

I wish it to be understood, what I have done that way has always been done with the plough, and not with the spade, so that the results would have been the same in all cases whether more or less ground had been obtained.

I have for the above period yearly raised potatoes, turnips, mangel or beet, carrots and parsnips. Of potatoes I have nothing to say. Turnips I have always found attended with a great deal of trouble, on old land an uncertain crop. Mangel or beet I never succeeded in like anything to what I have seen at home. Carrots I have raised here at the rate of four hundred bushels the acre, and that too on naturally a poor cold stiff clay, but had previously for some years been liberally supplied with dung—parsnips I think quite as good as I ever saw raised in an English garden. Carrots, since the potato disease, have not produced any thing like what they did before. Though the carrots do not rot, the leaves turn black, and the roots and tops do not grow so well. The parsnip, though planted alongside either of them, still grows on heedless of the troubles and mortality of its neighbours; indeed one would think that like the world, it profits on the loss and ruin of its old friends.

I wish to remind you, Sir, my present location is the lower bank of the River Yamaska; my first one was the higher; perhaps that may be the cause why my carrots the last few years suffered with the potato, as all planted down there have mostly been good for nothing. I intend this year to sow some on the upper bank to see if there is any difference. Now, Sir, my plan in cultivating any of the above roots is the following: knowing well as I do, most all Canadian farmers are an easy going people, therefore it would be useless attempting to intrude any new thing that was not founded on the easy going system, namely, plain, simple and easy to be understood. Plough a good piece of stubble land in the fall—either late in the fall or as early as possible in the spring—cover it with as good old rotten dung as can be got, plough it in deep, but so as to have only about three furrows to each ridge; when done ploughing take a spade or wooden shovel and pass through each furrow, cleaning it out and putting all the loose mould on the top of the ridges; take a small rake, level the ridge, putting off any clods, stones

or the like; take a stick or wooden fork and draw two drills about six or eight inches apart, not more than one inch deep; drop in the seed by finger and thumb; take the back of the rake and draw into the drills the light mould, leaning rather heavy on the rake than not. Let weeds, plants and all grow up together, until the plants are in the third or fourth leaf. Children can pull out the weeds, and aged persons following after, if need be, to thin out the plants. If the furrows get too foul run a one horse plough up and down. In hot weather that is all that is needed; as to preservation in winter, turnips, carrots or beets cannot be left out all winter in all situations without a great risk of losing them. To put them in great quantities in ordinary cellars, they heat too much; in sheds or barns they will freeze and thaw, just as the weather changes, and must be more or less injured. But here I find the parsnips standing forth as it were biding defiance to even a Canadian winter, either untouched in the ridges or taken up and deposited in small holes and merely covered over with about five or six inches of mould. I opened a pile yesterday, the 17th March, containing about six bushels, and found them quite good. No other root would have endured such a winter as this that I know of. In the month of April, when the tops begin to sprout, cut off a thin slice of the top, and they will continue a month or so longer in a cellar, fit for either table or stable.

Now as to their use, turnips, carrots, beets, &c. are all excellent, but as far as my experience has gone, I have in all cases decided in favour of the parsnip, first after the potato, for all culinary purposes as daily food, more palatable and substantial than any of the other roots; then, as for cattle, any way, either for fattening or increase of milk, from the month of October to the end of May following, and that too in a raw state; also for lean pigs, as they will live and thrive on them during winter without any grain; or sheep that have just weaned; and, if I recollect right, in my part of England—Norfolk and Suffolk—turnips, &c., in the month of April are far advanced towards seed. If so, then we Canadians enjoy an advantage that an English farmer knows nothing of. Then as to seed, I have raised almost all kinds of garden seeds in Canada but have found