

is required. The farmer is always experimenting, and his experiments mostly require a year to perform, and he must carry all his plans and experiments from year to year, and adapt them to the particular portion of the country in which he resides. This is a country for varieties. We have got to farm it so as to cultivate and raise all kinds of crops and animals. This is the safest course. Take a farm in the West where the whole farm is nearly devoted to corn or wheat, and when that particular crop fails, starvation and ruin stare the farmer in the face. We are free from these disadvantages here. When any crop fails, even grass, which is our greatest crop,—well, we have other crops which do not fail. Follow nature's dictation, and total failure cannot overtake us. This calling is a necessity in our community, but it is also fascinating to many; it is honorable and safe. It is not too much to claim for it the bulk of our people, money and brains, to make it a success and ourselves a prosperous community.

Potatoes.

Last year we received 40 new seedling potatoes from Mr. Geo. Leslie, of Toronto. We had them planted, but out of the whole lot only three varieties were saved that we considered to be equal to our present kinds. The Americans have been foremost in supplying the world with valuable and improved varieties. Those that we at the present time cultivate will, in all probability, be supplanted by varieties that are now but little known. The potatoes introduced this season by B. K. Bliss & Son, of New York, are the Alpha and the Eureka. We take the following description about them from their catalogue. The price, \$3 per lb., is very high; however, we pay it to try them, and to have a supply for next year's planting, should we find them answer. Last year we tried Compton's Surprise and Brownell's Beauty—both varieties, we think, are very valuable. The Compton's are rather uneven, but for quality and yield we think them deserving a trial by all who have not yet procured them. We know the Early Rose is a hard potato to beat. We introduced them 7 years ago; some slow-coach farmers have only just got them. We gave \$3 per lb. for them and sold them for 60c. a cutting. We must do the same with some of the new varieties this year, as we shall not be able to have them properly tested. We hardly think the forcing system a fair test—it may do well enough to cultivate rapidly any very rare and expensive plant.

SNOWFLAKE.—(PRINGLE.)

This new variety, sent out last spring, has been thoroughly tested, both in this country and in Europe, the past season, and we have yet to learn of the first instance where it has failed to give entire satisfaction. The superior quality claimed by the originator, when first offered, has been confirmed in every case, as far as heard from.

It is one of the earliest varieties, ripening about the same time as the Early Rose. The tubers are of a good medium and uniform size; shape elongated oval, compressed, exceedingly symmetrical and remarkably uniform; eyes few, entirely flat on the base and body of the tuber; skin white, with a russet tinge, and somewhat roughish and tassellated. Its flesh is of exceedingly fine grain, snow-white when boiled, and of a lightness and porosity almost approaching to snowflake. In quality, we do not hesitate to say nothing can surpass this new variety; its mealiness, its pure, delicate flavor, and the evenness with which it cooks through, have never been eclipsed by any potato. As a baking potato it is equally valuable, and as such is distinguished for its pure, starchy texture, and delicate, nutty flavor. The tubers have attained the full develop-

ment of their quality as soon as they are fit to dig, and do not lose it during winter; samples kept till the first of June, did not show the least deterioration. The vines are of medium height, stout and vigorous; leaves medium, and of dark green color. The tubers are compactly clustered around the base of the stalks—an important consideration in digging the crop. The variety has been tested on widely varying soils—sand, gravel, loam, as well as heavy clay—and has, in every case, given the

ing very fair and smooth. Eyes few and small, nearly even with the surface; shape oval, somewhat flattened; skin reddish, or a deep flesh color; flesh white, fine-grained and very delicate. For the table, they cook either by baking or boiling equal to the very best; flavor unexceptionable. Vine of medium growth; foliage deep green. The tubers grow compactly in the hill and are easily dug, ripening in about three months from time of planting, though suitable for cooking about two weeks

later than the Early Rose, with the same culture. All who tested it the past summer agree, that its beautiful appearance, fine quality, extraordinary productiveness and remarkable keeping qualities will render it a most valuable variety for the market.

ALPHA.—(PRINGLE.)

Earliest variety in cultivation. Raised in 1870, by C. G. Pringle, originator of the Snowflake, and one of our most experienced hybridizers, from seed borne on Early Rose and impregnated by pollen of Sebac. A very early dwarf variety, adapted to garden culture and to forcing under glass; fit for the table ten or fifteen days before the Early Rose. Tubers of medium size, oblong, somewhat flattened, with eyes but slightly depressed; color a clear white, with the slightest tinge of red about the eyes; flesh very white, fine-grained, dry and firm, and possessed of a decided and excellent flavor; stalks short and close-jointed, seldom exceeding a foot in height; leaf broad, light green and shining above; tubers clustered about the base of the stalk; quality, first rate in every respect.

EUREKA.—(BROWNELL.)

