

the country with our ports closed five months of the year. As we before observed they might be useful to farmers who had a large quantity of wheat to sell in the fall, when there would be a good demand for shipping it to England, but even in that case it might not be advantageous to be in too great a hurry, and in no case if the grain is not clean thrashed out. We consider it a sinful waste to allow grain to be badly thrashed. In the Far West thrashing mills may do very well, but in Eastern Canada we require them not on ordinary farms.

We do not think it necessary to publish an Agricultural Report at this season of the year. We may, however, observe, that the season up to this time has been open and very mild. Some snow has fallen, but did not remain on the ground many hours. In fact we had scarcely any severe frost, up to this time. Ploughing, we should suppose, would be very forward, though we are told that in many situations the soil was too wet for ploughing. The unusual mildness of the weather, has admitted of sending the farmers stock to pasture in fields up to this time. We think it favourable that the winter should not commence before the first of December, and then continue cold up to the 1st of April. It shortens the winter, and gives opportunity of finishing the work to be done in the fields. The markets are well supplied with meat of excellent quality, and at moderate prices. The farmers bring in excellent mutton, and other meat; and fowls, which they sell in the Market, from their carts. This, they have been accustomed to do during our residence in Canada, and we conceive that it would be a very arbitrary measure indeed, to attempt to prevent farmers from doing this if so disposed. They have an unquestionable right to sell good, healthy meat in the market, as any other Agricultural produce. We cannot admit any distinction should be made between the right of selling an ox or sheep to be slaughtered, and that of selling them ready slaughtered in a proper manner. There is a wide distinction between the right of a farmer to sell his slaughtered meat in the public market, and that of a butcher carrying meat about the city, and selling it by retail at the houses of the citizens. This we certainly think a great injustice to butchers paying for stalls in the market.

Onions appear to be nearly a failure in England this year. At Windsor Onion Fair lately, they sold as high as 17s. sterling the bushel, and the average about 15s.

We have already expressed our conviction that the potato failure in Ireland will be much more likely to produce future good, than evil consequences, provided the distress occasioned by the failure, at the present time, is promptly remedied by the relief to the sufferer. It is full time that there should be some change for the better in the food of three-fourths of the Irish and Scotch people. We include some of the latter, as it appears by the Report of the Times Commissioners that some of the poor in Scotland are fully as badly provided for as the Irish poor. The potato disease will prevent that root from being so extensively cultivated in future, and oblige the people to raise some other and more certain description of food. We should regret to lose the potatoe altogether, but we hope that it never shall again be so extensively made use of as food for the human family. We have not the least doubt but that the disease will ultimately prove a blessing to the poor of the British Isles, and induce greater industry to provide food better suited to man than potatoes. The Earl of Rosse in speaking of the state of Ireland lately is reported to have said:—

"That, if all would join together in honest and good faith to promote the public welfare, they would have no cause hereafter to lament the present crisis; for by it the foundation would be laid of the greatest improvement in the system of Agriculture, and a great, important, and beneficial change would be wrought in the condition of the labouring population."

We fully concur in these sentiments, because we were long of opinion that the great facility of raising large crops of potatoes for food was not favorable to industry or improvement amongst the poorer classes. They appeared satisfied with this sort of food, as it was so easily procured, and made no further exertion to better their condition.

We have seen a statement, in a late English paper that when barley brings only 4s. per bushel to the farmer, the beer and porter made from it is about 9s. to the consumer, including duty, manufacture, &c.

The duty on Malt alone is 2s. 6d. the bushel. We cannot exactly say what is the exact cost of the produce in beer, of a bushel of barley, to the Canadian consumer, though we may know what the barley is sold for by the farmer, and we also know that there is no malt duty paid in Canada.

Of course, if the price of Barley and beer in this country is not in due proportion the only cure for this evil is, competition, which is open to all, who chooses to enter into the trade of brewers.