

Editor's Table.

PROSPECTS FOR THE SEASON.—That good prices will be obtained for agricultural products of every description, is now apparent to all; and were it not that we are the most extravagant people on earth, there would be nothing to prevent our becoming wealthy and independent. We are rich in the elements of wealth, but wealth and the means of wealth, however abundantly possessed by individuals or nations, will be of little avail to spendthrifts, as evidenced by the records of the custom house, in the extravagance of foreign silk and gewgaws. We must be content, having earned our money, not to spend it for articles of luxury, or for those things which can equally as well be made at home as abroad.

But it seems in vain to show the right while fashion says the standard shall be, not one's own comfort, but the appearance one can make in other people's eyes; and in our own city, even, while money the past winter and spring has been worth from two and a half to three per cent. a month, the butterflies of fashion have ornamented themselves as audaciously and in as costly a manner as though gold could be had for the asking, and a thousand dollar bridal paraphernalia is not too extravagant, so that all rivals may be eclipsed.

We do not anticipate that the quantity of wheat in the States proper can be materially increased, except by means of better and more careful cultivation. The skinning process has been so long practiced, that years will be required to restore many of our farms to their former fertility. The lands on which wheat can be grown with a certain prospect of an average crop, (the Canadas excepted,) have nearly all been put under cultivation. The war on the European continent, while it withdraws millions of able-bodied men from the cultivation of the soil, thus turning producers into consumers, enhances the price of grains, because the fruits of war are waste in every form and in every thing, and more particularly waste of labor, money, and life, the three essential elements of national wealth. An able writer in the *London Farmers' Magazine*, says: "It is now evident that throughout Western Europe, at least, consumption has overtaken production. The two causes which have operated in England to increase the consumption of food and to decrease its production are, first, increase of population, which, as there is only a given quantity of tillable land, causes the disproportion to be larger every year; second, with increase of population there has been a corresponding increase in the consumption of animal food, as well as vegetable, requiring a larger supply of cattle, both for the butcher and the dairy, and consequently a larger breadth of grazing and arable land for the production of green crops to rear and feed them. "The same considerations," he further states, "apply to France, with this addition: the large absorption of land for the cultivation of the Silesian beet root, to supply the manufacturers of sugar.

"The same causes are operating in Prussia, Austria, Belgium, Holland, Bavaria, and most of the minor Ger-

man States. In only Holland and Belgium is agriculture flourishing, and even they are grazing more than agricultural countries, and are themselves large purchasers of grain from the Baltic ports."

Such being the facts, there is every inducement then held out to American farmers to devote every available field to the growth of some crop that will feed both man and beast; but while doing that, remember the land must be fed, if it is to feed you, a proper rotation of crops must be practiced, and, above all, a rigid economy in the saving and application of manures.

In many sections where winter wheat cannot be successfully grown, we are confident that spring wheat will be found a very profitable crop; and according to some analyses that we have seen, it is represented as being richer in the elements of nutrition than winter wheat, though much depends, we should think, upon the soil and the variety grown, and also the variety with which it is compared. Fair crops of spring wheat of the Scotch or Fife variety have been obtained in this vicinity, when sown as late as the 15th of May; and a Canadian correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* (a periodical, by the way, true to its name, and worthy a place by every fireside) states that good crops have been grown when sown as late as the 25th of May, and that a better yield was obtained when sowing was delayed until the ground had become warmed by the sun and air, than when sown as early as is customary.

In former numbers we have shown the value of root crops as a substitute for hay and grains in stock feeding, and we trust that no one of our readers will neglect their growth and cultivation.

Of Indian corn, our truly *native* grain, we will say but little, only to urge its extensive cultivation; and especially do we recommend the devoting of a portion of your tillable land to its cultivation as a forage crop. Sown in drills nine inches apart, and cut when just about to ear, several tons of the very best of forage for stock, and especially for milch cows, may be had per acre at but comparatively small expense. Try it and see if it is not so.

For some years past, though the rot seems to be passing away, the yield of potatoes per acre has been gradually diminishing. Theory shows that it requires a soil rich in alkalies and phosphates, and practice tells us that on freshly tilled virgin soils, one rarely fails of having good, sound tubers, and a good yield. Guano has been found an excellent manure for them, increasing the yield per acre to a degree generally much exceeding its cost. A friend, who was induced to make the experiment of mixing lime, ashes and plaster, for the purpose, to use his own words, "of seeing if the papers did tell the truth or not," informs us, that whether it was owing to the use of such a compound or not, (about a small handful being applied to it in each hill at the time of planting,) his crop of potatoes last fall was better than he had had for many years previous.

Some four years since, having occasion to grade a lot, the soil was removed to the depth of about two and a half feet, and 100 bushels of ashes (being at the rate of 500 bushels to the acre) were then spread evenly over the surface, and plowed in as deeply as could be done with a stout