

AGRICULTURAL.

From 'Memoirs of the N. York Board of Agriculture.'

CULTURE OF POTATOES.

Notwithstanding so many experiments have been made by practical cultivators, and given in detail in the New England Farmer, and other papers, the practice with regard to obtaining crops of potatoes, is not uniform; and the following notice of the method pursued by Mr Knight, President of the London Horticultural Society, may be of some use to some of our readers.—

"I obtained from the ash-leaved kidneys, last season, (a bad one) a produce equal to six hundred and seventy bushels of eighty pounds each to the statute acre; and I entertain no doubt of having as many this year. To obtain these vast crops of ash-leaved kidneys, I always plant whole potatoes, selecting the largest that I can raise; and for a very early crop, those ripened early in the preceding summer, and kept dry. I usually plant them on their ends, to stand with crown end upwards, and place them at four inches distance from centre to centre in the rows; the rows two feet apart, and always pointed north and south.

"I plant my large potatoes much in the same way, but with wider intervals, according to the height which the stems attain; thus, one which grows a yard high, at six inches distance from centre to centre, and three feet six inches or four feet between the rows; never cutting any potatoes, nor planting one of less weight than a quarter, but generally half a pound. By using such large sets, I got very strong and large plants, with widely extended roots, very early in the summer.

"The blossoms take away a good deal of sap, which may be employed in forming potatoes; and whenever a potato affords seed freely, I think it almost an insuperable objection to it. As a general rule, I think that potatoes ought to be planted in rows distant from each other in proportion to the height of their stems. The height [or length] of stems being full three feet, the rows ought to be four feet apart, and the sets of the very largest varieties, planted whole, never to be more distant from centre to centre than six inches. By such modes of planting, the greatest possible quantities of leaf (the organ by which alone blood is made) are exposed to light."

The philosophy of these able and simple directions, may be shortly explained. It consists in the exposure of the utmost possible surface of the respiratory organs, (the leaves) to the agency of the electrizing principle of the solar light, and of corresponding breadth of soil to the influences of air and heat; so that the roots may be enabled to extend right and left to a distance somewhat exceeding that of the height of the stems and foliage.

The reason why potatoes, when planted, should not be cut, is this, to wit!—The outside skin of a potato, called the cuticle, is the most durable part, and retains the moisture for the use of the young plants, until it is all exhausted. If potatoes are cut, the nutritive juice is absorbed in a great measure by the earth. The evil of cutting seed potatoes is more manifest on a dry soil, than on a moist. It is, we believe, on incorrect opinion, held by some cultivators, that a whole potato is not so good on account of bringing the plants too near together; for the fibrous roots will spread in every direction, and the tubers will not crowd nor interfere with each other, but will spread in such manner as to fill the hill.

Potatoes, if planted in a sandy soil, will yield one third more, [it is said] if a table spoonful of plaster be thrown upon the naked potatoes in each hill, after they are dropped and before they are covered.

Yard manure is very useful if laid over the potatoes in each hill, after an inch of soil has been laid on them; and then the hill covered as deep as usual. But if the manure is laid directly upon the naked seed or under it, a drought will injure the crop.

SOWING CLOVER SEED.—There can be no doubt that a large quantity of Clover seed is lost by means of its perishing on the surface, whether sown during frosty nights and thawing days or at a more late period of the season; but this might be obviated if the time of sowing was delayed till the ground was tolerably dry. As soon as it is cast upon the ground, a light harrow should be passed over the field; the seed thus sown would be covered, and placed in a situation to vegetate to a certainty. Immediately after harrowing, the ground should be rolled. It may be objected to this that the young wheat or rye plants will be dragged out of the ground and injured, but on the other hand, whatever might be drawn out by the harrow would be replaced by the roller, and the increase from cultivation and tillering would far exceed the injury spoken of. Indeed, all rye and wheat fields, whether sown with grass or not, would derive benefit from undergoing this process, as there can be no question that the stirring of the ground would add greatly to the growth of the plants, for there is no truth which holds better, than that every thing that vegetates is benefited by cultivation.—*Baltimore Farmer.*

Gleanings from late British Papers.

LONDON, April 28.

