

## A DISCOVERY.

Within these few weeks, a farmer, residing in this vicinity, has discovered a simple, but, as we are informed, an efficacious plan of improving potatoes. The agriculturist keeps an ass for the lighter jobs of cartage, and one day, when their food was not just at hand, a servant was ordered to cut a quantity of the green shaws [tops] from a particular drill, and, at the same time, the farmer added the operation could do little injury, as he intended to dig the potatoes next day for the use of the house. The order was promptly obeyed, and Martin swallowed the shaws with the gusto of an epicure. Though the field lay low, the farmer was astonished next day at finding the soil on both sides of the drill, where the roots had been denuded of the shaws, much wetter than the other, and, on a close inspection, he discovered that the extra moisture had oozed out of the shaws that remained in the ground. The potatoes that had been previously raised had been so wet, soft, and unsavory, that they were unfit for the market, but it appeared that hewing away the foliage, had had the effect of draining off the extra moisture, and rendered them as dry, mealy, and nutritious, as the most enthusiastic admirer of murphies could desire. The experiment, we hear, has been since almost daily repeated, uniformly with the same success, and, if it be not already done, the farmer has it in contemplation to send a full detail of the discovery to Sir John Sinclair.—*Edinburgh Scotsman.*

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## CHARCOAL.

The use of Charcoal in preventing the putrefaction of animal matter has often been commended, and the application of this interesting property of Charcoal, to the preservation of provisions for ships at sea, cannot to be too often insisted upon. We have another pleasing confirmation of this fact in the statement "that the crews of the two Russian ships which lately sailed round the world, were extremely healthy—during the whole three years of their voyage, only two men died of the crew of the *Neva*, and the *Nevashada* did not lose a single man—not only their fresh water was preserved in charred casks, but the same precaution was applied to the preservation of their salted provisions. The beef they carried out with them tasted as pleasantly upon their return, as it did three years before, when first salted."