

summer. We do not propose to farmers, that are not resident in the neighbourhood of our cities, to feed their store cattle as if for fattening; this would neither be necessary nor profitable. They should, however, have sufficient food to keep them in good condition, so that they would not require the best of the summer to recover them and put them in condition. This would be the time to order from the old country, any seeds that might be required for spring sowing. We have seen a favorable report of a spring wheat, known as "Fern Wheat," in England, and we would recommend the importation of a sample of this wheat. We also require new samples of oats and barley from the British Isles, and this would be a favourable year to import them, as the crops were good, and prices low. We can assure those who import good samples, that they will find it a profitable experiment for sowing in Canada. The best varieties alone of oats and barley should be ordered, and the variety of oats, known as the "potato oats," we would not recommend for Canada. Perhaps some approved varieties of potatoes might be imported, as change of seed is always useful, if not very inferior quality. The potato, however, is not likely to be very extensively cultivated, while found so liable to disease, nor do we think the risk of extensive cultivation should be incurred. In order to enable farmers to determine the sort of crops that it may be the most prudent and profitable to cultivate, it may be useful to copy some remarks made by Dr. Playfair, at a recent meeting of Agriculturists, at Sir Robert Peel's. These remarks are entitled to attention, and if they are correct, the farmers of Canada will have no cause to regret that they cannot cultivate potatoes extensively. It would be a great loss if we should be deprived of the potato altogether, but there is no reason to apprehend this. By careful management we may hope to produce them in sufficient quantity to give us a reasonable supply for the table.

"As farmers (says Dr. P.) are the cultivators

of food for the nation, it is important for them to know, especially in times of scarcity such as we have had, with what crops they can grow the largest amount of food on the same space. In this respect the produce is most variable. Thus whilst turnips, mangold wurzel, &c., will grow nearly 700 lbs. of flesh-forming principles per acre, beans 600, and Italian rye-grass considerably more, you cannot obtain in ordinary crops, more than 350 lbs. of potatoes, peas, and barley; not more than 200 lbs. from an average crop of oats. The variation of produce is, therefore, very considerable. But as profit is naturally and most properly the great object of the farmer, it is equally important to know at what remunerative cost the public become supplied with the equivalent amount of various kinds of food. At London prices, a man can lay a pound of flesh on his own body, with milk, at 3s.; with turnips at 2s. 9d.; with potatoes, carrots, and butcher's meat, free from bone and fat, at 2s.; with oatmeal at 1s. 10d.; with bread, flour and barley meal, at 2s. 2d.; and with beans and peas at less than 6d.—These considerations are far from trivial; because, when we consider that an equal amount of nutritious matter can be obtained from one food at less than one-fourth the cost of another, this is only saying that in time of distress, with an intelligent application of money, we can feed four people, where formerly we could only feed one."

The above will enable farmers to estimate the value of crops usually cultivated for the food of man, directly and indirectly. The prices of produce are high and likely to continue so, until we have a new crop. Wheat is worth from 5s. to 5s. 6d.; oats, from 2s. to 2s. 9d.; barley, from 4s. to 4s. 4d.; peas, 4s. to 5s. the minot; hay, 30s. to 35s., the 1600 lbs.; and straw, about 20s. the 1200 lbs. The meat market is fully in proportion, and farmers have cause to be satisfied so far with prices. Good butter sells at a fair price, but we regret that it is seldom put up by the farmer in the careful manner that is necessary for exportation; while there is not more attention given to the curing and packing of this article, we must expect it will not have a high character in the British Market. The description given in a late report by the inspector of butter, of the manner in which butter is put up by the country merchants who buy from the farmers, will account for Canadian butter being often sold as grease in England. Indeed we could not expect it to be otherwise, while all sorts, colours, and