

opportunity cannot again occur for very many years, and we should do all we can, united as one man, to make the most of it.

It is satisfactory to know that the financial condition of the Province is so far improved that the Government has felt itself justified in recommending to Parliament the full amount of aid allowed by the law to Agricultural Societies for the present year, placing them upon the same footing as in 1858. This information will be received with unmingled satisfaction throughout the whole extent of the Province.

THE TURNIP ROT.

Complaints of the decay in Turnips, including Swedes, appear to have much increased of late in England, so as to cause serious apprehension in the agricultural mind, relative to the future destiny of this invaluable crop; which a high authority has pronounced to be "The British Farmer's Sheet Anchor." Turnips, both white and yellow, including the different kinds of hybrids and the hitherto hardy and invulnerable swede, have, of late, become extensively diseased, being effected in a manner somewhat similar to the potato, inducing decomposition either before they are taken from the ground, or after they have been pitted. The late winter has been unusually severe in the British Islands, and both turnips and mangels have suffered severely by exposure and the effects of decay. A large amount, we understand, of selected bulbs intended to bear seed, and which are planted out in the fall, has been destroyed, so that turnip seed is likely to be of a high price next year; we learn indeed that it is already advancing. Various theories are proposed to account for the failure in turnips, some ascribing it to the repeated application of artificial manures; but from careful examination of numerous instances, such would not appear to have been the case. We strongly suspect that the frequent bringing of turnips into a fourth or fifth year rotation, which

has now been for half a century extensively practised in the old country, involves causes that may ultimately be found sufficient to account for the disastrous result. Twenty years ago, or more, serious complaints were made in Norfolk that their turnip crop was diminishing, and many were induced to extend their rotation from a four to a five years course. Even in Canada we know some old settlers, who say that they find it far more difficult to raise turnips now than formerly, when their land was in a fresher state. The following extract from a letter of a correspondent, published in a recent number of *Bell's Weekly Messenger*, will be read on this side the Atlantic with interest:—

"This question is destined at no very distant period to make a revolution in the present four-course system of growing turnips. I venture to predict that before the year 1870 arrives, white turnips will cease to be grown on three-fourths of the arable land in this district without being previously prepared, by either marling or liming. It is only a question of time; some fields will grow two or three more crops; other fields (and they are not a few) have grown their last healthy crop of white turnips. My experience goes to prove, that each year adds to the difficulty, not only of growing a large crop, but of growing a crop at all, such as will stand the winter, and are worth eating off with sheep at this time of the year. Ten or twelve years since my farm began to show symptoms of disease, and each year since has added to the number of acres, till at the present time I have not an acre of land on the farm that I consider safe for turnips, that has not been either marled or limed. I look upon the surface soil as about exhausted, and until such soil gets a sensible dressing of from 50 to 100 cubic yards per acre, of marl, clay, or chalk, or its equivalent, we shall make no permanent improvement in the soil, and such a "tender annual" as the turnip is at present will every year become more and more subject to premature decay. We must turn our attention to a hardier plant than the turnip if we begrudge the expense, or any other circumstance forbids us laying out so much money per acre as a dressing with marl requires. The cultivation of a substitute for the turnip is a subject well worth the careful attention of farmers, and landlords