

## THE FARMERS DEPARTMENT.

## BLACK SEA WINTER WHEAT.

The following extract is from a distinguished Farmer resident in the state of New York to the Editor of the New England Farmer,

"The best and largest kernelled wheat I had this season was sown in January. This has invariably been the case with the Black Sea wheat of this section of the country. Wheat that will bear late sowing escapes three important accidents: it will not be thrown out of the ground by frost, nor killed by deep snows, and no insect can find a home in the stalk or rotting during the winter, so that if the spring is favourable, there is nothing to prevent its coming forward with a strong and rapid growth. We usually have, as you do on the sea-board, three or four days in January in which the frost is out of the top of the ground; I then sow my Black Sea Wheat, and prefer it to a crop of spring wheat."

## COMMUNICATION.

Mr. Editor,

Sir,  
Having seen in your last number an extract on the "Curing of Pork and Bacon" of which I by no means approve. I beg to offer a few remarks on this subject, derived from a long acquaintance with the method pursued in Ireland, where the provision trade has attained such deserved celebrity.

As the export of Pork may soon form a valuable article of our commerce, I regret that the Legislature has not made some enactments to regulate the contents and brands of each barrel. This would much increase its intrinsic value, as the purchaser would be satisfied of what he bought, and having the additional security of the Exporters name joined with the acknowledged goodness of our production, should give us a standing in the market not easily superseded.

Leaving this, however, to the sagacity or knowledge of our Legislature, I will merely relate the plan followed in Ireland, in putting up pork for the foreign market.

The carcass being allowed to become perfectly cold, is divided into four pound pieces, and each placed under its particular brand according to custom, then it is well rubbed by the dry salter, who uses from 4 to 6 ounces of finely powdered salt-petre to 28 lbs of salt, this is considered sufficient for 200 lbs of pork. It is then closely packed in barrels which are filled with pickle made by dissolving as much salt in boiling water as will float a fresh egg or raw potato, when cool it is poured over the meat so packed, and to each barrel is added about two or three drachms (or a large tea-spoon full) of muriatic acid. (The spoon should be silver.) It is then braided by the exporter, with its own name and number, according to quality, and his own name also. This is well known and so generally relied on, that any remarks of mine are unnecessary—and should you Sir, think those I have made worthy of a place in your sheet, they are much at your service.

In the mean time I am

Your obedient servt.

T.

## AN ECONOMICAL METHOD OF RAISING EARLY POTATOES.

In the month of February and the first part of March, let the potatoes intended for family use be raised somewhat deeper than usual. Save the parings by spreading them on the cellar floor, or any other place where they will not freeze or dry up. About the 20th of

March prepare a hot or forcing bed in the ordinary way with fresh stable manure. Spread over the manure an inch or two of sand, or light earth; then lay your potato parings in the thin sections to each other, so that a whole forcing bed may be covered, and cover the parings with light earth two inches deep. Water the bed frequently, and protect it from the frost by covering with mats or straw when necessary, and let it be exposed to the sun and air in moderate weather. When the plants are two or three inches high transplant them into rows or drills two and a half feet apart, and ten inches from each other in the drill, and you will have potatoes earlier and of a larger size than by any other way. The time of preparing the hot bed and of planting out the plants will vary according to the time when the last frosts are expected, and according to the care taken to protect the plants after they are set out.

The writer of the above has made the experiment three years in succession with uniformly pleasing results. The potatoes where what are called in Pennsylvania, Mercer or Nesha-nock; any other early kind may answer as well. The same kind of potatoes were planted at the time the parings were planted in the forcing bed, in the ordinary way by cutting and whole, and those from the parings were earlier and larger than those raised in the common way. From experience he is satisfied that it is useless if not injurious to plant more of the old potato than is sufficient to cause the bud to germinate.

The greater part of the potato usually planted may thus be saved and used for the cattle. It is nevertheless thought important to select the largest and most prolific of the forcing bed, in the ordinary way by cutting and whole, and those from the parings were earlier and larger than those raised in the common way. From experience he is satisfied that it is useless if not injurious to plant more of the old potato than is sufficient to cause the bud to germinate.

Princeton, (N. J.)

