

a fourth of the full-grown tubers completely rotten, and at least a half more all but covered with dark blue spots. I caused them to be spread out on the surface, under the influence of an African sun, which so completely dried or roasted them, that in the evening the diseased parts fell off in little hard scales, leaving the tubers sound beneath; and to this day they are so, now nearly a month since. That the disease was brought to this colony by the seed I have no doubt; at least the causes ascribed in England cannot be ascribed here. In the month of September, we had only two showers after the potatoes were planted, in October two, and November only one. As for sunshine, enough of that to cause an Englishman at times to feel queerish. Then again for electrical currents; two rows of reeds next to the Americans were surrounded with a copper wire (about 6 inches under ground,) connecting a plate of zinc at one end of the drill with a plate of copper appended about 4 feet from the ground, and attached to the plates just mentioned. And if the electricity in the atmosphere has any power over potatoes, it ought to have it here, as in the centre of one of the drills of Shaws, and within 7 yards of the Americans, stands a stone pine all but killed by a shock of lightning, the bark being torn off on one side, 5 feet in length, and thrown 30 or 40 yards away. The 'reds,' which were placed near the wires, were free from disease, and so were indeed all the other potatoes in the same break, except the Americans. The Americans are an early sort, and the disease seems to have appeared in Europe chiefly among the early kinds. The soil is of a light gravelly nature, and the crop fine, averaging sixteen bushels for one of sets planted whole. I must state that the potato here is, properly speaking, an evergreen. At the end of three months they must be lifted, as the tubers have by that time reached their full size, and they invariably commence to grow, while the old plant still keeps growing also.—*R. S. Smith, the 'Oaks' near Caledon, Cape of Good Hope, January, 1846.*—P. S. Our seasons in this country, come at opposite times to those in Europe, which some of your readers may not remember.

KILKENNY FAIR was held on the 28th ult. So early as half past five o'clock, the purchase of sheep commenced, and was kept up with great spirit for three hours, during which period, several thousand sheep were sold at the annexed prices:—Hoggets, from 35s. to 42s.; two year old wethers, from 45s. to 55s.; three year old ditto, from 55s. to 65s., each. About eight o'clock, the black cattle fair opened, at sporting prices, viz. :—Three year old heifers, from 8*l.* to 15*l.* each; two years old ditto, from 6*l.* to 14*l.* each; yearlings, from 4*l.* to 7*l.* each; strippers, 5*l.* to 10*l.*; new milch cows, 8*l.* to 16*l.*; and fat cows, from 12*l.* to 27*l.* each. The following are some of the prices obtained at this fair:—The steward belonging to the Rev. S. C. Foot, of Vicarsfield, sold a fat cow, the primest in the fair, for 27*l.*, purchased by W. Kerwick, victualler, who also gave 25*l.* to Mr. Thomas Proctor, of Wells, for a four year old bullock. Mr. W. M. Smith, steward to W. F. Tighe, Esq., obtained 52*l.* for two fine three year old heifers, fed at Woodstock, solely on straw and turnips; and he also sold a lot of very prime yearlings, at 7*l.* 17s. 6d. each; a beautiful fat cow and two heifers, belonging to Mr. Ryan, of Killera, were purchased for 61*l.* 10s.; and two fat bullocks, for 40*l.*; Mr. R. Smith, of Gowran, steward to Lady Dover, obtained from M. Neary, victualler, 38*l.* for two remarkably fine bullocks, one only two years old, and the other not quite two years. This was an extraordinary price for such animals, and they were fed solely on straw and turnips; two year old heifers, belonging to M. T. Bradley, were sold at 14*l.* 5s. each; Mr. H. Semple, of Dunmore Cottage, sold a fine year and a half old heifer for 14*l.*; Mr. R. Goslin, of Ayrfield, got 5*l.* 10s. each, for a lot of yearlings; a lot of ten three years old heifers, belonging to the Bishop of Ossory, were sold by the steward, J. Worrell, for 145*l.* Our horse fair this year partook of the animation of our sheep and black cattle fair, and horses (both draught and saddle) sold from 30 to 50 per cent. higher than they were two or three years since. On the contrary, our pig fair suffered a serious fall, particularly in store pigs and bonams; these latter

sold for half the price they realized three months ago, which has been caused by the very high price of potatoes. Fat pigs sold from 28s. to 33s. per cwt.; stores from 25s. to 35s. each; and bonams from 8s. to 12s. per pair. On the whole, we consider this the best fair that has been held here for many years.—*Kilkenny Moderator.*

*Mode of illustrating the Injury done to Manure by Exposure to Drenching Rains.*—Mr. Blacker, in a speech at one of the English Farmers' Clubs, used the following illustration: "Suppose that any of the married men in this company, was to get hold of his wife's tea-pot, after she had done with it, and dry up the spent leaves carefully, and bring them to her for tea the next morning; I would just ask you whether she would be likely to find out the trick or not? I imagine she would not be long in discovering the cheat; and I might venture to guess he would find out to his cost, that if that was the way he was to keep her in tea, she would soon find a way to keep him in hot water. Now, if the wife would feel so indignant at being supplied with tea that had been wet and steeped two or three times, how ought the land to feel that was supplied with manure that had been wet and drenched an hundred times? It is true the land cannot fight its own battles as well as the mistress; but there is such thing as passive resistance, and you may depend on it, that in the harvest, the farmer will be made to feel, that in cheating his land, by giving it manure which has lost all its strength, he has been in fact, cheating himself, and that this may have a worse result even than cheating his wife."

#### THE VETERINARIAN FOR APRIL.

We refer with pleasure to this well edited magazine. Information of the most useful kind is always to be found in its pages, alike instructive to the farmer as the V. S. In this month's number we have "An Essay on the Sanguinous Apoplectic Congestion in Sheep, known under the names of 'Blood,' 'Blood in the Spleen,' &c.," by M. P. Charlier, V. S., Rheims. After giving the predisposing causes and several cases which came not only under his observation but also that of other veterinary surgeons, he proceeds with the treatment of the disease. We quote his "Precautions to prevent the disease," as we think that "prevention is always better than cure."

"1. Diet the animals regularly and carefully throughout every season.

"2. During winter add refreshing roots to heating fodder and grain.

"3. Never pass suddenly from dry to green, or from green to dry feeding, but let the change be gradual.

"4. Take into account the nutritive qualities of the food, qualities which are more or less marked according to their nature, and the state of the weather during the vegetation of the crop.

"5. Drive the flock out as early in the day as possible, in order that they may not be shut up in the fold too long.

"6. During fine weather at the end of March and April May and June, let them eat the grass which grows in meadows, lanes, avenues, at the skirts of woods, and on the fallows. These plants contain a considerable quantity of the water of vegetation, and are admirably suited for the animals whenever they are submitted to a succulent diet, whether green or dry; they diminish the too great proportion of organic principles in the blood, and augment the aqueous part.

"7. Shear as early as possible, in order to allow the wool time to grow again before the very hot weather comes on; for if a long fleece weighs down the sheep, and prevents the air from refreshing him, too short a fleece does not sufficiently shield him from the fatal effects produced by the rays of a burning sun, and from the sting of insects which torment and fatigue such animals.

"8. Never suffer the pastures to be lavishly consumed, or pasture the sheep on fields before they have been gleaned, and it has rained, and the grain has begun to ferment.