

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

From our own Correspondent.

LONDON, October 3rd, 1842.

MY DEAR SIR,

The importation of foreign grain into the United Kingdom continues to be very large, not only from the northern ports and America and Canada, but also from the Mediterranean, shipped from Russia and Ansher. Indeed there is now quite a glut in the British markets. The farmers are holding on not being willing to thrash out their wheat for sale at the present rates, and since the importation of foreign oxen from the Continental ports they have refused to sell their cattle at the late ruling prices. Although prices have come down considerably, it is evident that these articles of consumption must both fall to a much lower standard. Of the Spanish cattle which have been recently brought over none exceed 700 in weight, and the average is about 500. They are principally cream or fawn colour, and about the head look much like the buffalo. They are very deep in the shoulders but thin in the hind quarter, and have realized hitherto about £10. a head. The highest price yet given is £14. 5s., and the lowest £6., being about 40s. per cwt. There are several more extensive failures this month among corn merchants. The large annual government contract for supplying the navy with Irish provisions, was recently taken at a reduction of about 25 per cent. on last year's prices. The quantity required was 16,000 tierces of beef and 14,000 tierces of pork. It was taken by London houses at from 10s. to 12s. per tierce below the prices of the Irish manufacturers. The prices were from 5, 9, 10, to 5, 14; 8, for pork and from 5, 18, 6, to 5, 19l. for beef, the prices of the former being about 30s. and the latter about 26s. per tierce lower than last season. The yield of grain has been very productive throughout the country, and a form of prayer and thanksgiving has been issued and ordered to be generally read in churches, for the bounty of Providence in the late abundant harvest and fine weather.

The heat of the last summer was so general and intense, that even Iceland is said to have felt its influence, and had a temperature as high as 20 degrees of Reaumur, 77 Fahrenheit.

I learn from Mr. Hebler, His Prussian Majesty's Consul General, that Count Hompeset, a Belgian gentleman, has taken out a patent for the preparation of a manure more powerful and cheaper than any yet invented. His plan is said to consist in fixing all the volatile parts of night soil and other such substances, by means of the ashes of the oolitic shale of Portland. The shale is employed in the first place, as a source from which oil, turpentine, and other substances are extracted; the residue goes to the preparation of the manure, which is said to be converted some where on the Isle of Dogs, and sold in a dry state in the form of bricks, as the materials to be thus employed are inexhaustible, and at present almost valueless, it is expected that the preparation of the fertilizer in question will become a matter of great national importance. As people have become too wise to wonder at sugar being made from old rags, so will they be equally prepared to hear that oil and tallow and soap are to be fabri-

cated from the hardened mud of the coal mines; for such is "Shale."

Nearly four thousand pounds have been already subscribed for the monument to the memory of the late Thomas Wm. Coke, Earl of Leicester. Prominent amongst the subscribers is Lord Woodhouse, the Lord Lieut. of Norfolk, for 50l., who had all through life been opposed to the deceased Peer in politics. This is as it should be, when the interests of our country and the improvements of agriculture are to be served, all petty and party jealousies should be thrown overboard. In the spread of improvement among the cultivators of the soil all are more or less interested, and should combine therefore for the general welfare.

The distinguished founder of Organic Chemistry Professor Liebig of the University of Grissen, has been in England for about a month; one of his principal objects being to examine into the state of agriculture in this country.

The greater parts of the Strand, Oxford-street, Regent-street, Newgate-street, Holborn, are now laid down with fine blocks much to the satisfaction of the several inhabitants. The horrid din is avoided, and the immense traffic going on is almost unheard. Every principal thoroughfare will soon be overspread with timber, Scotch granite has given way to the produce of the Baltic and Irish paviers are altogether at a discount.—Just about this period most of the anniversary meetings of the numerous agricultural societies are held—and there are a great number of shows, dinners, &c., falling about this period. The American Minister, the Hon. E. Everett, has been attending several in order to make him self acquainted with all the routine of English agriculture.

