

starch from the potato has never been engaged in in Canada, and probably few operations would pay better in proportion to the invested capital and skill that would have to be employed. Upon a careful calculation, we find, that the starch at wholesale prices, from the produce of 250 bushels of Irish cup potatoes, amounts to the very respectable sum of £35, one half of which should go to the grower, and the other half to the manufacturer. This is not idle speculation, but may be practiced with a degree of success that would equal, if not exceed, our statement. An acre of potatoes may be properly cultivated for the same expense that would be required to summer-fallow the ground; and the profits of a single crop will pay for the ground upon which it is cultivated. This being the case, we have no idea of abandoning the growth of so important a crop, especially since it has become such a leading article of diet among all classes of the community. From what has been here hastily submitted for the consideration of such of our readers as are interested in this crop, we trust that a combination of enterprising farmers will put the experiment of manufacturing starch from the potato to the test. This business has been long practiced among the hardy farmers of the State of Maine, and the same has been done in some of the Western States. It is to be hoped that the Canadians will in future look more to the bright, and less to the dark side of the picture. There can be no question but that, in very many respects, the people of Canada are highly favored, but we are wanting in one main essential, to insure success to our operations, viz:—*enterprise*. The products of the country may be doubled with very little effort; and almost every branch of business may be carried on in a prosperous and flourishing manner; but in order to do this, more skill and energy will have to be brought into requisition, and the products and capital of the country will have to be employed very differently from what is the case at present.

The following, from the *Gardener's Chronicle*, fully corroborates our views in relation to the potato disease:—

*The Potato Disease*.—I have watched this peculiar visitation with much interest now for more than a twelvemonth, and although its reappearance has been doubted by some, it now begins to be generally admitted to have actually taken place, and to be carrying destruction into every

quarter. I have not seen a piece of Potatoes in a cottager's garden, a farmer's field, or any other place, but what is grievously affected with what is, and has been "termed the disease," viz. ulceration, gangrene, putridity, mildew, and every form of mischief, and the effluvia is very disagreeable in every quarter.

I have the most abundant crops of Potatoes from autumn-planted sets, but the haulm and foliage of none are free from the pest, or ever have been, though to a casual observer they appeared all that could be wished, luxuriant and healthy. I had a beautiful bed of seedlings, and a quantity planted out in due time are growing away as luxuriantly as from a good sized tuber; they are all diseased, and have long been so, although the seed was brought from Ireland, and advertised as having been saved from plants free from disease. They were sown by me on a healthy, sweet, well prepared piece of ground, and planted, too, where a Potato to my own knowledge had not been grown for these last six seasons—if ever previously. I have observed that all those manured with charrings, soot, and lime, are the last to be attacked in the stalks and foliage; and I have not as yet found a decayed or affected tuber to outward appearance amongst those manured with the above materials, but I will look sharply after them on taking up the crop, which will very soon now take place, as I have long since burnt up all the stalk and foliage. I shall, as I did last year, dress all the Potatoes as they are taken up with the above materials; indeed I have all the early crops already done; but then it is of but little use unless my neighbours also put an effectual remedy into practice.

The real cause of all this destruction amongst the Potato crops is a very small insect of a light yellow straw colour, with a small pointed head with horns, and it has six legs. This appears to me to be the female, the male is something larger, of a darker colour, having wings and four golden coloured strips on each side of its body; these insects are remarkably active in their movements, puncturing the ribs and other parts of the under sides of the foliage of the Potatoes, where they may easily be discovered with, or by the application, of a good glass; and if the stalks and green leaves are placed in a good position in respect to the reflection of a good clear light, &c., both the insect, their wood and bunches of eggs, may readily be discovered on their stems, stalks,