## THE PLEASURES OF GARDENING.

Not he alone, remarks a celebrated moralist, is to be esteemed a benefactor to mankind, who makes a useful discovery; but he also, who can point out and recommend an innocent pleasure, friendly alike to morals and to health. Of this kind our emotions arising from the observation of nature, and they are highly agreeable to every taste uncorrupted by vicious indulgence.

Rural scenes, of almost every kind, are delightful to the mind of man. The verdant plain, the flowery mead, the murmuring stream, the playful lamb, the warbling thrush, are all capable of exciting emotions gently agreeable. But the misfortune is, that the greater number of us are hurried on in the career of life, with too great rapidity, to be able to give attention to that which solicits no passion. The darkest habitation in the dirtiest street of the city, where money can be earned, has greater charms with many, than all the freshness and luxuriance of an Italian landscape. Yet the pleasure of refined pleasure, the elegant Epicurus, fixed the seat of his enjoyment in a garden. He thought a tranquil spot furnished with the united sweets of art and nature, the best adapted to delicate repose; and I even the severer philosophers of antiquity, were wont to discourse in the shade of a spreading tree, in some cultivated plantation.

It is obvious on intuition, that nature often intended solely to please her eye in her vegetable productions. She decorates the flower that sings, and the ear, feet, in all the perfection of external beauty. She has clothed the garden with a constant succession of va-

rious hues. Even the leaves of the trees undergo pleasing vicissitudes. The fresh verdure they exhibit in the Spring; the various shades they assume in Summer; the yellow and russet tint of Autumn, and the paleness of Winter, afford a constant pleasure to a mind enamoured with the picturesque. In the snow drop to the moss-rose; the flower-garden displays an infinite variety of shape and color. The taste of the florist has been ridiculed as trifling; yet surely without reason. Did nature bring forth the tulip and the lily, the rose and the honey-suckle, to be neglected or to be contemptuously set aside as inferior reason? To omit a single social duty for the cultivation of a polyanthus, were ridiculous, as well as criminal; but to pass by the beauties lavished before us, without observing them, is no less ingratitude than stupidity. A bad heart finds little amusement but in a communication with the active world, where scope is given for the indulgence of malignant passions; but an amiable disposition is commonly known by a taste for the beauties of the animal and vegetable creation.

Among the employment most suitable to old age, Cicero has enumerated the care of a garden. It requires no great exertion of mind or body, and its satisfactions are of that kind which please without agitation. Its beneficial influence on health, is an additional reason for an attention to it at an age when infirmities abound. In almost every description of the seats of the blessed, ideas of a garden seem to have predominated. The word Paradise itself is synonymous with garden. The fields of Elysium, that sweet region of poetry, are adorned with the ancient emblem of a garden. Imaginations can conceive to be in this way delightful. Poets have always been charmed with the beauties of a garden. Some of the most pleasing passages of Milton, are those in which he represents the happy pair engaged in cultivating their blissful abode. Pope also was distinguished for his love and taste for gardening; according to Warton, the enchanting art of modern gardening, for which Great Britain is deservedly celebrated, chiefly owes its origin and its improvements to the two last named poets, Milton and Pope. Lucan is represented by Juvenal as reposing in his garden. Virgil's Georgics prove him to have been captivated with rural scenes, though, to the surprise of his readers, he has not assigned a book to the subject of a garden. Shenstone made gardening his study; but with all his taste and fondness for it, he was not happy in it. The captivating scenes, which he created at the Leasowes, afforded him, it is said, little pleasure in the absence of spectators. The truth is, he made the embellishment of his ground, which should have been the amusement of his life, the business of it; and involved himself in such troubles, by the expense it occasioned, as necessarily excluded tranquil enjoyment.

It is the lot of few to possess land so extensive and well adapted as his, to constitute an ornamental farm. Still fewer are capable of supporting the expense of preserving it in good condition. But let not the rich suppose they have appropriated to themselves the pleasure of a garden. The possession of an acre or even of a few rods of ground, may receive a real pleasure from observing the progress of vegetation, even in a culinary plant. A very limited tract properly attended to, will furnish ample and pleasing employment for an individual during those hours not necessarily devoted to the calls of business or of duty. The operations of grafting, of inoculating, and of transplanting are curious experiments in natural