

THE CUT WORM IN MISSOURI.—We learn from *Colman's Rural World* that, "this destructive pest has been unusually numerous the past spring. It has laid whole fields of young corn low. We doubt whether there has been so much re-planting of corn in many years as there has been the past spring. The season has been very cold and backward, which has been very favourable to their depredations. But the hot days of June are here, which will destroy them. We know of no way of getting rid of them but by outright slaughter."

PREMIUM FOR FARM BOOK-KEEPING.—The *Working Farmer*, believing that the carefully recorded experience of practical farmers is the most effective method of improving the agriculture of a country, offers "for the best Farm Record in the United States for the year 1867, a premium of \$200; the award to be made by the American Institute Farmers' Club."

The following are the conditions on which the premium will be awarded:—"The selection in each State will be left to the Agricultural Society of that State.

Each State Society will determine the manner in which its decision shall be made, but for the double purpose of a division of labor and of subjecting the reports to the inspection of as many persons as possible, the Agricultural Society of each county be requested to select its premium report for competition before the State Society."

British Cleanings.

The Crops of 1866.

Mr. TURNER, of Richmond, Yorkshire, whose annual reports respecting the state and prospects of the growing crops have long been regarded with interest by agriculturists, recently addressed the following letter to the editor of the *Times*:—

"Sir,—The period of the year has arrived when an idea may be formed of the probable character of our grain crops; and, in accordance with a practice of long standing, I beg to send you the impression made on my mind on this important subject, after a careful inspection of the crops now growing on a wide extent of country.

"We had a cold ungenial spring, not only in the north, but also in those southern counties where milder weather is expected to prevail, and in consequence there is less difference in the growth of our various field crops than is usual at this season; in fact, with the exception of a few patches of tares and some rye-grass, the crops as far south as London are not perceptibly earlier than those on the best portions of the northern counties; while in ordinary years we have been in the habit of thinking that harvest in those southern counties preceded us nearly a fortnight. Wheat always thrives best in a dry spring; this year its progress has been much retarded by wet and cold. The general crop, however, has not suffered so much in colour as has frequently been the case; in many places this is, no doubt, the consequence of thorough drainage. Oats, barley, beans, and peas have all come up fairly. Potatoes have been extensively planted, but the general field crop is only just getting above ground; therefore, all we can say about it is, that the plants have come up regularly and well. Mangolds and carrots are up earlier, and with a stronger braid than they have shown for several years. Early-sown swede turnips were nearly all destroyed by the fly immediately after they came up. In most cases that land has been sown over again, and the general sowing of swedes and yellows has just been completed. During the last fortnight there has fallen a great deal of rain over much of England, though not in each district at the same time or to the same extent. The air has mostly been warm, and it is very delightful to see the improvement in growth and colour shown by trees and crops everywhere. I think the prospect for good root crops is better than we have had for many years. It is too early to give a positive or reliable opinion about harvest, but I think we may reasonably hope for an average, though we cannot have a great wheat crop; while looking at the state of the crops now, and considering the time of the year, I think we cannot possibly have an early harvest.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your faithful servant, H. J. TURNER.

➤ The rinderpest is decreasing in Great Britain.

SMALL TENANCIES IN IRELAND.—We learn from *The Farmer* (Scottish) that "there are in Ireland 444,231 tenants whose holdings only average twelve acres of land."

HAY FEVER.—A correspondent of the *Times* suggests as instant and sensible relief to this complaint the bathing the nostrils and closed eyes with spirits of camphor and warm water.

NEW ZEALAND TOBACCO.—A most luxuriant crop of tobacco is said by a British exchange, to have been recently growing upon some land at Epsom, in New Zealand, and is stated to be equal in appearance to the best grown crops in America. Unfortunately, however, there appears to be no one in the colony who understands the treatment of the leaf, or its manufacture into good merchantable tobacco.

