

COBOURG, APRIL 1, 1847.

scrofulous father is liable to produce a diseased off-spring.

The *vastator* has heretofore not appeared in profusion, till July or August; hence we say, in some degree, prevent its ravages by getting our potatoes ripe before the *vastator* comes in great abundance.

All succulent and cellular growths are prejudicial, as liable to favour the disease: but, on the contrary, the early disposition of fibre is calculated to enable the plant to resist the injurious action of the *vastator*.

From the above statements we may deduce the following line of treatment applicable for practice during the next two or three months:

1. Cultivate all crops to the usual extent.
2. With regard to potatoes, use sets from former healthy plants.
3. Select early varieties.
4. Plant early.
5. Use but little or no manure.
6. Choose a sandy or peaty soil.
7. Destroy the plants the *vastator* is now living on.

I call the attention of the benevolent to the above rules, and recommend them to circulate these short directions throughout Ireland, the poorer parts of Scotland and England. I also beg to recommend them as true charity to send sound sets of early kinds to those districts. I myself am against the overculture of the potato, for reasons which I have elsewhere stated; nevertheless, as a secondary crop, too little culture will always be attended with great privations to the poor.

At the early period of the year, it is desirable to destroy such plants as the creature likes. It lives freely upon the shepherd's purse, mallow, and turnip.—On this account the husbandman should destroy these plants as well as possible before spring advances, to furnish it with abundance of food. The *vastator* causes the first damage to vegetables it attacks, and is thus the cause of the disease from which all subsequent changes take place as a consequence. Every Farmer should know the form and habits of the creature, and every one should assist him to kill this destroyer of human food.—*Alfred Smece, 7, Finsbury Circus, London.*

DEEP DRAINING IN ESSEX.

To the Editor of the Essex Standard.

Sir,—I hope there is now no sane agriculturist in this county who disbelieves that water will drain freely through the strongest soils to a depth of five feet. If there is such a person I hope he will come now, and during any subsequent rains, and remove his doubts by an observation of the fact on my farm.

On the 24th ult., after a night's rain, I examined the 1-inch pipe drains, placed 5 feet deep and 40 feet apart, and found several discharging by measure more than one gallon per minute, or about one hogshhead per hour, and yet they only ran one-fourth full. The temperature of the water was 42 degrees, and of the air 36.

It appears to me that the inch pipes have the capacity to discharge four gallons per minute, or nearly four hogshheads per hour; and yet these are what my friend Dixon facetiously calls "Mechi's pencil-cases!"

I hope those who are doing drainage at various depths and distances will consider it their duty to communicate to their brother agriculturists statistical results.

It is a curious fact that the deep drains ran first, and that they continued discharging much water 48 hours after the 32-inch drains had done running, although the latter had larger pipes, and stones in addition. How important, then, is depth in draining!—I am, sir, yours obediently,
J. J. MERRI.

Tiptree Hall, Jan. 4, 1847.

P. S. Jan. 5. To-day, after the melting of the snow, the 1-inch pipes ran two, three, and four gallons per minute, equal in the last case to *one ton per hour!* The temperature of the water is 36, that of the air 39. I feel for those whose undrained land will be full of water, and no means of escape except by evaporation, during next summer.

WEALTH OF ENGLAND.

In the quarterly revenue returns, the amount received as income and property tax for the year is set down at nearly 5,500,000/. This return enables us to form a tolerably correct opinion as to the entire amount of the income, as well as of the property and capital of this country. Excluding, therefore, Ireland, which part of the kingdom this tax does not affect, the total income upon which the tax is leviable will amount, in round numbers, to 183,500,000/. To this must be added the amount of incomes under 150/. a-year, which we have no means of ascertaining, and must therefore take into calculation on supposition only. It must be something considerable, but to make our figures even, we will set it down low, say at 16,500,000/., making the total income of the country 200,000,000/. The per centage which constitutes this income is fluctuating and uncertain; but, taking the average interest of land and funded property at 3 per cent., the profits of the tradesman at 7½ per cent., and of the large merchants and manufactures at 10 to 15 per cent., we may safely estimate the average per centage on the property and capital of the country at 7½ per cent. This would show a total value of property and capital, of nearly 2,700,000,000/., or two thousand seven hundred millions of pounds sterling! And yet, large as this sum may sound, and vast as it is when considered as the "riches of England," if it were to be divided equally amongst the population of the country, which may be taken at 20,000,000 of souls, it would not amount to more than 135/. for each individual; thus showing that an equalisation of property, which has been at times the dream of theorists and enthusiasts, would reduce to a country of paupers this now rich and mighty kingdom.—*Cor. Morning paper.*

We are obliged by the favour of the Communication of "A Cavan Farmer," which we find inserted in the *Star*,—although, we presume, intended for the *Newcastle Farmer*, which should be the record of all such correspondence, containing as it does other Agricultural communications, and easier of reference from its more portable size, and will contain, at the close of the year, an Index for that purpose. We are truly glad to find that our brother Farmers seem determined on supporting an Agricultural paper of their own District, and right sure we are that there is a sufficiency of talent, information, and practical ability in our District, to sustain a paper of double the size of our little sheet. Information thus obtained is doubly valuable, from its suitability and adaptation to our District farm operations, for it must be apparent to all, that from our peculiar climate, seasons, and comparatively limited market for various produce, many of the best measures adopted by the English agriculturist are wholly inapplicable in our position. The "Cavan Farmer's" opinion as to the old method of fallowing, is in strict coincidence with our own; but we must differ somewhat from the method he proposes as a substitute, except under some favourable circumstances. We agree with him that much valuable matter is lost to the soil by disturbing the unfermented sward before decomposition is fully completed; the question is, will such a measure of decomposition be fully effected by his plan as to prevent the old grass from springing with the rains in the Fall, so as to choke out and usurp the place sought to be occupied by the grain sown? We conceive that for that purpose the soil must be dry, or at least partaking of but a slight measure of humidity, the ploughing need to be very carefully performed, and the sod turned much more flatly over than the usual method of ridging up "crown and furrow." This, with the operation of the harrow or cultivator, would, unless very favourably situated, leave the field in a condition to retain a vast amount of surface water, for unless the land was underdrained and subsoiled it would be impervious to any measure of superfluous moisture, and we greatly fear that the old plant of grass in possession