



"Agriculture not only gives Riches to a Nation, but the only Riches she can call her own."

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#### The Potato Disease.

If the disease which has now become so prevalent in the Potato plant, is really caused by an atmospheric agent, and not by the depredations of a small insect, as we stated in the September number, then the agriculturist will have good reason to apprehend that no efforts of his could possibly prevent this important edible vegetable from disease and premature decay. But we flatter ourselves that the alarming fungus production, is nothing more or less than the busy work of a small black fly, such as described in the article previously alluded to, and may be prevented by employing proper precautionary means at the period when the first symptoms of attack are discovered. About the third week in June last, a green flat bug commenced puncturing the leaves of a number of fields we examined, and from what we could judge of its habits, we suppose it to be the female. It appears to be remarkably lazy in its habits, and invariably destroys every leaf that it attacks. In the course of three weeks, after its first appearance, myriads of small black insects appear on the leaves and stalks of the plants, and immediately they become discolored, and show indubitable evidence of disease. There can be no question but that the falling off of the leaves, and the decay of the stalks, are occasioned by the insect described; but it remains to be seen whether the decay of

the leaf, is the true cause of the disease of the tuber. Potatoes grown upon land recently cleared from the forest, if charged with a liberal amount of alkaline salts, are seldom, if ever, injured by the insect we have described; and to reiterate the opinion that has been so frequently advanced in this Journal, in every instance where the system can be practiced, potatoes should be planted upon new land, where a large share of wood ashes remain on the ground undissolved. Where this system cannot be practiced, ashes, lime, salt, and soot should be collected and sown broadcast, at the rate of about two bushels each per acre, upon the plants, in the early part of July, or when the leaves begin to show symptoms of decay. Other applications may be made, which would produce the same favorable result; but the substances recommended are within the reach of all, and may be employed without costing more than a few shillings per acre.

We are quite certain that but few crops will pay better than the potato, and notwithstanding the great alarm that is made about the disease, it may be cultivated upon an extensive scale in Canada, with a degree of profit that few farmers are aware of. Supposing our speculative notions about destroying the fly, should prove a failure when put to a practical test, still the business of potato-growing may be carried on with a certainty of the grower receiving higher remunerating profits. The business of manufacturing