Yours truly,

P. L. SIMMONDS.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR CANADA EAST.

SINCE our last Report the weather was very favourable for completing the harvest, and the grain crops are now nearly all safely under cover. Most of the potatoe crop are also secured in the best order. We do not recollect a finer time for taking up this useful crop than we have had since the first of October. We had slight frosts a few nights, but not sufficient to do any injury. From the 1st of August the weather has been as favourable for harvest as could have been desired, and by the late reports the weather has been equally fine for harvesting in the British Isles. We have nothing to add to our last Report in respect to the grain crops; the produce has been well got in, and is in full proportion to the mode of cultivation and fertility of the soil, except the wheat, of which there is only a small quantity. The potatoe crop is not a large one, and on all strong soils in particular the produce is very deficient. Clay soils should not be cultivated for this crop to any great extent. Unless the season is very favourable clay soils do not work well in potatoes. If the weather happens to be too wet at the time they have to be ploughed, the crop is sure to turn out badly, and the land becomes so hard and overrun with weeds and grass, that it receives very little benefit from manure or this fallow crop. Summer-fallowing is a much more certain means

of improving strong clays than by planting them with potatoes, and we think a cheaper means, though one crop is lost. It requires a good crop of potatoes to pay the expense of seed and cultivation, and they should never be planted upon land that is not suitable for them and likely to produce a fair crop, unless in cases where a farmer has none of the most suitable soil and wishes to grow what is necessary for house use for his own family: but to cultivate potatoes extensively on unsuitable soil, with a view to make profit by the crop, is a bad speculation, and more probably will cause loss than bring profit to the farmer. An acre of potatoes cannot be cultivated, manured, and planted with seed, at a less expense than from twenty to thirty dollars; and we conceive that if the crop of one acre is not worth ten pounds currency to the farmer when taken out of the ground, he loses by their cultivation. We, therefore, would not recommend planting potatoes, except for the farmer's own use, unless these results can be obtained.

Our estimation of expense may possibly, require some explanation, which we beg to offer.—The land requires two ploughings and two harrowings generally, before the drills are made to receive the manure. The drills are then to be opened—about thirty common cart loads of manure is required per acre—this is to be carried on and spread in drills. Since the dry rot has affected seed potatoes, they require that the cut seed should be of larger size than formerly, or be planted whole—and in either case, it will take at least twenty bushel per acre. Seed have to be laid and covered with the plough. When the potatoes are about appearing over the ground: they must be bush harrowed. Again, when the plants are sufficiently over ground, the earth has to be ploughed from the drills—they are then to be hoed—harrowed between the drills—and finished by ploughing the earth up to the plants. This is generally the whole process of cultivating potatoes, and perhaps the following is a fair estimate of the cost:—

Six ploughings, at 5s. each.....	£1 10 0
Three harrowings, at 2s. 6d. do....	0 7 6
One hoeing and weeding at.....	0 3 6
Thirty loads of manure, at 2s. each	3 0 0
Carting manure, spreading do.....	0 10 0
Twenty bushels seed, at 1s. per bushel.....	1 0 0
Cutting seed and planting do.....	0 2 6

Total expense of one acre..... £5 12 6

To this amount is to be added the rent of the land. In some cases the manure may cost more than our estimate and in some less. The carting to the field may also cost more, but seldom less. Altogether we do not think our estimate is much in error. The taking up the crop and putting them under cover is to be added to this estimate. It is on this estimate that we say the produce of one acre of potatoes should be worth to the farmer, when taken up and secured, ten pounds or forty dollars. If sold subsequently they should pay over this amount, the expense of selling or otherwise disposing of them. Strong clays that are well summer-fallowed with a small quantity of manure or lime applied as dressing, will be in a better state to produce a crop of wheat or barley than it would be after potatoes. We have given an excellent article on the process of summer-fallowing in this number, from Low's Practical Agriculture, and recommend it strongly to the attention of our agricultural friends. We