To-night, the Marquis of Downshire is to lay before the House of Lords the dismal and desponding account which the Orangemen of Ireland, have given of their position and prospects. The catalogue of those woes, which are only briefly and generally referred to in the petitions he designs to present, will be detailed with minuteness and precision, and the atrocious designs of Lord Mulgrave to destroy the Protestant ascendancy will be laid bare with the most unscrupulous severity. * * *

Their Lordships have now for several years taken under their especial protection the Protestant interest in Ireland. They have made no scruple in avowing that their proceedings in reference to that country have been exclusively regulated by a regard to the supposed welfare of Protestantism. Every measure which they have sanctioned, with one memorable exception, has been viewed in reference to this paramount object. And as the result of all this care—of all this open and systematic partiality—this acknowledged unfairness towards the majority of the Irish nation, they find that Protestantism is so weak and languid, that, according to its warmest advocates, it is in danger of perishing because for a moment it is deprived of the exclusive enjoyment of the patronage of the government.

"Robbed of this,

Its sole support, it languishes and dies."

It cannot exist if left to struggle for a moment on equal terms with its opponents. The child of a false and pernicious system, it partakes of the temporary and feeble nature of the means employed for its support. Such, at least, is the Conservative account of Protestantism in Ireland.

If, however, their lordships have hitherto legislated with so little success, what hopes can they have that happier results for the future will reward their efforts? They have done everything that a mistaken kindness could suggest to strengthen the church which they favoured; and the consequence of their endeavours has been the weakness and imbecility of this

favoured institution. On what grounds can they anticipate different effects from a persistence in the same conduct? Have they not tried and proved the unsoundness of their policy? Can further experiments be required to demonstrate the folly of their previous measures, and the necessity of adopting a more liberal policy? We can hardly suppose that additional proof is needed, and we can only, therefore, attribute the measures of the Lords in reference to Ireland, at the present time, to a deliberate and conscious design to sacrifice the peace of the nation and the Protestant faith to the maintenance of their political ascendancy. If such be their purpose, it must be admitted that their plans are well fitted to attain a momentary success—though at the price, probably, of irreparable injury to the Protestant church.—*London Globe and Traveller.*

LORD LYNDBURST.—Lord Lyndhurst left town yesterday afternoon for Paris, having received a very alarming account of the state of his daughter's health. About six weeks ago his lordship, at the suggestion of two medical friends (one a physician, the other a surgeon) of great experience and reputation, took his second daughter to Paris for the purpose of having an operation of a delicate nature performed on her throat by Mr Roux, who has acquired considerable celebrity for his skill in that branch of surgical science. The operation was performed with success, and the young patient, an interesting child of fifteen, was pronounced to be cured, when she was suddenly seized with the Parisian epidemic called *La Grippe*. The symptoms soon manifested themselves in the most severe forms of cough and fever, and Lord Lyndhurst was so much alarmed, that in spite of the urgent claims upon him as a leader of his party to attend to his parliamentary duties, he merged the statesman in the parent, and determined not to leave Paris. At the beginning of last week, however, his daughter was pronounced convalescent, and Miss Copley (his lordship's sister) having arrived in Paris, he left that metropolis for London. Since his return all the accounts have been favourable till yesterday, when he received a letter announcing a dangerous relapse: he immediately ordered horses and started with his eldest daughter for Paris, to receive, we fear, the last embrace of his poor child, or, what is more probable, to find her no longer a living object of his affection. We have entered into this detail in order to explain to the general public the reason of the absence of a political chief at this important political crisis—a reason which all who have any thing worthy to be called a heart will admit with sympathy and respect.—*Times.*

CAPTAIN BACK.—It is worthy of general remark that the Geographical Society of Paris have conferred their medal upon Capt. Back for his discoveries in the Arctic regions. This is the third instance of such a national compliment having been paid to British commanders. The fact was communicated on Tuesday night to the Geographical Society by Captain Washington, the secretary.

MISSIONARIES IN HINDOSTAN.—The Earl of Ripon, in his address yesterday to the Royal Society of Literature, took occasion to remark upon the effects of missionary labours in the East. These valuable labours can scarcely be expected to show an immediate result upon the adult classes of the population. Born and trained in a barbarous mode, the habits and feelings of savage life grow with their growth and strengthen with their strength; it is to the rising generation that the philanthropist must