

I paid a visit to Quebec on the 12th ult. What a charming place! I never saw it before in summer, and was inexpressibly delighted. The view from the government buildings over towards Beauport is one of the loveliest landscapes I ever saw. But what detestably dirty markets those are in the lower town! The market people complained dreadfully of the stunginess of the corporation. Is the complaint well-founded?

Rain, rain, rain, and no heat! Oats must be good, but I fear pease will be too late, as they keep growing and blossoming all the time. If potatoes don't rot, there will be a prodigious crop. The cabbage-worm is almost extinct, apparently! At least I see hardly any here, even in the village gardens; and as nobody has come to ask me for my recipe for their destruction, I presume it is the same all round the district. Cabbage growing was about or quite at an end here, but, encouraged by my success last year, a good number were planted this spring, and they have done well, even very well.

A great many very inferior tobacco plants were brought into the Sorel market this spring, I am sorry to say. It will cause a sad loss to many a small man who only cultivates enough for his own use. It is a pity people don't grow their own seed. A few barrow loads of dung and a sash 18 x 18 inches would be large enough to produce several hundred plants. As long as people persist in crawling out of doors and late—15th May sometimes—so long shall we be annoyed in the streets with the horrible odour of immature tobacco. By the by, my favourite *Myrtle Navy* is losing its quality! Exhaustion of potash in the soil is the cause I fancy. It won't keep alight without constant attention. This to the address of Messrs. Tuckett and Sons, who of course will reply—if they do reply—that they have no complaints! I have stuck to it for eight years, and I hate change—in every thing but politics.

An immense quantity of very bad hay will be on the market this year. The timothy stood till it died on foot, and the aftergrass (*in foie*) will form the bulk of the crop. The finest piece of clover on Mr. Sheppard's farm! Two and a half tons to the acre, certainly. Unfortunately, it stood too long, was *kneel* down, too much exposed after mowing, and, consequently, lost its leaf.

I sowed a bushel of Manitoba wheat on the 16th May. The land had been in potatoes (dunged) two years running, and I added 2 cwt. of Messrs. Brodie & Harvie's manure per acre. Unfortunately, the wire-worm got at it and it is not thick enough, but there will be, thanks to a fine blooming-time, between 25 and 30 bushels to the acre. By the side of it, is an acre of ordinary bearded wheat—same treatment exactly—which is far inferior. (1) My *Stratagem* pease have done well; the pods are long, and the pease immense. They ought to be worth money, as I see them quoted, in the last year's list, at the rate of \$1.00 the bushel!

What a curious idea people have here about cultivating root-crops on the drill-system! It is universal in Scotland and

(1) Cut to-day (Aug 24th) The bearded wheat is 'Black Sea,' and there is not half a crop of it.

in the North of England, but in the South cultivation on the flat is equally general. Mangolds are always sown on drills, but for the other roots, humidity of the climate, or the contrary, must be the guide. Two men, here, who grow a few market-garden crops, have even their carrots on high-raised drills! Not to save manure, by any means, but because they had seen some one else do it. Almost all the good points of farming, here, have been learnt from the Scotch settlers, and, as they brought the drill system with them from their own country, so, the Canadians, in this dry burning climate, have followed suit. Where land is very foul and horse-hoeing is practised, the drill is all right for swedes and other roots, but the idea of sowing carrots in raised drills at 32 inches apart on rich land is a horribly mistaken one,—half the crop is lost. Drills are for damp climates and where economy of dung is necessary. The tendency in Scotland is to narrow the drills to 24 inches, and grow the swede-plants closer together, so as to secure firmer and sounder roots—they are set out at 9 inches, instead of at 12 inches apart as heretofore.

It is very odd that no one can discover the law upon which the nutrition of the bean and pea crops depends. Compared with cereals they contain about double the amount of nitrogen and potash, and about equal quantity of phosphoric acid. The chemist can tell us how much nitrogen any of these crops remove from the soil, but he cannot tell us where some of this nitrogen comes from, or why it is required.

Capt. Nelson of the Steamer, Quebec, asked me the other day what treatment I should recommend for a soil composed of peat, thickness 4 to 6 feet, on a subsoil of clay. Burn it, of course, to begin with, but when one talks of *burning down to the clay*, it startles one. Lime we should use, but here it is much too expensive to even think about. Plaster and bonedust would raise a crop of rape, and the treading of the sheep's feet in feeding it off would consolidate the land. But if people won't hear of growing rape, or of feeding anything off with sheep, I don't see much good in talking about it. One thing I am sure of: farming never will be anything to speak of in this country until sheep-feeding on green-crops during the late summer and the autumn is practised. Why, last year my sheep were on rape with the ground frozen as hard as iron! And they did well, too. I drew them out of the fold, every other day, took one man an hour and a half—say, 12 cents—and as for the effects; well, a dressing, or *folding* as we call it, is supposed in England to be worth £3.10, and is so charged to an in-coming tenant! Will it not be, relatively, as valuable here? Consider for a moment: you must allow that dung is not to be bought, except near the larger towns, and you can none of you make above one fifth of the manure required to keep your farms in good cultivation. Hence, the quantity of unproductive soil in pasture, so called, or *pacage*, which is worse. And here you have the very things you want; cheap seed—less than a dollar an acre—and no hoeing necessary! If sown in succession, rape will afford food from the 1st of July to the 1st of December, and during those five months the land will receive such benefit, that by the time you have gone over the first season, you will have determined to grow twice as much the next year.

Hallo! This must be a misprint: "In the collection of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, there are more than 15,000 varieties of apples."