

the best of upland hay made up of herdsgrass and red top. According to the carefully conducted experiments of Mr. Lawes, the celebrated English Agricultural Chemist, at Rothhampstead, there is another advantage in feeding clover, and that is the manure made from it by feeding it out to cattle, is greatly superior in fertilizing properties to that made from any other hay. According to his analysis, placing the worth of a ton of manure derived from feeding wheat straw, at \$2. 68, that made from English hay was worth \$6.43, and that from clover was worth \$9. 64. These prices, to be sure, would not be obtained with us, but the proportional value will be the same. Put the manure from wheat straw at what price you please, that from clover will be worth more than three times as much, and fifty per cent. more than that from good English hay. We have said that swine would eat it readily. Our neighbor, John Keser of East Winthrop, when in the swine breeding business, a few years ago, used to make clover quite an item of winter diet—chaffing it up by threshing it with a flail, or any other way, and giving it to them dry. They were very fond of it.

It has often been recommended as an excellent preparatory crop for wheat, and is extensively used in some wheat growing districts by being plowed under as a dressing for that crop. It always proves beneficial when used in this way, but it has been suggested by good authority, that a much better mode is to feed it out to stock, and apply the manure thus made to the crop. You not only thus obtain growth, or sustenance for your stock, which you would not, from this source at least, if plowed under, but you also obtain probably as much fertilizing material by the manure.

Joseph Harris, Esq., editor of the *Genesee Farmer*, in an excellent article on stall feeding cattle and sheep, published in the last report of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture—speaking of some of the crops essential to improving or fertilizing the soil, says: "Next to the turnip, red clover is the most enriching crop, it is far better suited to our climate than the turnip, in fact there is no country in the world where red clover flourishes better than throughout a large section of the United States. It is pre-eminently the renovating crop of this country. It is almost impossible to grow too much of it, provided it is consumed on the farm. It makes the best hay for sheep, and as we before said, the

manure from it is nearly as valuable as that from corn; far more valuable than that from ordinary hay."

EARLY POTATOES,



THERE is a large class of persons who value good, well-ripened *early* potatoes, more than any other vegetable. The potato is a universal favorite. We have never met more than half a dozen people who did not like it. It is easily raised, cheap, and has just about the proper proportions of *bulk* and *nutritious* properties to make it one of the most wholesome articles of diet that comes upon the table. In cases of sickness, where the patient is convalescent, a roasted potato that is mealy, and eaten as soon as cooked, is highly relished, and is as harmless, perhaps, as any food that can be taken.

As the common, every-day food of the table, the potato stands next to bread. When well cooked, most children will take half their entire food of the potato, especially if they can have a little milk or cream with the mash, and will become vigorous and free from humors after a year's use of them cooked in various forms.

Every family,—in the country at least,—should have them plentifully by the first of August, and by taking some pains may begin to use them by the fourth of July. The first thing to be considered is the soil. It should be comparatively dry and sandy soil, rather than a wet, black loam. A *fresh*, or *new* soil is greatly preferable—one recently covered with grass, or what is still better, scrub oaks, sweet fern, blackberry and huckleberry bushes. Such a soil when well plowed and harrowed, will be light, and will abound with the alkalies and alkaline earths that the potato requires. The situation selected should be an open, but a warm, one—along the side of an old fence or wall, where bushes have been growing for half a century, or less, and exposed to the morning sun. On such a soil, and in such a situation, the plants will start early and come to maturity rapidly; and if the variety planted be a good one, the tubers grown will have a sweet and agreeable flavor. Some of the varieties used for early planting are the *Jackson White*, *White Chenango*, which come quite early, the *Early Blue* and others. Burr says the *Ash-Leaved Kidney* is one of the earliest varieties, and that the *Early Blue* is