

barns, and tells you how to treat your cattle, and what is the effect of certain treatment; to what diseases certain cattle are subject, and how they are to be prevented, and cured; &c., &c.,—I put it to you to say whether, if science can do this, it is to be considered either as useless or unprofitable to the farmer?"

Your Committee regret to report that the wheat and potatoe crops have, in a great portion of the Island, again proved a failure, the returns from both being scarcely equal to the average of 1855. The deficiency has arisen from the same causes—the wheat midge in the one instance, and the blight in the other. There appear epidemics which set the skill of man at naught—no practical remedy having as yet been discovered; even that of late sowing begins to lose its efficacy, both in the Island and the neighbouring Provinces; and the farmers in P. E. Island would do well to discontinue the cultivation of one of the cereals, which for a period seems fated to disappoint the annual expectations of the husbandman. We have only to look to the history of this destructive insect—the wheat midge—in different countries and colonies—for, like the murrian among cattle, which first made its appearance some 50 years before the Christian era, and overrun Europe at different periods since that early date, spreading consternation wherever it made its appearance, and setting at defiance the knowledge of man—to satisfy us that, in wrestling with a scourge of this nature, the fight is against us, and that human efforts are futile and of no avail, when arrayed against Providence.

Your Committee have paid considerable attention to this subject, but in their enquiries they have not fallen upon any preventive or remedy; they can only, therefore, reiterate the observations contained in previous Reports, which all tend to show the folly of persisting to grow a plant, the bringing to maturity of which the soil of the Island is really not adapted. Substitutes may readily be found more suited to the soil, and which will, in the long run, put more money into the pockets of the farmer, and have a less deteriorating effect upon the soil.

The rich and easily worked loams of P. E. Island appear peculiarly adapted to the growth of flax; and had it not been that the vessel was wrecked in which specimens, merely dried in the sheaf, were sent home, your Committee would have been prepared to show that this plant, from its easy culture, and certain returns, would be one of the most profitable crops to supersede the growth of wheat. That it can be grown in the