

latest: Sets with one or two vigorous eyes are the best to plant, and not the whole root as used to be considered the proper way.

(To be continued).

Note.—We still hold the best sets for planting are what used to be known as "middlings" in England; i. e., potatoes too large to be kept for the pigs, and too small, to appear in the London market. Ed. J. of Agr.

SELFISHNESS.

Selfishness is an inherent and necessary quality of the mind, and only becomes hateful when allowed to entirely supplant the interest we should take in the welfare of others. It is natural for every one to labour for himself, and, were he not mercifully drawn out of self by the benign influence of love, his mind would soon be contracted and his heart hardened.

But happily, man is social being, capable of social sympathies and affections; hence, when he mingles with his fellow, if he has not entirely abandoned himself, like Scrooge, to a life of misanthropy, his struggles in his own behalf have a reflex influence upon his neighbour. If he discovers some new scientific process, he is not benefited alone, but the world in which he lives; if he invents some wonderfully intricate machine, the motion of which is almost akin to human intelligence, and which spins, weaves, or manufactures a fabric more perfectly and uniformly than it could have been made by hand, whatever motive the inventor may have had in spending his time to bring his machine to its present state of perfection, whether his ambition be the acquirement of wealth or honour; I say, whatever his motive, the public have been the greatest gainers by his invention.

It is impossible for a person to benefit himself without benefiting the community; every transaction of his life has a bearing on the interests of others as well as on his own.

The farmer who contributes to the maintenance of good roads, while benefiting himself is a public benefactor. He who gives due attention to his fences and drains does so do to the advantage of the neighbourhood in which he lives, and so his personal profit and enjoyment is enhanced, together with that others. The good farmer tills his ground to raise food, not for himself only but for those engaged in other pursuits, and he introduces im-

proved methods of culture to enable him to increase the quantity and improve the quality of his crop, the first motive being unquestionably a selfish one, but these improvements are the means, not only of increasing his income from his own farm, but of advancing the agricultural wealth of the country, because his action has given rise to a healthy spirit of rivalry and initiative.

What an incentive have we then for exertion, when we consider that all we do, like the pebble thrown into the pond, causes a ripple throughout the surface of its waters; that we are all members one of another, some occupying one place of duty, some another, some with more talents and endowments than others, some learned and some unlearned, some surrounded with the lights of science and the glories and beauties of art, and some occupying humble positions in districts, away from the haunts of refined society and mental culture, and yet each exerting a certain amount of influence according to his position and opportunities. "The man with the hoe," no less than the king on the throne, can, by his life and example, benefit or retard human progress to the extent of his influence.

One of the most gratifying facts connected with the moral trend of human advancement during the last 75 years is that the world has been blessed with one in the highest place in society whose disposition has been to be good, and to do good, and the name of Queen Victoria will go down to posterity as the good Queen who endeared herself to her people by setting them a pattern of domestic rule of her household, and in being an exemplary wife and mother, she made it fashionable for ladies of quality to exercise the duties of maternity, and to pay that attention to the rearing, and education of their children which it was natural, they should, but which, in past times, was, too frequently delegated to nurses and tutors. All the advances made in the arts and sciences, however much they have benefited mankind, are not of greater importance than the improvement in the actual and social condition of all classes of the people, thus affected by the example of those who have been placed by Providence in the position of leaders of society.

We have thus seen that the natural selfishness of our nature will contribute to the public good if kept within bounds and guided in the right direction.