THE FLAX FLY.—"It is stated," says a British Exchange that the flax fly is committing sad ravages in the new "flax crop in Suffolk. The fly is, in its present stage, a coal black. It afterwards assumes a white streak along its back. It is now about the size of a flea (oval shaped), and hops about as a land lobster or a flea."

HONEY IN FRANCE.—An English exchange states that "the imports of honey into France in the first three months of this year amounted to 7½ tons, as compared with 26½ tons in the corresponding period of 1865, and 37½ tons in the corresponding period of 1864. The exports of honey from France in the first three months of this year were 256½ tons, as compared with 60 tons in the corresponding period of 1865, and 160 tons in the corresponding period of 1864. Some of our readers will, perhaps, be amazed at our computing honey by the ton!"

THE "GRUB" AT THE ANTIPODES.—A British exchange learns that "the farmer's pest has been working sad havoc on the oat crops in the province of Canterbury, New Zealand. Unlike the grub of this country, which commits its ravages while the crop is in braid, this caterpillar attacks the stalk when the grain is nearly ripe, severing the head and strewing the ground with ears. It is described as crawling in millions on the straw, and the destruction wrought through the province is immense."

HAIR-BRED HOGGS.—"The *Dumfriesshire and Galloway Herald*, in referring to the value of fat sheep in that county, says:—"The rates realized here have been invariably very high for well-fed clipped hogs, fully 9d. and even 9½d. per lb.; and the wool, if at 2s. per lb., is equal to nearly 2d. per lb. more. We have noticed before the rapidly-increasing practical skill in rearing and breeding these half-bred hogs. We may particularize the case of one Annandale arable farmer rearing on his inferior grass 120 lambs from about 100 draft Cheviot ewes, reaching at Liverpool 57s. for all these hogs before the middle of May, and this, with the wool (if at 2s.), leaving clear 70s. per hogg. Begun extra food of grain, &c., in February, costing perhaps 6s. to 7s. There may be probably a good many besides in Dumfriesshire and Galloway which equal this, and very many who are now following the same system, and approximating the same result. In this, the now most important branch of our farming, our south-western counties are perhaps fully before any other district of Scotland."

SCOTCH KALE.—A Perthshire correspondent of *The Farmer* writes to that journal on this topic as follows; "About a century ago the potato was introduced into Scotland. Before its introduction the kale vegetable was much used as food, especially in the north of Scotland, the kind being of a dark red or brown colour, with leaves nearly plain (not curled); this kind having a richer, more saccharine, juice than the curled German greens, or than any other known kind of the cole family, and requiring a less quantity of beef to make an excellent soup. So wholesome was the red kale regarded, that the medical man expected his bill would not be high when he saw not only the farmer's garden well filled with red kale, but also a rig of kale in a neighbouring field. So fond were the Scotch of their kale and kale-brose, that they sung of them as the English do of ale and pigs. The Scottish lad, rejoicing in his high physique, in courting, says philosophically—

"What ails you at my dad, quo' he, my mither, or my auntie?
Wi' croudy-mouddy they fed me, lang kale and rante-tante."

FACTS ABOUT ROOKS.—On Monday last, says the *Inverness Courier*, two rooks were shot on a farm in Easter Ross. They were on a newly sown field of corn, and were observed to be very full—of grain, as was supposed—and were opened to prove how destructive they are. To the surprise and delight of the farmer, one rook was found to contain 113 and the other 73 grub entire, and not one particle of grain. Another correspondent of that journal, writing from Ross-shire, says—I observe a paragraph in last week's *Courier* about two crows being shot on a farm in Easter Ross with crows in their crops. A few years ago, I shot two crows on a field of wheat which was just braid, and, as they seemed very full, I opened their crops, when, to my astonishment, the crop of

one of them contained 898 grains of wheat, and that of the other over 500. Neither crow had a single grub or worm in its crop. Since that time I have often shot crows whilst feeding on newly-sown corn, and have invariably found their crops full of grain. I may mention that this last winter the crows have done my corn damage to the amount of at least £40, and that in spite of herding and shooting.

