

famed gravies, sauces, and soups of France are largely indebted for their excellence to that source, and its bread and pastry equally so; while a great deal of the so-called cognac imported into America from France is the product of the potato, and imbibed as the pure essence of the grape. The fair ladies of our country perfume themselves with the spirit of potato, under the designation of "eau de cologne." But there are other uses which this favorite esculent is turned to abroad. After extracting the farina, the pulp is manufactured into ornamental articles, picture frames, snuff-boxes, and several descriptions of toys, and the water that runs from it is a most excellent scourer. For perfectly cleaning woollens, and such like articles, and curing chilblains it is also successfully employed.—*Scientific American*.

## Miscellaneous.

### DUKE OF ARGYLE ON GEOLOGY.

One of the most pleasing and hopeful of the improved phases of British society, is the practice which has recently sprung up, of several of the most distinguished members of the upper ranks giving popular lectures on the most interesting subjects connected with literature, science and art, to the working classes. We seldom get a newspaper from the old country but what contains evidence of this pleasing fact. The nobility, clergy and gentry generally, appear to be quite alive, not only to the physical but to the yet higher wants of the masses; and they are in the most praiseworthy manner exerting themselves by personal example, to promote their moral, social and intellectual improvement. We remember when it was not so;—at least, not so generally and in so high a degree as happily prevails at present. In this unity of feeling among the different classes of society, may be found the secret of England's greatness and happiness. The last number of the *North British Agriculturist*, contains the following notice of a lecture delivered by His Grace the Duke of Argyle, on Geology, past and present, in the City Hall of Glasgow, under the auspices of the Athenaeum, Walter Buchanan, Esq., M. P., in the chair:—

"The Duke of Argyle was received with enthusiastic applause. He proceeded with a historical resume of the rise and progress of geological science. Theories of the origin of the earth had existed from the earliest times, and, in point of fact, formed the basis of nearly every mythology; but theory and speculation were not science. The Duke proceeded to consider the advance made by Buffon, whose great work was published in 1779, some five years after the publication of Goldsmith's. From Buffon to Hutton the transition was next made, the noble Duke elucidating with great clearness and force the great development which the labours of Dr. Hutton had given to the study of the stony science. The year 1799 marked a still further advance. In that year Mr. Smith, a land-surveyor, published the first geological map of English strata. After adverting to some remarkable limestone formations which he had recently met with in the Austrian and Bavarian Alps, the noble Duke referred to the recent discovery in the north of Scotland, that some rocks which the late Hugh Millar and others had always supposed were belonging to the old red sandstone, really belonged to the Silurian rocks. Certain fossils had been discovered in these rocks which placed this fact beyond all doubt. Having disposed of the leading facts of interest in the general history of geological science, the Duke of Argyle gave an interesting account of the basaltic columns of Staffa, contrasting them with some still finer examples of the same formation in France, of which Professor Rogers had furnished a diagram. The noble lecturer then adverted to some of the religious difficulties and some of the moral reflections which the science of geology suggested, concluding as follows:—'I have no intention of entering upon the religious difficulties which the progress of geological discoveries has been supposed to raise. A large number of them have been overcome;