

and the later the worse." Although the planting of potatoes in autumn is impracticable in Canada, on account of the extreme severity of the winter, yet the earlier planting can be done in the spring, so as to avoid the risks of frost, the more likely is the crop to be free from disease.

The returns likewise point out some undoubted and highly important general facts in relation to the effects of soil on potatoes; our limits, however, constrain us to great brevity. Soils newly broken up and drained, without any dressing of marl or lime, usually called, in Scotland and the north of England *mosses*, in Ireland *bogs*, and in the south of England *peat*, appear very generally, when early planted, to have escaped the disease; at least in its worst forms. 679 cases of English returns, shew only five cases of much disease; out of 182 Scotch, we have none; 92 Irish, only two; and out of 32 Welsh, there was none. The conclusion arrived at is "*that pure well-drained peat moss suffers very little from disease.*"

From heavy and wet lands the returns show, as might be anticipated, a very large proportion of diseased cases; only one instance of escape in every five! Whence the conclusion has been arrived at, "*that potatoes in very rich, wet, or heavy land, are exposed to disease in a most dangerous degree (as 272 to 9); unless the land is very dry, or the climate cold, or the planting performed in the autumn, or very early spring.*" In other words, not more than one crop in 30 can hope to escape in such land."

With respect to *light land*, upon turning over the great number of returns that have been made during the past four years, it appears that the proportion of severe disease is about a seventh. After taking into consideration all the circumstances which would be likely to affect the result, from a large number of returns, it may be concluded "*that in England the chances are 313 to 24 against the appearance of much disease in light lands unless planting is late, or manuring excessive, or there is a heavy or wet subsoil;*—in other words, not more than 1 crop in 13 suffers much in light land, if moderately manured, planted early, and not resting on a wet subsoil." We may return to this subject in a future number.

#### GREAT PLOUGHING MATCH.

It will be recollected by most of our readers that some time ago the township of Whitby gave a challenge to plough with any township in Upper Canada, for a purse of £100, each party to raise a moiety of that sum; £50 to be kept as a reserved

fund, and the winner to be open for twelve months to accept a challenge from any other township.

Scarboro' promptly accepted the challenge, and on Friday, the 11th of May, this celebrated trial of skill in the important art of ploughmanship took place on the farm of Mr. Asa Post, in the township of Pickering. The day was beautifully fine, and vast numbers were attracted to this interesting scene from all parts of the surrounding country, several coming from considerable distances. It was estimated that not less than four thousand persons were present, and the interest manifested in the proceedings of the day was very great. Early in the morning, in all the neighbouring villages, every thing denoted that a great holiday had commenced, bands of music were playing, teams decorated for the occasion, and the leading roads lined with expectant spectators wending their way towards the scene of operation.

The site was judiciously chosen; a large field of strong sod, having a soil of what is usually termed heavy loam, and free from stumps and stones, was the ground on which this interesting trial was to be decided. The requisite number of spaces having been previously measured and staked off (each space consisting, we should suppose, of upwards of half an acre), the competitors started about 10 o'clock. Each township had 20 ploughs, and it was soon evident that the competition would be a keen one, and the work as a whole highly creditable to those engaged in it. As the work proceeded, an impression seemed to gain ground among practical men that Scarboro' would win. This feeling chiefly arose, no doubt, from the uniformly excellent work which the ploughmen of that township were making, although not a single instance occurred of what could be justly called *inferior* ploughing on the part of Whitby. In fact, the Scarboro' teams were superior, the ploughs better, the men had evidently practised more on a uniform system or style of ploughing, laying up the furrow precisely at the angle which makes the work more captivating to the eye, and in short complying with more of those conditions than did their competitors, which modern authorities have pronounced the correct principles of ploughing. In saying this, we would by no means be understood as implying any thing serious to the disadvantage of Whitby, whose work upon the whole was highly creditable. The reader will have anticipated the result, from the tenor of these observations. The judges, without any reference to the umpires, decided in favour of Scarboro'.

We have omitted to say that, of the forty ploughs,