they will make excellent winter fodder for sheep. Unless they are left for seed, this crop takes comparatively little from the soil, and returns to it if properly managed, much that is valuable; being, in this respect, very different to most other spring crops.

All the animals of the farm are fond of this legume, either in its green or dried state, and all thrive upon it in an eminent degree. Hogs may be entirely fattened upon it. It is suited to milch cows, causing them to give more butter

than most kinds of food; and it is extensively used for horses. In addition to their value as green forage, tares, when well made into hay, are regularly relished by all kinds of the domesticated animals, particularly sheep; and are, therefore, well worthy to receive a fair and extensive trial in this country, as a rotating and ameliorating crop, assisting the farmer to sustain his live stock through the greater portion of the year in a thriving and healthy condition.

### The Past, Present, and Future of British Agriculture.

The above subject was introduced at the first meeting of the London Farmers' Club, February 11th, by Mr. Alderman Mechi, whose paper evinces his usual industry and zeal in the cause of Agricultural improvement. We think that this paper will be interesting and suggestive to most of our readers, and shall therefore give portions of it in succeeding numbers of this Journal. Mr. Mechi's style will not admit of abridgement, even were that desirable. We do not know where to look for so much valuable and interesting information on the history and progress of British Agriculture, upon which our own is mainly founded, as is contained in this cleverly compiled essay:—

B.C. to A.D. 450.—If this country were without towns, cities, or roads, trade, commerce, or manufactures, and if the population were, consequently, solely agricultural, it would evidently be unnecessary to produce more corn or meat than would supply their own families, their lords, warriors, governors, clergy, and dependants. Pasture, wood, and waste would abound; and, as there would be no use for money, the proprietors of land would receive for their almost worthless acres, personal services or a portion of the produce. Such was, in fact, the condition of Britain when, 55 years B.C., the Romans under Julius Cæsar landed in Kent, and ultimately conquered nearly the whole of South and Mid Britain, which they colonized and partially civilized, giving to the natives municipal institutions—a pretty good proof that in South and Mid Britain we were not so savage and barbarous a race as has been by some represented. It is true that the North Britons were more fierce, barbarous, and warlike than those of the South; and that our cannie friends over the border were then, as now, determined to come South in search of the "loaves and fishes;" for, in spite of high walls and fortresses, the Romans con-