

a good essay on gardening. I do not mean a mere mechanical thing, such as is printed on seed papers and in almanacs to guide a novice, as to the breadth of drills and the times of sowing; but a deeper and more philosophical thing, showing in what a good garden consists and how it may be formed, the extent of it, how it should lie, the kind of soil, how deep, how drained, how enclosed, how laid out, how arranged, how manured, how cultivated, the different kinds of crops, the quantity and proportion of each, the rotation, and in these days of science, it should have a smack of Agricultural Chemistry, the science of fitting the elements of the soil to the requirements of the crop. If such an essay were what I think it should be, it would be almost every word of it just as applicable to Agriculture on a large scale by the farmer as to Agriculture on a small scale by the gardener.

Yours truly,
ANDREW BELL.

C. P. Treadwell, Esq.

POTATO CULTIVATION.

The following Communication, addressed to Lord Palmerston from the British Consul at Fiume, Illyria, is interesting, and may be of value to farmers. It may be that the thorough drying of cuttings for seed in the autumn, and keeping them over winter to plant in spring, may have a beneficial influence on the constitution of the plant:—

“British Consulate at Fiume,
Sept. 30, 1853.

“My Lord—I humbly beg leave to address your lordship, at the request of a Mr. A. Frangi, a Tuscan gentleman, who is very desirous to lay before your lordship a sample of potatoes, this year's produce, on an experiment of his made from cuttings of diseased ones. As they prove to be of excellent quality, it is of great utility and benefit to agricultural interests that his method adopted to preserve and reproduce a crop of this nourishing food be explained; and, by laying this specimen before your lordship, he trusts you will find an interest therein to call the attention of agriculturists to follow up the experiment, in order to successfully preserve to themselves the means of conserving the seed necessary to insure them a crop of fine farinaceous and almost equal-sized fruit, and at an early period of the year.—Mr. Frangi last year finding his stock of potatoes fast decaying from disease, resolved on drying them, and had them placed near to a retort on his chemical works, (for he had read in the papers that in Russia something of the kind had been done) and in a dried state he continued the consumption for his house use during the winter; and in the spring, finding a beginning of vegetation, he had them cut up and planted separately from other potatoes, but near thereto. The dried cuttings were rather backward in breaking the earth, after which there growth was manifestly more ra-

pid and luxuriant than the other plants. They were precisely treated the same in hoeing and weeding, and on the 25th July were gathered, and produced an abundant and equal-sized potato. The other crop from the common cuttings did by no means produce the like, and have already given signs of decay as before; but not so the produce of the dried cuttings. The soil in which both sorts were planted is of a rather stiff, stony, clayish compost. The spring was very damp, the summer, however, proved very dry, yet the verdure of the dried cuttings maintained their verdure, which faded and perished with the other kind. Mr. Frangi has forwarded a similar sample of the potatoes unto the Marquis Rodolfi, President of the Tuscan Agricultural Committee, for his information, and he begs your lordship will excuse the liberty he takes in sending his sample, for he trusts your lordship will find an interest in this his experiment, by which the produce of a fine healthy fruit is so far secured to man. He begs a repetition of his method may be made in Great Britain, and he confides as favorable a result will ensue as here; thereby conserving the means of procuring an abundant crop for the following years of this most nourishing plant, and must be of great interest to the population of the United Kingdom. I most respectfully beg to inform your lordship that the sample-box is on its passage home in the British schooner Sprightly, of London, John Paul master, bound to Gainsborough from this port, with a cargo of oak-staves, to be forwarded on arrival.

“I have the honor to be,

“My Lord,

“Your most obed't, humble serv't,

“CHARLES T. HILL,

“Vice-Consul.”

The hop grows with great luxuriance in Lower Canada. We never knew the severest winters do it any mischief. It sows itself, and becomes a troublesome weed.

It is cultivated largely in Upper Canada, and partially here, particularly on the farm of J. Penner, Esq., of Lower Lachine. But we have very great doubts, that the best mode of raising the hop is by layers or roots. We believe the best is by seedlings, that is, distinct and perfect plants, of which any number may be obtained with perfect facility.

THE HOP AND ITS CULTURE.

The Committee of the N. H. Agricultural Society, upon root and grass crops, report as follows as to the article of hops:

They award the first premium of \$5 to Gen. William P. Riley, of Manchester. To William Riley of Hooksett, the 2d premium, a diploma.

The average price of hops per pound, for 48 years, is 12 4-5 cents.

The whole amount of hops grown in the United States for the year 1849, as computed in the census returns of 1850, is 3,467,514 pounds.

New-England raised..... 707,856 lbs.
New-York “..... 1,536,299 lbs.

3,244,155 lbs.

Balance for other States,.... 223,359 lbs.

From the above table, it will also be seen that the price of hops during 48 years never has gone below five cents per pound, the actual cost of growing a pound of hops. Of what other agricultural product can the same be said, that is grown in New-England? Then, this very year, and at the time of writing this report, hops readily bring 45 cents per pound, giving the enormous profit of \$450 per acre!

The hop, *Lupulus humulus*, in botany, is a genus of plants, neither the male nor female flower of which has any corolla; the cup of the male flower is composed of five leaves; that of the female is made up of only a single leaf, very large, and of an oval figure; the seed is single, roundish, covered with a coat, and contained within the cup.

Mortimer reckons four kinds of hops; 1st, the wild garlic-hop. 2d, the long and square hop. 3d, the long white. And 4th, the oval hop. The first of these is not worth cultivating. The second is a good hop, but looking generally red toward the stalk, it will not fetch so good a price at the market. The long white hop is the most beautiful of all, and produces the greatest quantity; this kind and the oval will grow very well together. They delight in a deep, rich garden mould.

The hop sends its roots four or five yards deep, and for this reason it thrives best in that land where there is a good bottom below what is usually stirred, or manured, for agriculture. If the hop-land be wet, it must be up in high ridges, and drained, that the roots be not rotted or chilled.

New land is found to succeed better with hops than old.

The following is General Riddle's method of cultivating, curing, and drying

Setting the Roots.

The spring of the year is the proper season for the roots. Prepare the ground by ploughing and manuring in the same manner as for a grass crop. Plant the hops in hills seven feet apart each way, putting three peices of the root, each about four inches long, in a hill.

The roots will not vine the first year, consequently a crop of corn may be taken from the same ground, by planting in intermediate rows. In the fall succeeding, put a shovel-full of manure upon each hill of the hop-yard, as protection of the roots against the frost.

Setting the Poles.

Nothing further is necessary for their welfare till May, the proper time for setting the poles.