

although they are not so much grown as in other parts of Germany.

"Belgium and Holland have had but bad crops; and the news from France sufficiently proves that this year has not been a productive one.

"Spain occupies but an inferior rank among corn-growing countries; still reports from this country do not mention that the crops have been deficient.

"England, where the states of the European continent generally find a market for their surplus corn, appears today to be reassured on the wants of its internal consumption, or at least the alarming news which arrived from that country has been succeeded by much more favourable intelligence. Those who count upon corn supplies from the Baltic and provinces of the North Sea, will be greatly deceived; the price of these productions will first of all be very high, and in the second place the quantities that can be supplied very small. A great quantity of wheat has this year been struck by blight; and this disease which has spread throughout Germany, Poland, and Hungary, has deteriorated the quality of the corn as well as diminished the quantity. Further, it cannot now be accurately known whether at a later period England will not be reduced to supply itself from abroad, for it is well known that it is only in case of an abundant crop that enough can be grown for the country. In the contrary case, she will look to supplies from America, or from the countries bordering on the Black Sea.

"In Scandinavia, that is to say Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, the crops have not been satisfactory. In a few words, then, it may be said that for many years past there has not been so unfavourable a year as the present one; and if it be added that last year only furnished an indifferent crop in comparison with the preceding ones, this circumstance ought to give rise to measures being taken to prevent the danger which threatens us."

BOOK FARMING.

It has often been and still is too common for those who plod on in the same way as their fathers pursued, without availing themselves of the advantages of the experience of others, to cry out against "book farming," particularly when they are solicited to subscribe for an agricultural periodical; but the farmer who feels an interest in the advancement of the science of agriculture, and has an eye to the improvement of his land and crops, will carefully examine before he condemns works of this kind.

The principal objection urged against agricultural works, is that the writers are not practical farmers. It may be that Editors of agricultural papers do not have the management of large farms—for the duties of such a station would preclude the possibility of attending to one,—but I will venture the assertion that there is not of this class in the country who has not the interests of the agriculturist at heart, and who does not cultivate, at least, a small quantity of land, in the most scientific manner, carefully noticing the results of different modes of cultivation, and making them known through the columns of his paper. Besides, I would ask, who are usually the contributors to such papers; those who feel an interest in those matters, or those who care nothing whatever about them? An answer to this question will be found by consulting the pages of such works, where we will find the communications therein contained are invariably written by practical farmers, men upon whose judgment we would confidently rely, were we to ask their opinions in regard to different modes of cultivation which we knew they had tried.

And yet, strange to tell, there are many who think that such information loses its value because it is printed, and therefore, are unwilling to follow the suggestions contained in an agricultural paper, although they will not hesitate to adopt any thing they have known their neighbours to practise successfully, notwithstanding that neighbours may have been indebted to an agricultural newspaper for it.

Now, if farmers in a small district of country can be

mutually benefited by frequently consulting each other, in regard to their modes of managing different crops, it cannot be denied, that greater benefits will ensue, where those of a larger district have an opportunity of frequent interchange of thought, as is given in the columns of a newspaper or periodical having an extensive circulation. We will venture the assertion, that no farmer can take a well conducted periodical, without finding in every number something worth the price of a year's subscription.

One of the best evidences of the value of such works is the increasing demand for them, another is the fact, that wherever they are extensively circulated, we soon perceive a decided improvement in the appearance of the country as well as the produce of the soil. In truth, I will venture to tell, in four cases out of five, whether or not a farmer reads an agricultural paper merely by examining his farming in implements.—*Western Cultivator*.

CHARCOAL.

The preservative qualities to charcoal are not so generally known as they should be, and I hope you will tell your readers that if they will embed their smoked beef and pork in the pulverized charcoal, they may keep it as long as they please without regard to weather. Tell them also, that if they will take about a pint of charcoal, also pulverized, and put it into a bag, then put it into a barrel of new cider, it can never ferment, will never contain any intoxicating quality, and is more and more palatable the longer it is kept. Further, take a piece of charcoal of a surface equal to a cubit inch, wrap it in a clean cotton cloth two thicknesses, and make a nest, and work about one pound of butter which has become rancid, and it will restore it perfectly.—*Michigan Farmer*.

THE POTATO DISEASE.

To the Editor of the Gloucestershire Chronicle.

SIR,—I trust the following observations, if thought worthy of your insertion, will induce others to more fully investigate the subject of my present communication. During the past three weeks, the potato crops in this county and neighbourhood, as well as in other parts of the kingdom, have been fearfully stricken with a species of epidemic disease, (a term corresponding with the epidemic, as applied to disease of man) which has threatened to destroy a considerable portion of the potato crops. Should the destruction of this valuable and necessary article of daily diet prove extensive, much suffering and distress must be the lot of the poor and labouring classes of the community. To ameliorate the present, or perhaps future, wants of the labouring part of our population, induced me to turn my attention to investigate the probable cause of this vegetable murrain, and, if possible, suggest an appropriate remedy.

The disease apparently attacks the plant in the fibrillæ of the roots, and where the roots pass into the tuber or solid bulb of the potato. An interruption having taken place between the supply and demand of the living plant, by the decay of the root and its fibrillæ, its stalk quickly droops and withers, in proportion to the progress of the malady. The thin outer coat of the potato may now be perceived roughened and thickened in one or more patches, and these, when cut through, show that the internal structure of the tuber is altered, the change commencing immediately beneath the cuticle or outer skin; the pulp is changed to a rusty brown colour, like a bruised apple, in thickness varying with the intensity and duration of the disease; eventually the structure of the whole potato is converted into a reddish brown, half-rotten looking mass.