

filled with indignation; my blood boils in my veins, and I could wish to excite all Europe to combine against these Turks, who, descending from the mountains of Armenia, have crushed the nations in their passage, and waded through rivers of blood to the throne of Constantinople. Nor have the beautiful countries they inhabit been able to soften the ferocity of their character. Power is their law, their justice is the sabre,

OBSERVATIONS ON THE CULTURE OF POTATOES.

[From Dr. Anderson's Essay on that subject, published among the papers of the Bath Agricultural Society, 1788.]

THE essay is divided into several parts or sections—of which, the first treats of the nature of the seeds most proper for being planted. Here he observes, that practical farmers, or those who rely on experience alone as their guide, are not agreed, whether large or small potatoes are best for seed, or whether it is most advantageous to plant cuttings only, or whole potatoes. To ascertain these points, our author made various experiments, with great attention to the circumstances that might affect their accuracy, the general result of which is as follows:

1st. That it is of no consequence, whether the potatoes planted be cuttings or whole potatoes, provided they be of the same size. But

2dly. That the produce, in equal circumstances, as far as his experiments have gone, is always greatly varied by the size of the pieces or potatoes planted.

In these experiments, the size of the seeds planted was always ascertained by weight; and the produce was ascertained in the same way—and the general result of two sets of experiments, as to this particular was, that in the same soil, with the same culture, the weight of produce of that pair where the largest seeds were employed, exceeded that where the smallest were planted in the proportion of five to one. We agree with our author, in thinking this one of the most surprising and important experiments we have met with in agriculture. And as we think, from the precautions that were taken, and faithfully detailed in the work, it is impossible to doubt the fact; it affords a strong proof of the little reliance that can be had on experience alone, for ascertaining facts of this nature, since it has so long remained a doubt among practical farmers, whether large or small potatoes were best for seed. For the corollaries he draws, and practical remarks he makes from this experiment,

we refer the curious reader to the performance itself.

The second division treats of the effects of cutting the stems of potatoes when growing.

Potatoe stems, while green and succulent, afford a great weight of green forage, which is a wholesome food for cattle. From the experiments here recorded, however it appears, that the increase of the bulb is immediately stopped, when the stem is cut. The loss of crop that would be sustained by cutting over the stems at different periods, is denoted in the following table, founded on actual experiment.

August 2,	When the potatoes were just coming into blossom the diminution of crop would be, per acre, at the rate of Bushels,	624
10,	Ditto at the rate of	511
17,	Ditto at the rate of	476
22,	Ditto at the rate of	381
29,	Ditto at the rate of	214
Sept. 5,	Ditto at the rate of	93

At the last period, the stems were become hard and less succulent, and little relished by cattle. On the 2d of August, the weight of green forage was twelve tons and a half nearly; but the value of that is so far short of that of 624 bushels of potatoes, that it must ever be a very uneconomical practice.

The third division treats of ardent spirits afforded by potatoes.

Our author obtained from 72lb. of potatoes, without any mixture of other matter, an English gallon of pure spirit considerably above proof, and about a quart more of a weaker kind. He describes the process in a very particular manner. The quality of the spirit he describes as being always remarkably good, but twice in particular it possessed a peculiar fine flavour, resembling that of raspberries, and was, he thinks, the finest spirit he ever law. On other occasions it did not possess that flavour, but the circumstances that occasioned this diversity, he has not been able to ascertain.

The fourth division treats of the marks for distinguishing different sorts of potatoes, from each other, which does not admit of abridgment.

The fifth, of raising potatoes from seed. Our author doubts, if new varieties can be obtained in this way; we suspect he is here mistaken, as from our own experience we have had abundant proofs of this fact. Many interesting remarks occur under this head.

The sixth division treats of the doctrine of seminal varieties. Our author contends, that the commonly received notion concerning seminal varieties in plants, is not well founded. He proves from reason and experiment,