

Albert is eight days in advance—an important consideration in market work. Gray Eagle is here looked on as the best favoured of all the varieties of rhubarb: it is a medium-sized sort. The Early Albert and Victoria are the kinds grown for early work; some 8 acres are covered early in the winter with 6 inches of straw, which brings it in considerably sooner than that left uncovered.

Last year's crop of potatoes occupied about 15 acres: Champion, Magnum Bonum, and Schoolmaster, are the sorts grown, and they looked very promising. Great attention is paid to cabbages, of which there were breadths in various stages in different parts of the grounds; there were dozens of acres without a plant amongst them that was not true to the variety. During the season the crops are gone over, and a selection of the best marked; when cut the stumps are taken up and planted together for seed. About half an acre of these selected stools are grown on for seed each year. In one place a piece of several acres had been cleared and again planted with cabbages; these were from spring-grown seed. Another breadth of 14 acres had been put in after winter Tares, and a space something less was in course of being marketed—an even and weighty crop. Each year a piece of from 6 to 8 acres is grown especially so as to be first in the market, which I understand Mr. Mitchell generally succeeds in by as much as two or three weeks. As may be supposed, these are sent in before the others, are near the size the later crops are let to grow to before cutting, consequently they are planted closer. I understand that a thousand dozen of this early crop goes to one wagonload. I saw about 6 acres the past spring just as they were heading, and they were nearly a month earlier than any met with elsewhere. From this it would be supposed that some variety with a character for extraordinary earliness was grown, but such is not the case, for, after trying the various sorts that from time to time have appeared, Enfield Market is the only kind grown. Mr. Mitchell finds that with his time of sowing and after-treatment it will beat any other variety. Sown as early as the Enfield Market the other reputed early sorts would every plant belt. Six or seven acres of Cos Lettuce, which for weight and the even description of the crop it would be difficult to surpass, were just coming in.

Some 16 acres of Brussels Sprouts, from autumn-sown seed, were at this early period 15 inches high. These were intended to come in early in the autumn, and were planted about two feet apart in the rows, which were two feet six inches asunder. Ten or twelve acres of Savoy have been recently planted. About eight acres of red clover had just been cut, with more to follow, and four or five acres of spring tares—all heavy crops. Another large piece of tares was following wallflowers cleared off in the spring.

Of Parsley one might have supposed there was enough to furnish sauce, and to do the garnishing, for half London. Some six acres are grown in rows between the lines of gooseberries and currants that occupy a space in addition to those among the larger fruit trees, and four acres more in the open. Sage occupies two acres, and a similar extent of asparagus is grown in rows three to four feet apart. There is half an acre of Souvenir de Malmaison Rose, and as much of Sémateur Vaisse and Gloire de Dijon, the latter in immense bushes, with stems as early as thick

as a man's wrist, yielding flowers in such size and quantity as I have not before seen equalled.

It must not be supposed that because so few varieties are grown of any particular thing—often, as will be seen, only a single sort—that it is through a partiality for old favourites, or in ignorance of what in the shape of new varieties is in existence, but simply that after all the so-called improved varieties that make their appearance have been tried they are found not equal to the kinds grown.

There are two things apparent in a well-managed London market garden—the cleanly condition of the ground, and the immense amount of manure used. Through the large extent of different crops here scarcely a weed was to be seen; everything in the vegetable way is grown in rows, that admit of horse-hoeing, which, so long as a weed appears, is kept constantly going, with hand hoes to finish the work. Manure is used in vast quantities, much of it from the train stables, where compressed moss is used for bedding the horses; none where sawdust is employed, neither is the sawdust manure liked. But there are other sources from which the most powerful of fertilising materials are obtained. The London police stations supply Mr. Mitchell, by contract, with the carcasses of the stray curs that are unfortunate enough to be taken in charge by Her Majesty's representatives of law and order, and which, after their speedy dispatch by strychnine, are carted to Broadlands at the rate of 1000 a week(?) during the summer months. They are put in between thick layers of hot fermenting stable manure, which material is laid thickly round and on the top, so as to keep down the smell that would otherwise arise; here they lie until fully decomposed, when the whole, bones and all, are carted on and ploughed into the land.

From what has already been said, it will be seen that horse-power is more used in the cultivation than manual labour; to favour this the land is laid out in long stretches, but, nevertheless, a great deal of hand labour is required, even in picking the various crops. Much of this is done by women, of whom, during the busy season, from fifty to sixty are employed, mostly well trained active hands. The work is nearly all done by the piece; with some kinds of crops the best hands can earn as much as 7s. 6d. per day, working from about five in the morning until six in the evening.—T.B.

GENERAL LAURIE ON THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.

The Grangers are showing praiseworthy activity in the way of stirring up the Agricultural community to increased activity in Agricultural improvement, and to a sense of the necessity of some system of Agricultural Education. The following remarks from General Laurie's recent address deserve very careful attention:—

Whilst so many facilities are offered "our boys" to enter the ranks of professions, for the successful pursuit of which many must leave their native province, we may well enquire what is

done for the training of the industrial community which has to create the wealth. I do not propose to draw comparison between the different branches of industry and the encouragement each receives, for I believe that none receive the assistance they should in the shape of technical education, and that the country suffers in consequence. If our gold mines are of value to us, and a source of revenue to the province, it should surely be worth while to afford some theoretical and practical education which would quicken observation and lead to further discoveries of our mineral wealth. The late fisheries exhibition in London has taught those specially interested that there is much to be learnt in the method of catching and preserving fish—methods which would make the labors of our 70,000 hardy fishermen more productive, and stimulate the application of capital to this important industry; but the fisherman has not to cultivate his crop in order to obtain his harvest—bounteous Providence sends these vast shoals of fish ready for the hook or net, and fit at once for consumption, and the same Almighty hand has hidden away the mineral wealth to be brought to light and into use by the trained intelligence of man. But man lived before a fish was caught, or a ton of ore was mined or manufactured, and unless the soil was cultivated, the fisherman and the miner would both cease to exist. One is almost ashamed to repeat the old truth and yet it cannot be too often restated that the remainder of the world only exists on the surplus of the farmer's production, after he himself has first been supplied; and, if all those engaged in other pursuits would but recognise the full bearing of this simple fact, they would surely feel that their interests, even more than the farmers, lie in the direction of improved cultivation of the soil, and a greater yield in response to his efforts. It would then be reasonable to expect that the community as a whole would manifest some interest in agricultural operations and in assuming that those on whom the management and working of the land devolves should have received a thorough training, so that the surplus which is directly used to furnish them with food, and indirectly benefit them when the farmer invests it in the produce of their industry, or in obtaining from them professional assistance, may be increased to the utmost capacity of the land, but we know that nothing of the sort occurs "What shall I do with my boys?" Shall I send them all to college and let them take their chance of genteel poverty at home, or go into banishment abroad to get a living, or shall we recognize that this province, as fertile a peninsula as the Creator has provided, must be cultivated, and shall