

return; and because an abundant supply of seed may be had of it from France. We have long since shown the great value of a beet crop in point of nutrition; that, in fact, it ranks higher than any known plant which is cultivable. But there was always the difficulty of how to consume it, for men would find it a poor diet by itself, and the present circumstances of Ireland are not such as to justify the introduction of produce which can become food for man only after having been transformed into pigs and oxen. The discovery, however, in Germany, of the facility with which it may be combined with bread, removes the difficulty, and places beet incontestably at the head of the new articles which should be introduced into Irish husbandry. In its relation to potatoes, beet stands as 1020 to 433, if its nutritive quality is considered; and as 8330 to 3480 in regard to utilisable produce of all kinds. It is still to be determined what kind of beet could be best cultivated for this purpose. Red beet produces brown bread; white sugar beet would probably yield a white bread, and of still better quality; mangold wurzel we have ascertained to form a bread of inferior quality, but still eatable enough. It is suggested, too, that carrots and parsnips might be employed in the same manner as beet. That, too, we have tried, and we find that parsnips are excellent, but carrots much less palatable. All these substances combine readily with flour, but they are rather unwilling to part with their water, and will probably be best in cakes, like oatmeal." This is valuable testimony, to which we may add, that mashed beet and rasped bread, well dried, and slightly browned, form an admirable substitute for table potatoes.—*Edinburgh Journal*.

THE GOOSEBERRY.—In Spain and Italy the gooseberry is scarcely known; in France it is neglected, and little esteemed; in some parts of Germany and Holland the moderate temperature and humidity of climate seem to suit the fruit; but in no country is its size and beauty to be compared with that produced in Lancashire, or from the Lancashire varieties cultivated with care in the more temperate and humid districts of Britain. Dr. Neill observes, that when foreigners witness our Lancashire gooseberries, they are ready to consider them as forming quite a different kind of fruit. Happily, this wholesome and useful berry is to be found in almost every cottage garden in Britain; and it ought to be considered a part of every gardener's duty to encourage the introduction of its most useful varieties in these humble enclosures. In Lancashire, and some parts of the adjoining counties, almost every cottager who has a garden cultivates the gooseberry with a view to prizes given at what are called "Gooseberry Prize Meetings," of which an account is annually published, with the names and weight of the successful sorts, in the "Manchester Gooseberry Book." The prizes vary from ten shillings to £5 or £10—the second, third, even to the sixth and tenth degrees of merit, receiving often proportionate rewards. There are meetings held in spring to "make up," as the term is, the sorts, the persons, and the conditions of exhibition; and in August to weigh and taste the fruit, and determine the prizes. The perfection the Lancashire berries have attained owes nothing to men of scientific knowledge, being cultivated scarcely by any but the lowest and most illiterate members of society; but these, by continual experience and perseverance in growing and raising new sorts, have brought the fruit from weighing ten to upwards of thirty pennyweights, and that, too, under the greatest disadvantages, not having the privilege of soil, manure, situation, &c., like the gardens of their more wealthy neighbours, but often-times limited to a few yards of land, either shaded by trees, confined to buildings, or exposed to the most unfavourable winds, and so barren, that they have frequently to carry on their shoulders a considerable way the soil in which the plants are to be set.—*Gardeners' Monthly Volume*.

News.

CANADA.

The speech from the Governor General was delivered on Monday the 28th ult. The usual formalities attended the arrival and departure of His Excellency. The Countess of Elgin was present.

The usual rules of the Houses being laid aside for the occasion, a bill laying a tax of 10s a head on all emigrants arriving in this country, passed both branches of the Legislature, and was sent home by the mail which closed here on the 3rd instant.

At the close of the debate on the address on Friday evening, the Ministry were in a minority, the numbers being 54 to 20.

The Ministry, in consequence, resigned on the 4th instant. Sealey, the man who absconded with about £3000 lately, is dangerously ill of the wound he received from the D.puty Sheriff of the place.

An extensive fire occurred in Montreal, on the night of the 2nd instant, by which about 25 wooden houses between Alexander and Blury Streets were burned down. At the same time a fire occurred in Main Street, St. Lawrence Suburbs.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE CONTINENT.

A general revision of the salaries of the officials in all the post-offices in the kingdom is to be carried into effect.

Billion of the Bank of England this week £12,832,602, being an increase of £254,241 since last week.

CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND.—Christmas was kept a complete holiday throughout Ireland. No business whatever was transacted. Not even a single landlord was shot.—*Punch*.

QUIRE A MATTER OF FEELING.—A medical man of the very old school, calls all operations that are performed without the patient feeling anything, "senseless operations."—*Punch*.

ELEVEN SONS IN SUCCESSION.—The wife of a solicitor, in the county of Nottingham, lately gave birth to a son, being the eleventh child of the same sex in uninterrupted succession.

VALID EXCUSE.—The *Exeter Gazette* excuses itself from publishing President Polk's message on the ground that "it measures 15 feet 3 inches in length of an ordinary newspaper column."

A poor man, with a wife and large family, residing in the vicinity of Woodford, received a letter on the morning of Christmas day, informing him that a distant relative had bequeathed him £2000.

Such was the effect produced by Christmas puddings on the price of fuel, in London, that it was sold at rates varying from 1s to 1s 3d a pound, while it can now be purchased at 7d a pound.

Prince Albert, as Chancellor of Cambridge University, has given an annual gold medal, to be awarded to such resident undergraduates as shall compose the best ode, or poem, in English heroic verse.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, if bad fish were sold to the poor, the knavish fishmonger was decorated with a necklace of his own unsavoury commodity, and was then perched on a stand in the market.

The venerable Lord Cloncurry has commissioned Hogan, the Irish sculptor, to erect a monument for the grave of the daughter of John Philpot Curran, to whom he was an unsuccessful suitor fifty years ago.

AN ECCENTRICITY OF THE INFLUENZA.—In one of the educational institutions in Edinburgh nearly all the male teachers and boys were seized with influenza, while not one of the female teachers or pupils was taken ill.

THE ASPIRATED "H."—Mrs. Crawford says she wrote one line in her song, "Kathleen Mavourneen," for the purpose of confounding the Cockney warblers, who sing it thus:—"The 'orn of the 'unter is 'eard on the 'ill."

A farmer, of Foxall, near Stafford, has discovered a mode of treating milk when taken from the cow which causes it to retain all its qualities unaltered for an indefinite length of time. The process has been patented.

Large d falcations have taken place in the Glasgow Post-Office, and official enquiries are now being instituted.

For y persons have been sentenced to transportation, at the Assizes for the county Kerry.

It is intended to have a glass-enclosed winter garden in Edinburgh, to be 140 feet in length by 35 in breadth.

Many respectable Protestants, with a good deal of money, propose emigrating from Armagh, in Ireland, this spring.

Mr. John O'Connell has issued an address to "the people of Ireland."

Greenock has sugar refiners requiring 250 tons per day of raw material to keep them in operation.

750 miles of new railways have been opened in Britain during 1847; 505 in England, 127 in Scotland, and 103 in Ireland.

In Paisley, 6,230 persons are in receipt of rations of soup from the soup kitchens.

Fauperism is increasing to a great extent in the south and west of Ireland. There is, however, a general decrease of crime since the action of the Special Commissioners.