

ver, was conclusive; he says—"With a lens I examined the seed, and found on it a number of white flattish substances; some of the seeds were without any: these I concluded were eggs. I therefore made some pretty strong brine, and soaked the seed in it for 24 hours, then dried it thoroughly, and sowed it again, and there was not a single fly, neither was there a single turnip injured. I tried it again and again, and I found that without weakening the brine, if the seeds were only kept in it three hours, there were no beetles, and yet the seed came up as well as ever. I now practise this method with turnip seed, cabbage seed, and, in fact, with all the cruciform plants in common cultivation, with very satisfactory success. The experiments were made with Swedish turnip seed, which is generally more infested with these beetles than any of our older sorts."²

We may here observe, for the information of those readers who are not acquainted with botanical descriptions, that the *cruciform* plants, (or *cruciferae*), form one of the largest and most natural families of the vegetable kingdom, composed of herbaceous, and many other plants, intermediate between shrubs and herbs, as, for instance, the various kinds of mustard, cress, horse radish, water cress, sea cake, the various kinds of sweet herbs, &c. &c.

ON THE CULTURE OF POTATOES.

As our Provinces are potatoe countries, and as the potatoe constitutes one of our most important crops as it regards either the table, the stall, or the soil, we shall direct the attention of our readers to the following observations, gathered principally from the experience of eminent and practical agriculturists in England; for we think we may venture the assertion without fear of contradiction, that, notwithstanding the extensive culture of this valuable vegetable throughout these colonies, very few

experiments have been instituted to ascertain the best method of culture, the best seed potatoes, the comparative superiority of the entire tuber (or whole potatoe), or the cut potatoe, or the best end of the potatoe when cut for seed, the best method of keeping them through the winter, the best kind of potatoe for fall, and winter, and spring use—the best kinds of potatoe for the table, and the most profitable kinds for feeding cattle. There has been more attention paid to the quantity raised from an acre of ground, than to the quality of the article as regards its nutrition. This is an error; for it is a well established fact, that the nutritive property in vegetables is not in proportion to their bulk, and that half a bushel of some potatoes may contain as much of it as a bushel of another kind. This being the case, the farmer, therefore, who raises 100 bushels of an inferior quality has more trouble and expence, but no more profit, than another who raises 50, or 75 bushels of a more nutritive potatoe. This vegetable affords sustenance to a large proportion of the human species, and it may be called the bread fruit of the poor; it is, therefore, a matter of importance to direct more attention to the cultivation of it, for the benefit of those who feed principally upon it, and who, influenced by their own destitute circumstances, purchase potatoes which have nothing to recommend them but their cheapness.

The following circumstances require particular attention in the culture of the potatoe, viz. the soil, manure, the preparation of the soil, the best form of the best kind of seed, the best manner of planting it, the advantage or disadvantage of earthing or hilling them, the management of the tuber, or potatoe itself, its stalk or haulm, the blossom, and the apple or seed. But as a full inquiry into these several subjects would exceed our present limits, we shall confine our observations to a few interesting particulars.