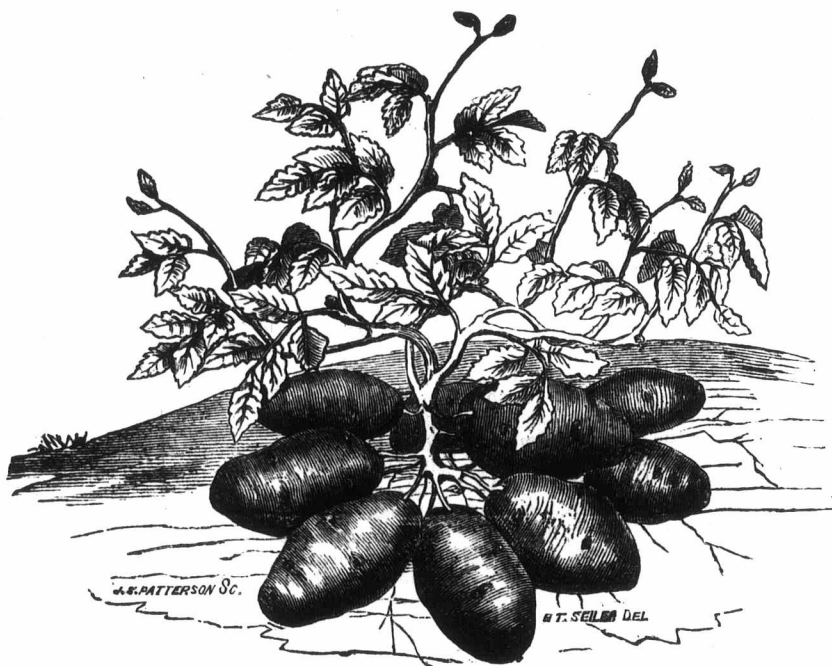
This seedling resulted from a seed-ball grown on an Excelsior potato-vine blossom, fertilized with pollen from the White Peachblow; vines of strong and vigorous growth; tubers of a good medium and uniform size; shape, elongated oval somewhat flattened, very symmetrical and uniformly handsome in appearance; eyes few, exceedingly small, and very nearly level and flat; skin white and fair; season second early, medium, or between very early and medium late. It is one of the most productive in cultivation, besides being an excellent keeper. Its flesh is exceedingly fine-grained, white, and, when boiled or baked, mealy and of excellent flavor, cooking through uniformly without any fault at the centre. Certainly an acquisition among the white varieties, well worthy of further trial in different sections. A silver medal was awarded to this variety by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society at the last annual exhibition. They are offered at \$1.00 per lb.

EXTRA EARLY VERMONT.

The Early Vermont has, as proved by the numerous reports before us, more than sustained its previous reputation. Nearly all the competitors declare it from one to two weeks earlier than the Early Rose, and many even more. Its uniform and large size is recognized by every one. Mr. McLeod says:—"There are more than 100 in the amount I raised that would weigh from one to two pounds each;" and Mr. Salter raised one tuber that weighed three pounds twelve ounces! Its superior cooking and eating qualities are unanimously commended, as well as its

compact growth in the hill and its freedom from disease, and with the thousands of cultivators who have grown it alongside the Early Rose, there seems to be no doubt left that, in quality, hardiness, earliness and yield, it far surpasses that celebrated variety. A first-class certificate was awarded this variety by the Royal Horticultural Society of London, 1873.

The Caen Academy of Science offers a prize of 4,000 francs for the best essay on the "Function of Leaves in the Vegetation of Plants."

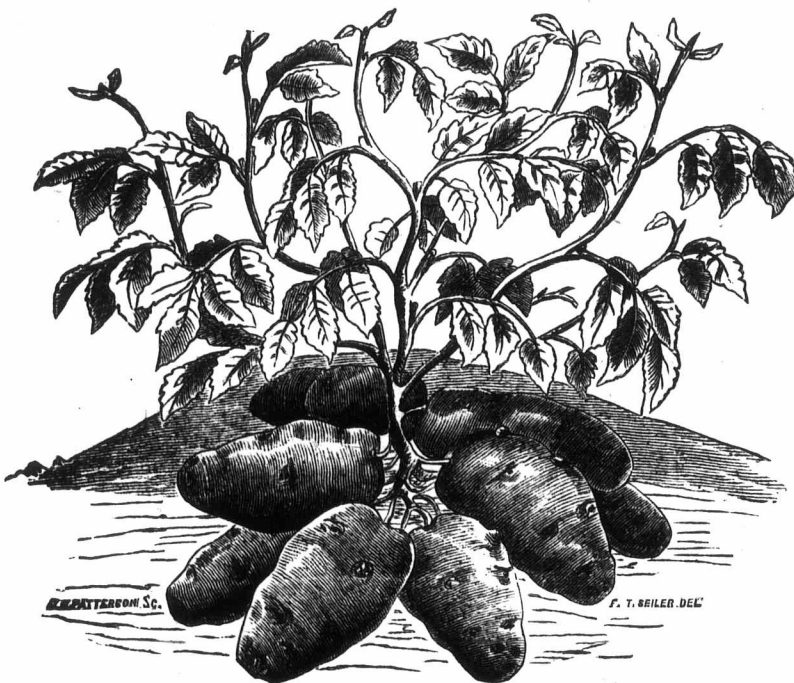


SNOWFLAKE.—SHOWING HABIT OF GROWTH IN THE HILL.

same favorable results, and produces a yield of from 300 to 400 bushels per acre. In every case it has proved healthy and hardy, while other varieties alongside of it failed to give satisfactory results.

BROWNELL'S BEAUTY.

The beauty and superior keeping qualities of this variety, together with its fine quality for the table, and productiveness, places it in the front rank of those recommended for general cultivation.



BROWNELL'S BEAUTY.—SHOWING HABIT OF GROWTH IN THE HILL.

We know of no variety whose good qualities can be retained for the entire year, as this has done. Potatoes of the crops of 1873 and 1874 have been exhibited side by side at several state and county exhibitions last fall, those of 1873 having been kept in an ordinary cellar without any especial care, being equally fair and sound as those of 1874. Samples were sent in 1873 to the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society of London, where they received a first-class certificate, and have also received many premiums at various agricultural fairs in this country. Size, medium to large, grow-

We were pleased to see the plans sent in. Grange to appreciate the gentlemen accompanying plan quainted with competitors, and side, although the decision cannot be of We award also prizes as an Some competitors pains to send and massive p them returned by sending p they can have press. Should riage on all, it near as much engraving. W petitioner our tha may yet be a future time, as ing more prize jects. We ha graded for our tion.

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