

COMFORTS FOR CATTLE.

Sydney Smith was something of a farmer, and used to visit his cattle daily, and feed and pat them, until they knew his voice and welcomed his coming. He used to do all in his power to make them comfortable. He has been heard to say: "I am for all cheap luxuries, even for animals: now all animals have a passion for scratching their back-bones—they break down your gates and paling to effect this. Look! this is my universal scratcher, a sharp-edged pole, resting on a high and low post, adapted to every height, from a horse to a lamb. Even the Edinburgh Reviewer can take his turn; you have no idea how popular it is. I have not had a gate broken since I put it up. I have it in all my fields."

POTATOES.

Soil.—The soil should be sandy and light, though moderately rich; that is, if fine, mealy, and dry potatoes be required. It should not by any means be glutted with manure, and need not be deep. All the usual fertilizers are good, but especially ashes and plaster.

The outside rows most productive.—A fact of great importance to potato-growers is, that the *outside rows*, and all *single rows*, will be found to produce far greater crops than any of the interior rows of a plot in the garden or field. This depends upon a variety of causes, the chief of which is, the more perfect exposure of the foliage to the agency of air and light. When potatoes are planted in rows pointing north and south, the utmost energy of the light will be exerted, not only upon the foliage of the plant, but upon the surface of the intervening spaces of ground.

Its Properties and Uses.—With regard to the properties of this vegetable, and the purposes to which it may be applied, little need be said. They are found to produce—first, cotton flax from the stalk; second, sugar from the root; third, potash by consumption; fourth, vinegar from the apples; fifth, soap, or a substitute for bleaching, from tubercles; and finally, when cooked by steam, the most farinaceous and economical of all vegetable food.

HOW TO PRESERVE FENCE POSTS.

At a recent meeting of the Farmers' Club in Hudson, New York, one of the members exhibited a post which, previous to being placed in the ground, had been soaked in a solution of blue vitriol—one pound of vitriol being used to twenty quarts of water. The post was pine, and when taken up was as sound as when first put down, eight years since. This solution is good for all kinds of timber exposed to the weather—spouts, shingles, stakes, bean-poles, etc.

THE CULTIVATOR.

BY J. G. WHITTIER.

Give tools their gold and knaves their power,
Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall;
Who sows a field, or trains a flower,
Or plants a tree, is more than all.

For he who blesses most is blest,
And God and man shall own his worth,

Who toils to leave as his bequest
An added beauty to the earth.

And, soon or late, to all that sow,
The time of harvest shall be given,
The flower shall bloom, the fruit shall grow,
If not on earth, at last in heaven.

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