

from potatoes, of which a great quantity is planted, mostly in lazy beds. Drilling potatoes is now introduced. The increase is from 8 to 20 feds, and the incumbent has seen it at 32. They tell of far superior increase in grain, when the land was in good condition. There were then scarcely tenants sufficient to occupy the lands, though now they are so numerous, that the ground is set in too small portions to accommodate perhaps 12 or 24 of them in one farm, each paying from 1*l.* to 4*l.* 4*s.* of yearly rent. The consequence is, they plough as much as they can; and their lands are impoverished, as they seldom get rest. Above two-thirds of the manure are sea-weed. The great quantity of salt they contain is, indeed, poison to many weeds; but as they soon putrify and dissolve, and, as a stimulus, produce their effect, they cannot last long, nor add much to the soil, having but little earth. 'Till the middle of June, the cattle are suffered to pasture on the corn, which also very much prevents a better return. Such practices, with the unfavourable climate, make the crop precarious. The soil of Coll, though broken with rocks, is preferable, and the returns are in proportion. Repeated trials have been made of sowing great white oats. The ground was either poor, too dry or too wet. They did not ripen as early as the native oats, and could not withstand the storms. Often they did not return even their seed, though they might answer well in some spots, if inclosed, drained, and sown early. The parish is under a great disadvantage in not getting a more frequent change of different feeds; and that is never enjoyed unless by a few gentlemen, at a very high expence, with many disappointments. Introducing pease, turnips, and other roots, and green crops in general, would be a great improvement, especially in this soil and climate. The native flax is scarcely 18 inches long; and there are no ways of dressing it expeditiously, whereby it

it becomes a dear manufacture. A few experiments of sowing grais turned out well. The natural grais of most of the fields is red and white clover and daisy. Frequent but short rains, mixing different soils as manures, using compost dung-hills, with a great number of drains and inclosures, may promise a joyful harvest.

*Seed Time, Harvest, &c.*—The ordinary time of sowing oats and planting potatoes is from 26th March to the 10th May; and for barley from the 30th April to the 20th June. The harvest generally begins about the middle of August, and is finished about the 10th October. The farmers cannot well begin sowing earlier, owing to wet lands, sand blowing, and trespass of cattle; but they might to great advantage finish earlier. What mostly prevents it is, that barley is the prevailing crop, which gets two and sometimes three ploughings, and so consumes much time.

Now, as they are busy inclosing, and can therefore preserve their grounds, it is to be hoped they will attend to this particular, whence the following great advantages might arise: They might earlier sow their corn and hay, provide fuel, manufacture their kelp, fish more, and, what is now hardly thought of, manure and otherwise improve part of their farms in summer, and then finish their harvest earlier and safer; and so the whole annual rotation of work would be more feasible.

The inhabitants commonly serve themselves in meal, feed, and spirits. Hardly any foreign spirits are now imported. The last season proved rather better. A few years ago they usually sold from 200 to 300 Scotch gallons of whisky to the neighbouring islands. The parish had then upwards of 30 stills, but is now reduced to three small licensed ones. Now the inhabitants are increased; and, in the bad seasons of