

would be well, likewise, to try the virtues of sweet apples.—The most important object of such experiments however, would be to ascertain whether the beef of cattle fattened on potatoes or other roots, raw or boiled, or steamed, is equal in quality to that which is fattened on Indian corn. If not, whether an ox may not be made nearly fat enough for profit on roots and hay, his fattening completed on corn, and the flesh be as good as if he had been fattened on corn. And if an ox partly fattened on roots, and his fattening completed on corn, gives as good beef as one wholly fed on corn, the question occurs, how long a time will it require to give the beef its good qualities arising from the corn? We know as respects swine, that farmers make them partly fat on anything which they will devour, and then feed them for some time before they are killed with Indian corn, or meal, to "harden the flesh," as they express it; and perhaps the same process will answer for beef cattle. Some farmers say that the red or La Plata potato, given raw to swine, make as good pork as that which is corn fed. Others say that any kind of potatoes if steamed or boiled, will make as good pork as can be made of corn. If this be true of pork it may be so of beef.

It is a truth which has been confirmed by repeated experiment, that food for swine fermented till it becomes a little acid, will go farther, and fatten them faster than unfermented food, of the same quantity and quality. But it is not, I believe, generally known in this country, that *acid food* is most valuable for neat cattle in certain circumstances. Mr. Bordley, a celebrated American writer on rural economy, however asserts, that oxen made half fat, or in good plight, on grass or turnips, are then finished in France, upon a *sour food*, prepared as follows: rye meal (buckwheat or Indian meal may be tried) with water is made into paste, which in a few days ferments and becomes sour; this is then diluted with water, and thickened with hay, cut into chaff, which the oxen sometimes refuse the first day, but when dry they drink and prefer it. All the husbandmen are decidedly of opinion that they fatten much better because of the acidity. They give it thrice a day, and a large ox eats twenty-two pounds a day. Maize (Indian) meal, or maize steeped till it is sour, should be tried. This *sour mess* is given during the last three weeks of their fattening, and they eat seven and a half bushels of meal, value four dollars.

Care should be taken that the process of fermentation be not carried too far. The paste should not become mouldy, nor the slightest degree putrid. We think, moreover, that there is good reason for waiting till animals become "half fat," or in good plight, before they are fed with acid food. Acids, like alcohol, create appetite by stimulating the stomach, but if long continued, they weaken the digestive powers, and in time entirely destroy the tone of the stomach. The animal will then be visited with what in a human subject would be called dyspepsia, or a want of the power of digestion; fattening him will be out of the question, and he will be worth but little more than the value of his hide. The constitution of an ox may be destroyed by excessive eating, and it is only towards the close of his days, near the last

stage of his preparation for the butcher, that he should be allowed to become epicure, and indulged with as much as he can eat of rich and high seasoned food.—*Christian Messenger.*

DRAIN YOUR LANDS. Let not a particle of stagnant water lie on the surface nor under the surface of the lands you cultivate. One of the best of all blessings is pure, wholesome running water. But see that it is running and not stagnant. The latter destroys all useful vegetation, all economy in working the land, all health and all beauty of landscape. It is the loss of everything as far as it extends, and breeds malaria and disease for cattle, and all domestic animals equally with man. Manures are inoperative upon wet or moist land. Do not content yourself with removing what is on the surface, for stagnant water, just below, is frequently equally prejudicial with that which is visible. This may be removed by under, as the former by surface drains.

NEWS.

CANADA.

A large public meeting was held in Kingston, on the 6th inst., to consider the proposition now before the Legislature, to pay the Lower Canada rebellion losses. The Mayor was in the chair, and the meeting was addressed by several gentlemen. Several resolutions in opposition to the proposed indemnity were unanimously carried, and the Secretary was instructed to transmit them to the Member for Kingston, and request him strenuously to oppose any such appropriation. We observe that in compliance with a numerously signed requisition, the Mayor of Montreal has called a public meeting to be held in the Bonsecours Market Hall on the evening of Saturday the 17th instant.

RAILROAD MEETING IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—A numerously and respectfully signed requisition, addressed to the High Sheriff of the county of Northumberland, and assented to by him, is published in the *Miramichi Gleaner* of January 30th, calling a public meeting of the inhabitants of the county, which was to be held at the Court House in Newcastle on Monday last, to take into consideration the proposed Railroad from Quebec to Halifax.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE CONTINENT.

The steamer *Niagara*, which left Liverpool on the 27th ult., arrived at Boston on the 11th inst. We select such items of news as our limited space will admit of. There appears to have been a slight advance on Flour, which is quoted at 26s in bond, or equal to 26s 7½d, free after 1st February.

Lord John Russell had made an abortive attempt to form a coalition ministry with the aid of Sir James Graham. Sir James refused, it is said, because he would not consent to impose a duty on grain.—It is also said positively, though we do not learn on what authority, that the only change to be made in the Navigation Laws is to admit goods, the produce of Asia, Africa, and America, (after being landed in Europe. This would be of no service to Canada.—The cholera is still rife; but less so than at last advices. Total number of cases, 8854, of which 3961 were fatal; 2118 had recovered, and 2776 were under treatment. The weekly deaths in London, from this cause, were about 63.

The Tone of the Young Ireland Organs has undergone a sensible change of fate. The clerical party in that country have been much alarmed by the results of clubbism on the continent, and by the expulsion of the Pope from Rome.

In India, the British troops, under Lord Gough, had gained another great victory over the Sikhs on the right bank of Chertaub. The affair seems to have consisted of a succession of skirmishes, with somewhat various fortune, from the 22d December to the 2d January. On that day, General Thackwell having joined, engaged the enemy, and worsted them in the skirmish. A general attack was to be made the next day, but the Sikhs were found to have decamped. It is feared, however, that their spirit is not yet