

which is constantly evolving from evergreens, which is another among the wonderful provisions of Providence for the continuance of purity in the air during the absence of those leaves which die in the autumn.

(To be continued.)

CULTIVATION OF TURNIPS.

WE think we are sufficiently acquainted with rural proceedings in these Provinces to venture the assertion, that the cultivation of the turnip crop has been too generally neglected; and as it is one of the departments of husbandry which has contributed greatly to the advancement of agriculture in other countries, that the adoption of it upon a larger scale, in our Provinces, would be attended with improvement to the soil and profit to the cultivator of it; for a suitable supply of turnips, independently of other important considerations, would relieve the expenditure of hay during our long winters. Hitherto the growth of turnips has been confined to a small patch of ground, prepared by the yarding of cattle upon it, or to a similar space upon newly burnt land. After mentioning the advancement which agriculture experienced in England by attention to the turnip crop, the writer in "*British Husbandry*" observes, "It was also so difficult to support the stock upon a farm throughout the winter, that the fattening of cattle for market during that season could only be effected with hay, and it was therefore customary among country families to slaughter a number proportionate to their wants, for the purpose of salting them down for winter consumption. This indeed saved the expense of feeding, but besides abridging the comforts of the table, it prevented the production of manure for the culture of the land, which thus became impoverished, and it was not until the admission of turnips into our farming system, that those inconveniences were remedied. They are now, however, universally grown for the common

food of sheep and oxen, upon all soils to which they are adapted, and lands so poor as to be formerly worthless under the plough, have now been rendered productive, by the application of the dressings which they furnish." We may here notice the reduction of stock which takes place occasionally in our Provinces in consequence of the scarcity of hay in the spring. In England, the farmer calculated the length of his winter, the number of mouths and the quantity of hay requisite to fill them, and when there was an overplus of the former, he put the beef, when it was eatable, in his pickle barrels. But our farmers in too many instances do not trouble themselves with any such proportional calculations, they keep their stock, feed liberally in the winter, and when the spring comes, famine comes with it; the cattle are then put upon an allowance; this daily decreases with the daily decrease of flesh upon the bones of the unfortunate animals, their skeleton frames are sustained a little longer with a pittance from the potatoe cellar, oat-bin, or meal barrel, until they drop down, with nothing in them to make manure, and nothing on them to feed either the owner or the crows. We have seen these occurrences too often to doubt the propriety of making the assertion, and the spring that has just passed has verified it in many parts of both Provinces. It may be said in reply, that the spring was unusually late this season, and that all probable calculations would have failed. We return for answer, that a prudent calculator would make provision for two or three weeks of extra feeding.

We shall give full extracts respecting the cultivation of turnips, to which so much importance is attached by the highest agricultural authorities in Great Britain. Our climate is favourable to the growth of them, we have soils in abundance suited to them, and if they are considered a good substitute for hay in the short and mild winters of England, they must prove equally beneficial in our long and severe ones.