

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

The weather for the last four weeks has been moderate, and encouraged the occupiers of land to continue sowing wheat to a much later period than usual, which will probably increase the quantity at market this season beyond the average of many preceding years.

The practice of sowing oats in autumn has been lately fallen into in some of the low mossy districts, and found to answer so well, that it seems to gain ground in other quarters. In open seasons like the present one, and in dry free soils, there is reason to think it may succeed; the writer of this report has seen several crops, that have a fine healthy appearance; if the produce turns out equal to the spring corn, the advantages of coming in earlier in harvest, and lessening the labour at the usual season of sowing, which often proves too heavy for the farmer to accomplish in proper time, are considerations of sufficient consequence to induce him to give it a fair trial.

Among the many improvements in agriculture introduced into this country, that of substituting iron for wooden ploughs, seems deserving of notice. Some time in the year 1811, a blacksmith in the parish of Maralin, conceived the idea of making iron ploughs, and being encouraged by one or two farmers in his own neighbourhood, has succeeded in producing those implements in such a state of perfection, as to occasion a great demand for them, and induce an opinion that they will entirely supersede the wooden ones. Ought not the friends of agriculture to step forward with their usual liberality, and promote a subscription for the poor mechanic, as a reward for his ingenuity.

Grain has experienced some reduction in price since last report, and oat-meal and potatoes are rather lower than they were: whether that reduction will be permanent or not, seems difficult to determine, as opinions are various on the subject.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

Under the present circumstances of our foreign relations, trade is peculiarly fluctuating, and attended with great and perplexing uncertainties. Arrivals from America under British licences, and the mask of neutral flags, have been expected, but as yet it is uncertain what policy the United States will finally adopt, whether their commercial avidity, or their hostility to Britain will prevail, in allowing their produce to supply the wants of these countries, and to contribute to feed the armies in the Peninsula: and yet on this decision, whatever they are pleased to make it, so much are we, after all our boasting, at the mercy of American councils, depends whether we shall have flax-seed in abundance for next spring's sowing, or whether the prices of grain may be expected to be moderate from our having, or not having to supply the demands of the armies in Spain and Portugal.

In Britain some branches of trade have revived a little, from the hopes of affairs returning to their usual course in the north of Europe, but the hopes which have been suddenly raised, may be as suddenly disappointed, by the subsequent events of the war, and the sanguine expectations so generally entertained, may not be realized by the spring's campaign. It is the error of the present day to be too easily elated by temporary successes, and like desperate gamblers, to be too ready to rejoice in an accidental turn of the die in our favour. True wisdom is more cautious and circumspective.

The attention of commercial men is now turned to an affair of much importance, the throwing open of the trade to India. Each party exclusively seeks its own advantage. The East India Company, try every means of argumentation, and even intimidation, to uphold their monopoly. On the former renewal of their charter, a certain proportion of private trade was allowed to be carried on in their ships. These apparent concessions were so hampered by harassing conditions, that few adventured, and the few who did, were frequently unsuccessful. The company now allege this failure as a reason, against the allowing private trade, although the disappointments principally arose from their own restrictive measures. The Americans of the United States have had a