

der are decidedly light, and the spring wheat will not be more than an average.

Barley and Oats seem to have done better than ordinary and of the former a fair average may be expected; the latter except in very unfavorable situations a full crop.

Peas, also seem to have done well, and are not infested so much with the grub as in some seasons, and the haulm has escaped the mildew.—The Potato will no doubt be found much freer from the disease than during the past two years and from what we can learn such is the expectation formed in the British Isles, indeed throughout Europe generally; an event calculated to give the greatest satisfaction, seeing how largely it has contributed as food for the support of millions, and who were without the means, (even if they had the inclination) to adopt the more costly substitute of the various Grains; nor could cultivatable land be found on the instant for the growth of the additional quantity necessary, seeing three acres would be required for the grain for every one in use for the cultivation of the root and this, it would be impossible to find in a condition to be immediately available.

Before the issue of our next number the fall wheat will have been sown, at any rate on all the old cultivated lands—whether after fallow or peas, the lands carrying hoe crops being most likely destined, either for Spring Wheat or Barley. The vast amount of wheat of last year's sowing which was lost by killing either during Winter or Spring, will doubtless induce great caution in putting the Seed into the ground, which will be done in what is considered by each party in the best and most approved manner. We have seen the wheat plant to have suffered severely in almost every variety of situation and mode of treatment, it has prospered and failed on land indifferently, or well tilled; open, and sheltered situations have both suffered; early or late sown have brought no exemptions, and all the numerous varieties of the grain have been hurt more or less; that some descriptions of wheat are much harder than others is admitted on all hands the difference being almost uniformly in favor of the Red over the White varieties, and still the latter are sought after and most readily adopted, and why? because the merchant and miller will give three-pence

per bushel more for one than the other, but what compensation is this to the farmer, it amounts to about 5 per cent. on his sales at a probable loss of 10 bushels per acre or from 30 to 40 per cent. on all the wheat he raises: There may be some white wheats more hardy than others but they are all less so than the Red and for this reason we would advise the adoption more generally of the latter, and if we were about to sow much wheat we should get the land in good tilth, plough it in with a shallow furrow then leave it as left by the plough and not suffer a harrow to go near, thus affording the young plant all the protection of the furrow's depth and a hold for the snow to afford a covering.

#### SUCCESSFUL STEEP FOR SEEDS.

Much has been said and written on the subject of soaking seeds in different preparations, for the purpose of promoting their rapid vegetation and growth. As far as I have heard or read, these experiments have proved that the most of these solutions or preparations are nearly or quite worthless. I will, however, state a few facts in regard to one solution that I have tried for the last three seasons.

In the winter of 1845 I found, in the Philadelphia Saturday Courier I think, the following recipe—"Soak garden seed four hours in a solution of  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. chlor. lime, to one gallon of water." The writer observes that seeds which were soaked thus, came up some days sooner than those which were not soaked, and that the plants kept the lead through the season.

The experiment being easily tried, I made up my mind to give a fair trial, and see what the result would be. On the 10th May, 1845, having my ground ready, beds made, hills all prepared, so that as little time as possible should be consumed in planting, I put cucumber, muskmelon, beet, summer savory and radish seeds, and corn, beans and peas into the solution, let them soak four hours, and planted immediately.—Twenty-four hours after planting, I dug up some of the corn and peas, and found that their roots were from one to one and a-half inches in length. In forty-eight hours the roots were three to four inches and the spire one to one and a-half inches in length. The precise day that they broke ground I now forget.

My cucumbers and melons came up quick and well, and for the first time in my life, my beets were up before any weeds were started. In a garden adjoining mine, planted nine or ten days previous to mine, beans were just breaking the ground when mine were planted, yet mine passed them in a week, my

corn came up about the same time, and my peas came up first. Now as to the moisture merely, seeds lying in the ground eight or ten days would imbibe as much as they would by being soaked four hours. I have not marked the exact time of my seeds vegetating, since 1845. I know, however, that my seeds do not fail me as they used to do, and as my neighbor's very frequently do.

This year I did not plant my garden till the 17th of May. Everything that I soaked came up quick, so that my plants were altogether ahead of the weeds, and my cucumbers and melons have kept out of the reach of the bugs, while my neighbors have planted two, three or four times. I have never seen any notice of this solution, except as above mentioned. Two or three of my neighbors have tried the experiment this year with the like good result. BAILEY. Binghamton, 1847.

#### WHAT MAY BE DONE WITH POOR LAND.

Near to the town of Mere, in Wiltshire, we (*Hants Advertiser*) were struck at beholding the fine crops, the excellent order the fields appeared to be in, the low neat cut hedges or fences, and the immense quantity of oxen, cows, and sheep grazing in the meadows; this led to any inquiry to whom those rich, broad fields belonged. To Sir H. R. Hoare, the rich banker of Fleet Street, London, was the ready reply, whose seat is about three miles from Mere, and who has the following seven farms in his own hands:—Shirton, Knoyle, Colcot, Hill Grounds, Brenham Lodge, Top Lane, and Search Farm; altogether containing between 3000 and 4000 acres of land, once so poor and considered so unproductive that every farmer of the old school failed in getting their living from the farms they occupied; hence Mr. Hoare, one after the other, was driven to make the best of such land, or suffer it to be still less useful if overrun with weeds. He therefore hired farm bailiffs, purchased horses, and every necessary implement of husbandry; employed at least 150 labourers, keeping between seventy and eighty horses, giving constant work to woodmen, carpenters, bricklayers; thus more than 200 men through him have constant employment, winter and summer, wet or dry, at good wages; the lowest amount paid to labourers is 12s. per week, some having 21s. at the present time; no reduction in the cold and short days. His cottages are let to his labourers at from 30s to 40s. per annum, with large gardens, sight of common or pasturage, enabling some to keep a cow or two, and in the winter to fatten two or three pigs. About one-third only is grazing land; he has never less than 1000 and 500 ewes for breeding, of the pure Southdown breed; nearly 1000 acres of this very land was never considered to be worth more than 1s. per acre per annum, when Mr. Hoare had it first in his possession, the occupiers thinking