

BOOK FARMING.

We had a fine example of hostility to book farming a few days since. One among the wealthy and respectable portion of our citizens, on being invited to subscribe for an agricultural paper, broke out into a most furious declamation against all attempts to improve the agriculture of the country, through the means of the diabolical art of printing. "He would have any man hung, drawn, and quartered, who would presume to attempt enlightening the public on agriculture through the means of the press, saving and excepting the present company. The farming of the present day, the crops, the soil, the orchards, animals, and indeed, whatever was connected with cultivation, was far behind what it was 30 years ago. Writing on agriculture, tended only to mislead; nobody but enthusiasts (knaves and idiots he meant), would write, and none but a similar class would read anything on the subject. Farming was to be learnt by example only; the old fashion was the best fashion, and nearest in accordance with common sense and sound judgment."

About half this tirade against this innovation upon the olden time, he believed; the other half he feigned; but he gave the lie to the whole of it in half an hour afterwards by purchasing a hundred dollars' worth of improved agricultural implements, which, but for the spirit awakened, and the knowledge developed by the agricultural information spread before the people of the present day, by our valuable periodicals devoted to this subject, would have remained where he thought the fruits and other matters connected with ancient agriculture, were, viz. in the nozzels of a past generation.

The man who believes the agricultural press has done nothing for the cause in the present generation is to be pitied. The man who feigns to believe it, deserves worse. Both are burying or clogging the benefits of that talent, which they will be called upon to account for hereafter, with usury.—*Am. Ag. Journal.*

THE POTATO CROP IN IRELAND.—We are happy to state that most of the provincial papers which reached us during the past week fully confirm the statements we have from time to time made with regard to the potato crop. It now appears that, in many districts in which the outcry was too generally raised, that more than one-half of the

potato crop was gone, not more than from one-twelfth to one-twentieth have suffered. In many instances, too, so prolific has the crop been that farmers have stated that, independent of those diseased, there has been little short of an acreable average.—*Banner of Ulster.*

THE NEW ELECTRIC LIGHT.—On Monday evening, the 13th of October, we visited the Hanover-square Concert Room, to behold this new light; and certainly were pleasingly amazed at this additional triumph of science. On entering the large room, we found it illuminated by a diffusive white light that showed to perfection the pictures on the ceiling, and also some which had been placed in the room to prove the intensity and power of the new light. This test, a severe one, was perfectly satisfactory, for the greys and the yellows were plainly perceptible, as also the flesh tints. A company, comprising scientific men of eminence, the directors of gas companies, the proprietors of patents relating to lights of every kind, and a multitude of highly intelligent and respectable persons had largely assembled. Mr. Straite and Mr. Petrie, the discoverers and patentees, were on the platform answering the eager questions of the scientific men; and after a short interval, Mr. Straite gave a brief outline of the most prominent characteristics of the new discovery, which was earnestly listened to and frequently elicited bursts of genuine admiration. He stated that the problem of rendering the electric light permanent, self-regulating, and economical, had been accomplished. Its advantages were, that not being combustible, it was perfectly harmless. That being without heat, it was not injurious to the eyes or the other senses. That it could be conveyed by wires as neatly as bell wires. It was economical, for the light of a hundred wax lights could be furnished for a penny an hour. The outer shade being removed, an elegant glass vase, about two feet in height, and six inches in diameter, of an arched shape, and on a metal plate, so that no air was admitted, was exposed to view. Wire, conveying the fluid, was all that was to be seen, and the light was turned on and off by Mr. Petrie, and the transition seemed from day to night, although there were several chandeliers alight in the room. The delicate human hand thus controlling the fierce and most appalling power that manifests itself in the tropical storm struck all present, and an involuntary burst of admiration manifested the almost awful interest with which this matchless triumph of human skill and science was appreciated. Mr. Straite declared his intention of shortly giving a series of lectures on the subject. After answering numerous questions, the company separated, certainly impressed with amazement at the discovery, and admiration of the gentlemanly and modest bearing of the discoverers.—*Douglas Jerrold's Newspaper.*