CROSSING POULTRY.—A correspondent of the *Mark Lane Express* writes on this subject as follows:—

"Fresh facts have recently come to my knowledge, which certainly afford further evidence of the necessity of frequently crossing your stock; and, with your permission, I will give them to your readers. In 1861, I obtained for a friend of mine some young Aylesbury ducks. The next year he bred a considerable number, and in '63 and '64 he sent to a London salesman a goodly supply of very fine ones. He was now advised to import a drake from some other stock, but somehow he failed to do so. Last year his produce showed unmistakable symptoms of degenerating, but the opportunity of procuring new blood was again allowed to slip by; and this year—so he told me only yesterday—he has but one duckling to represent the whole of the eggs, a large number, he has put down. More has been hatched, but these have died from sheer weakness; and he has had a great many bad eggs. I should add, he has drafted out old birds, substituting young ones yearly. Again, I purchased two young ducks and a drake of him last autumn, for a gentleman who was anxious to get the stock, and although several seats of eggs have been tried, not one bird has yet been produced."

PRESERVATION OF MEAT BY SULPHUROUS FUMIGATION.

—We clip the following from *The Farmer* (Scottish):

"We had an opportunity, on Thursday last, of seeing a fowl which had been preserved for more than a week in excellent condition for the table, by being subjected to fumigation with sulphur, according to a process recommended by Dr. Dewar, of Kirkcaldy. The process is similar to that which Dr. Dewar has recently practiced with great success for the prevention of cattle plague, and consists in simply placing the meat to be preserved in a room in which sulphur is burned, and which is closed as far as possible against the admission of fresh air. The process has been repeatedly tested within the last few weeks, and always, we are informed, with the most satisfactory results. A sheep's head was kept fresh for thirteen days; a crab, which is well known to be a peculiarly perishable edible, was kept perfectly sweet for eight days; and a lamb's head and pluck, after being kept four days and a-half, was prepared for the table, and pronounced to be in excellent condition. The plan succeeds quite as well with fish—haddocks, which had been fumigated two or three times, having been found quite fresh after seven days. It is evident that a process so simple, and so easily practiced, will confer a great benefit even upon private households; while, if found equally efficacious on a more extended scale, it is calculated to produce an entire revolution in the preparation and preservation of what are now known as salted provisions."

BRITISH CROP PROSPECTS.—On this subject, "A Practical Farmer" writes to the *Mark Lane Express* as follows:—"The state of our crops is another important feature in 'our summer prospects.' The drought did cause considerable alarm throughout all our chalk, sandy, and clay districts, and we fear the crops in these districts must cut up light. Upon the loams, fens, and marshes the prospects are good. The beautiful rains and charming weather we are now experiencing will do immense benefit, and may probably bring up the crop of the whole kingdom, taken collectively, to a fair average produce: we sanguinely hope it will. The potato crop, which has of late years assumed a national importance, cannot, I think, be a full average one; it was got in badly: it has come up irregularly, and, till the late rains softened the cloddy soil, was almost unmanageable. A considerable breadth has, however, been planted, which is a saving point as to a future supply. Of hay there will be an unusually large supply. Much land has been laid in to meadow, owing to the high price of stock. It will, however, be all wanted during the winter, as much straw will be converted into manure by sheep instead of cattle, and hay and roots must be their food. Of green-food crops the prospect is good. Mangolds come up well, and are growing fast. Swedes are going in favourably, and will soon be up. Turnips and coleseed will have a fine soil for a seed-bed, as the land is working favourably. We look forward to a good supply of winter food, which is one of our chief agricultural blessings. We also look forward to a good average corn crop, with a prospect of its making a more remunerative price than we have lately received. We believe that our next winter's foreign supplies will be less than for many years, and more particularly those from America."