or twenty feet in circumference near the base. They grow close together, very straight, and without branches two-thirds of their height. Overhead their interlocked crowns form a continuous shady canopy; while beneath, the ground is covered with a thick, yellow matting of pine straw—clean, dry, level, and unbroken by undergrowth. The privilege of tapping the trees is generally farmed out by the landowner, at a stated price per thousand, about from twenty to thirty dollars. Under this privilege the laborer commences his operations. During the winter he chops deep notches into the base of the tree, a few inches from the ground, and slanting inward. Above, to the height of two or three feet, the surface is scarified by chipping off the bark and outer wood. From this surface the resinous sap begins to flow about the middle of March, at first very slowly, but more rapidly during the heat of the summer, and slowly again as winter approaches. The liquid turpentine runs into the notches, or boxes, as they are technically called, each holding from a quart to half a gallon. This, as it gathers, is dipped out with a wooden spoon, barreled, and sent to market, where it commands the highest price.—That which oozes out and hardens upon the scarified surface of the tree is scraped down with an iron instrument into a hod, and is sold at an inferior price. Every year the process of scarifying is carried two or three feet higher up the trunk, until it reaches as high as a man can conveniently reach with his long-handled cutter. When this ceases to yield, the same process is commenced on the opposite side of the trunk. An average annual yield is about twenty-five barrels of turpentine from a thousand trees, and it is estimated that one man will dip ten thousand boxes.

The trees at length die under these repeated operations. They are then felled and burned for tar. The dead trees are preferred for this purpose, because when life ceases, the resinous matter concentrates in the interior layers of the wood. In building a tar kiln a small circular mound of earth is first raised, declining from the circumference to the center, where a cavity is formed, communicating by a conduit with a shallow ditch surrounding the mound. Upon this foundation the split sticks are stacked to the height of ten or twelve feet. The stack is then covered with earth, as in making charcoal, and the fire applied through the opening in the top. As this continues to burn with a smouldering heat, the wood is charred, and the tar flows into the cavity in the center, and thence by the conduit into vessels sunk to receive it.

AGRICULTURE OF NATAL.

[We take the following interesting letter from a recent number of the *Scotch Farmer*, written by a former resident of Warwickshire, England, who emigrated to Natal some years ago. The communication will afford our readers some idea of the state and capabilities of agriculture in this new and rising Colony on the south eastern shores of Africa.—Eds.]

"Richmond, Port Natal, Feb. 25, 1863.

My Dear Sir,—Your letter of December last is duly to hand, and I proceed without delay to answer your inquiries.

Your first query as to the advantages and disadvantages of this colony, I presume you mean in comparison with England. In a young colony the common luxuries of Europeans have, of course, to be imported. It may be therefore allowed as a fair average that the purchaser from a retail dealer of imported goods gives about double their ordinary retail price at home.

I consider, however, that no emigrant need spare more than ten per cent. of his income on imported goods. We can produce all the common necessaries of life. With a semi-tropical climate on the coast, and an English, or speaking more locally, a Devonshire climate on the uplands, we can produce many things unknown to most Englishmen. There are doubtless many advantages in England above those of any colony; one thing, however, is very certain, we are not a quarter so taxed, half so worked, and not near so unhealthy as the people of your pushing, elbowing, heel-kicking, over-crowded manufacturing towns, which I think, in a few words, shows no small advantage.

The greatest disadvantage we feel is want of more population of the right colour and stamp. I am glad, however, to observe that Natal is now fast drawing crowds of emigrants to its shore, and many of them of the right stamp, with capital, and the right sort of pluck to carry them through first difficulties. We have thousands and thousands of acres lying ready for the pushing emigrant to turn into thriving homesteads and blooming corn fields.

Your Warwickshire farmers could for one year's rent (and for much less) buy a freehold farm within an easy distance of market. Some of your farmers think it a fine thing to farm 20 cows and 150 acres. I know parties who were common clodhoppers in one of the southern counties, and who were sent out here *out of charity, who would rather grin at their* old master's ideas of farming. A six thousand acre farm (equal to any farm in your county for richness of pasturage, &c.), with a hundred or even two hundred head of cattle running up on it, is thought no great thing of, as you may be sure, when many parties have as much as 20,000 or 30,000 acres. Thousands of Kaffir families (those *poor* creatures of whose lamentable condition Exeter Hall gentlemen so frequently descant) are squires of the land in this kind of wealth.

There is another disadvantage we suffer from