

patience to wait, and hence they cling, many of them, to the exclusive use of varieties which, in years of disease, result in the loss of half of the crop.

Among seedling of the same family, those that ripen the earliest in the season soonest acquire fitness for the table. Thus, among those which I have disseminated for the last two years, the Pale Blush Pink Eye, (a seedling of 1850,) which ripens rather early, has already a high character of excellence for the table. So also, among the seedlings of 1852, the Utica Pink Eye and the Oneida Pink Eye, (two varieties looking almost exactly alike,) are both quite early. These two sorts are not only much better for the table than the Black Diamond, which belongs to the same family, but are intrinsically so.

In conclusion, should the present hot weather continue long, nothing can save the old and feeble sorts from extensive injury by disease. Indeed, farther south, where the weather may have been hotter and the rains heavier, such disease may have already been developed.

C. E. GOODRICH.

August 15.—The preceding sheets written on the 5th, were laid aside that I might watch the progress of the disease. In the interval of ten days we have had three heavy rains—on the 10th $1\frac{3}{4}$, on the 12th and 13th 2, and on the 14th $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, making, with the previous heavy rain of the 4th, eight inches of water in the first half of the month. The temperature meanwhile has been variable, sometimes sultry, as in similar weather in 1850, '51, and '55; but on the whole much cooler than in those years, and cooler than from the 19th of July to the 5th of August, of this year.

The increase of mildew on the crop has been less rapid than I apprehended at the former date. But it has been steadily increasing, being most apparent on fields closely planted on a rich soil of clay or clay gravel, and where lying flat and not well drained.

There is almost everywhere an unusually large growth of vines, which exhibit a sappy and tender condition, because grown rapidly in hot, and for the most part damp weather.

The community here are pretty generally anticipating extensive disease. Some large fields are entirely defoliated. In others the mildew is exhibited in patches. In others the slightest indications only of it are seen in the shape of small brown spots thinly spread over the inner and lower leaves. Diseased tubers are occasionally seen, but may be expected to increase rapidly.

August 18th.—Yesterday we endured a cold east storm, beginning the preceding night and continuing until 2 o'clock p.m. The result according to different measurements, varies from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches of water. The late heavy rains, and this last one especially, threatens the potatoe crop with a new and unusual danger; I refer to that arising from the influence of water on the tubers.

It is well known that well ripened potatoes in the wet weather of autumn, will bear immersion in water, while yet not dug, for two or three weeks without danger. The india rubber like closeness of the skin resists the action of cold water a long time. But in the unripe state of the tuber, and amid the warmth of summer, the case is entirely different. The late rains have kept the soil of many fields very wet for the last two weeks. That of yesterday covered many with standing water. Such exposure of potatoes to water results in a soft rot, leaving the flesh usually white. In the present time this cause will interact with disease technically so-called. And even fields wisely planted with reference to time, culture, soil and seed, where no danger of disease need have been apprehended, may yet suffer from this additional cause.

Tropical plants are now, as they always are in such weather, in a very healthy condition. I refer to such varieties as cucumbers, tomatoes, squashes, melons of all sorts, peppers, egg plants, corn, &c. Many of them, however, are a little late in fruiting, although considering the lateness with which they were planted, the fruit is perhaps in an ordinary state of forwardness, the impulsiveness of the central summer having restored the backwardness occasioned by the lateness and coldness of May and June.

But, although tropical plants are generally prosperous under the warm wet weather of the present season, we may expect that many hardy plants will suffer, such as apples, plums, walnuts, cabbage and turnips—the two latter particularly, when such weather extends into the autumn. The fruits and nuts mentioned are rarely as sound and enduring in seasons like the present, as in those which are dry and cooler.

It is with deep regret, Messrs. Editors, that I send you this communication. The extent of ground devoted to potatoes her this year is very large. The prospect of a large and healthful crop was, three weeks ago, very flattering. Should the morbid indications here rapidly developing, extend widely over our country, we may be led to fear a more fatal pervasion of potatoe disease than has ever before afflicted it. While we bow submis-