

THE POTATO ROT.—We mentioned in the *Commonwealth* a few days ago the substance of a conversation with Mr. Flanders on the subject of the potato rot. It may be remembered that Mr. Flanders' proposal is to sift air slacked lime upon the potatoe vines while wet with a heavy dew or rain.

On this subject Mr. Nathan Winslow, in a communication to the *Portland Advertiser*, writes that he has no doubt that Mr. Flanders is correct in his discovery of a remedy for the potato disease—both as it regards the cause and the cure. Mr. W. says personal observation last year, fully convinced him that the disease is produced by means of insects feeding upon the vine, and that he should have tried the proposed remedy and communicated the result to the public, had not the season been too far advanced when the idea recurred to him. He was induced to try lime water, from having found it effectual in preventing insects from stinging the leaves of plum trees. [Boston Commonwealth]

PACKING FLOUR.—An experiment has been made by an inspector of flour at Cincinnati, for the purpose of ascertaining whether flour closely packed, will keep from souring as long as it loosely packed. A tight half barrel filled loosely with flour was put away in a place possessing no more than ordinary advantages as a ware house, and at the fifth year the flour became somewhat rancid and did not sour until the ninth year. This experiment has proved that flour loosely packed would be preserved in good order much longer than that put up in the ordinary manner.

BUTTER.—Complaints have been received from England that the butter from Canada is too much salted. This is a great fault, and if not avoided, will bring Canada butter into bad repute in the English market. There seems to be very little attention paid to this matter by butter makers, for most of the fresh butter brought into our market is so salt that it is necessary to work it through water, before it is fit for the table. [Hamilton Spectator.]

THE WHEAT CROP OF 1851.—The reports from the various grain growing parts of the Union, indicate that the wheat crop of the present year will be the heaviest ever taken from the earth in the Western States. In Ohio, the crop is a very large and fine one. In New York, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, the yield is also very large, and the wheat of the very first quality in Michigan, particularly, the yield exceeds any thing ever known, even in Michigan.

RAPID HARVESTING.—In the county of Scioto, Ohio, twenty-seven acres of wheat were harvested in one day, by means of a patent reaper. The work was well done and the yield of wheat good. *Palladium.*

Money skillfully expended in drving land by draining or otherwise, will be returned with ample interest.

Weeds exhaust the strength of ground, and if suffered to grow, may be called garden sins.

Grow nothing carelessly; whatever is worth growing at all, is worth growing well.

Horticulture.

THE USE OF FLOWERS.

BY MARY HOWITT.

God might have made the earth bring forth
Enough for great and small—
The oak tree and the cedar tree,
Without a flower at all.

He might have made enough, enough
For every want of ours—
For luxury, medicine and toil,
And yet have made no flowers.

The ore within the mountain mine
Requireth none to grow;
Nor doth it need the lotus flower
To make the river flow.

The clouds might give abundant rain—
The nightly dews might fall—
And the herb that keepeth life in man
Might yet have drunk them all.

Then wherefore, wherefore were they made
All dyed with rainbow light;
All fashioned with supremest grace,
Upspringing day and night:

Springing in valleys green and low,
And on the mountains high,
And in the silent wilderness,
Where no man passes by?

Our onward life requires them not—
Then wherefore had they birth?
To minister delight to man—
To beautify the earth:

To comfort man—to whisper hope,
Whene'er his faith is dim;
For whose careth for the flowers
Will much more care for him.

MULCHING.

A "Practical Mulcher," writing from Dedham, Massachusetts, whose communication is published in the *Horticulturist* for May, says:

I regard *mulching* as our prime and especial necessity, the most indispensable thing in North American Agriculture. For in the first place, the operation of mulching, or covering over the surface of the ground, prevents the evaporation of the moisture that is so requisite to the rooting of new plantations, to the development of luxuriant foliage; and the production of perfect flowers, and fair, juicy, large-sized fruits.—Again: the operation of mulching not only prevents, to a great extent, the escape of moisture, but also, and what is of greater importance, the passing away from the earth of the volatile gases, that are held in solution in the water, and which, sucked in by the minute mouths of the radicles or spongioles, give nourishment to the plant or tree.

That mulching is of great value in the case of young and newly planted trees, by preventing the process of evaporation, is universally admitted in theory, and to a