

this year is much less than usual, and we are glad of it, until the disease to which they are subject is known to have left us. While the farmer substitutes other crops for potatoes, the loss is not so great, but when a crop of potatoes is lost by disease, it is a great injury to the farmer, as they are expensive to cultivate. We should be sorry to lose the potatoes altogether, but certainly we do not think it a matter of regret that potatoes should not in future be made so much use of, as the food of man, as they have been for the last fifty years. A careful selection of seed, and a particular mode of cultivation may enable farmers to grow potatoes to a limited extent, but until we are sure the disease is at an end, it will be the better way not to plant many. The pastures are better this year, at this period, than we have seen them for many years, and the produce of the dairy should be abundant in proportion. Cattle should also be in good condition and we ought to be able to supply the market with a sufficient quantity of beef, and mutton. The improvement in mutton for the last few years is very great, so much so, that the Montreal market is as well supplied with good mutton as may be desired. It may not be so large and very fat as mutton in the markets of the British Isles, but we believe it is so much better, and more like that quality of mutton that is most esteemed at home, the South Down. Notwithstanding the large immigration to Canada this year, labourers are more difficult to procure, except at high wages, than other years. All the success of the farmer's labour and expenditure, will depend upon a good, dry, harvest. It is a most dangerous season of the year for the weather to change, to wet about the 25th July, but though such has been the case this month, we hope nevertheless, that we shall have fine weather to save the crops. When the weather changes decidedly at particular periods of the year, it is frequently found that the change continues for some time; and the latter end of July is one of these periods.

Cote St. Paul, 31st July, 1846.

**GRASS UNDER TREES.**—By sowing nitrate of soda in small quantities, in showery weather, under trees, a most beautiful verdure will be obtained. I have used it under the beech-trees in my grounds, and the grass always looks green. Having succeeded so well on a small scale, I have now sown nitrate of soda amongst the long grass in the plantations, which the cattle never could eat. I now find that the herbage is preferred to the other parts of the field, which have been marled and are a very good pasturo.—*Correspondent of Gardeners' Chronicle.*

## ARTIFICIAL PREPARATIONS FROM THE POTATO.

There is no other of our agricultural plants which have come in alternately for so great a share of eulogy and abuse as the potato. On one hand we hear of its being one of the best of nature's gifts; and on the other, that to its general cultivation in this country we may ascribe most of the misery of its inhabitants. Notwithstanding all the discussion which has taken place on the subject, it is surprising that the real value of the potato should be so little understood. In its ordinary form it is one of the most perishable articles of food which we possess; but it is capable of being rendered, by artificial means of an extremely simple character, not only portable, but capable of being preserved for an almost indefinite period. There is, in fact, scarcely any other vegetable production capable of being made to assume so many forms, or of being turned to account in so many different ways; but although this property has been long known to scientific men, it is surprising how little way has hitherto been made in putting the lower classes, who are forced to exist almost exclusively on a potato diet, in possession of this information.

The disease which made such ravages among the potato crop of last season has caused attention to be forcibly directed to these facts: and the conversion of the decaying portion of the crop into farina was a favourite project. It being known that the attention of Government was directed to the matter, numerous statements on the subject were placed before His Excellency; and among others from Mr. Jasper W. Rogers, C. E., who had more than ordinary experience. That gentleman's plan was considered so very satisfactory that His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant at once gave directions that facilities should be granted for having it fairly tested. Some of the results of Mr. Rogers's method of making the potato available as food, in many different forms, were exhibited on Saturday last, in the Board-room of the South Dublin Union Workhouse, before the guardians, and a number of other influential and scientific persons, in the form of an elegant *déjeuner*, all the items of which, with the exception of coffee, were prepared more or less from the potato; when a most satisfactory account was afforded by Mr. Rogers, of the different processes in their preparation, with much interesting information relative to the value of the potato itself, which he very justly observed, is too much overlooked. Every one present was astonished at the rich treat provided on the occasion, which consisted of soup, stirabout, milk porridge, jellies, blancmange, Spanish flumery, and pastry of all kinds, made as we have already said, principally of the produce of the potato, either as meal, flour, or fecula.

After the gentlemen present had partaken of the various preparations, Mr. Rogers observed, that the preparation of the meal and flour from the potatoes was so simple that it could be accomplished in the cottage of the poorest peasant. He then described the component parts of each food upon the table. The general proportion being one-half potatoes: some, however—viz: milk porridge, "Scotch bread," and rock biscuits—being entirely made from it; also the jellies, blancmange, &c., produced from the *pure fecula* without animal matter of any kind—in fact, no addition but the usual seasonings. The soup also, which appeared to be a palatable and nutritious food for the lower classes, was stated to be made of a small quantity of bacon thickened with meal of the potato, and which was capable of being made in a short period of time, at a cost of about one farthing per pint.

Mr. Rogers then alluded to the general impression as to the want of nutritive power in the potato, and