

tation by the Upper Canada Board of Agriculture, and every encouragement should also be given by the Canadian Government.

Truly yours,  
J. A. DONALDSON.

Weston, March, 1863.

### CULTURE OF TOBACCO.

Although personally not an admirer of the weed, or an extensive user of the article, yet as it is considered almost a necessity for many, and as the southern production is limited, in consequence of the war; the taxation heavy—prices high, &c., it is our duty to make some suggestions in regard to growing tobacco.—A great deal of the soil in Michigan is well adapted to the successful cultivation there is no doubt, as we know of instances where twenty acres have been seeded to this crop, with the most profitable results. Even within the last few days we have had its fumes puffed under our nose by the lucky possessor of a real meerschaum pipe, who owns a city lot, with the exclamation, "what do you think of Detroit tobacco, we shan't have to go South for it now, and they may put on all the tax they want to, I don't care, as I can raise my own," until we have concluded that he is nearly right. Large quantities are raised in Canada. The seed best adapted to the wants of the soil and climate in this State, is that to be procured from Connecticut, where the plant has been thoroughly acclimated. Every farmer can easily devote a small patch to its cultivation, if he "delighteth in the quid and pipe," for home use. A sixteenth of an acre well selected and attended to should supply his wants. We give the following excellent suggestions in regard to growing tobacco from a practical source.

To grow strong tobacco plants the ground must be well prepared and worked very fine. In preparing the seed bed it has been found the best way is to light a large fire on the ground: the soil is then rendered loose and friable, and is easily reduced very fine. If it is not convenient to make a fire, mix the earth with a large dose of wood ashes and small charred dust. By this means the ground becomes so loose that when the plants are ready for transplanting, a good sprinkling from the garden pot will make the ground so soft that each plant will bring with it a small ball of earth, which almost insures the plants growing; and it must be borne in mind that the young tobacco plants require very careful handling. It is better to have a large shallow basket or box to carry the plants in when transplanting, as by this means the plants do not lose the ball of earth, or get bruised so much as if taken in the hand.

The seed bed being made fine with the rake, rake the seed and mix it well with ten times (by bulk) as much fine earth and ashes. This is the way you to sow the seed so thin that in draw-

ing the large plants you do not disturb the smaller ones. The ground being prepared, and the seed well mixed as directed, proceed to sow, taking care to sow the seed as equally as possible. Do not rake in the seed, but give the bed a slight beating with the back of the spade, and see that the earth does not rise with the spade. The time for sowing is in April. Let the seed bed be in a sheltered position. When the plants are about the size of cabbage plants usually they may be transplanted. A cloudy or even a rainy day is best for the business. The ground for the crop should be well worked and well dressed with decayed manure: it is better to have two shingles to stick on end in the ground, meeting over the plant to protect it from the noon-day sun or nipped with the morning frost. A light, sandy soil suits tobacco best, if well worked and manured. Plants, to be successfully grown, should not be less than two feet apart each way. Three feet is the Virginia system; this gives ample room for a vigorous strong growth. Before the plant is set, the earth should be drawn up into hills with a hoe, and well-rotted manure mixed in them.

After the plants get well to growing they should be hoed as often as is necessary to keep them entirely free from weeds; a sharp lookout should always be kept for the "tobacco worm," which delights in committing ravages on this plant; and if not promptly attended to, this reptile will soon destroy a crop. Some turn in turkeys after the plant is well grown, who soon clear the intruder. This worm is about 1½ inches in length, and should be looked after every day.

When the plant begins to head it should be immediately cut back, so as to leave from six to ten leaves; suckers then begin to spring out at the junction of the leaf and stalk, these should be nipped off, (some however let them grow until six inches long, and then pick and dry them, thinking them more choice for various purposes than the larger leaves), as if allowed to exist, they will take much from the full development of the main leaves.

Planting is done in May, hoeing and overlooking in June, July, August and September, cutting and housing in October; the other months in moist weather, to the pulling leaves off the tobacco-stalks. In the Southern plantations an industrious man and woman are allowed three acres to manage. When ripe the stalk should be cut off near the ground. When tobacco is ready to cut up, it *must* be attended to or it will spoil, especially if frost is expected, there should be no time lost.

Tobacco of commerce is generally divided into three qualities. The lower leaves or which touch the ground, are liable to get dirty and torn: but on the higher parts of the same stalk two different sorts of leaves are generally found, one yellowish and one brown. These should be carefully separated and put up in bunches somewhat thicker than a man's thumb, and tied