

Carlton, April 20, 1870.

DEAR SIR,—The following short sketch of a few of the most prominent new varieties of Potato, may perhaps be interesting to the readers of the *Journal*. I am much interested in the cultivation of this tuber, particularly with regard to the disease or rot. At an early date I will send you a short account of my late observations on this disease, hoping that it will induce the scientific men of our community to bring their knowledge to bear on it.

When the attention of all interested in agriculture, both in Europe and America, is so much turned to raising new varieties of the Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) from the seed or apple, I have thought that a few lines on the latest novelties might be acceptable, to which I add a short account of what is thought of them in England, and a few words on the *Rixton Pippin* and *Bovina*, two remarkable English varieties.

The *Early Rose* was raised by Mr. Albert Bresee of Vermont, and brought into public notice in 1867. It is one of the most productive of the early sorts. It is two weeks earlier than the *Early Gooderich*, and on good potato soils it is as free from disease as the *Gooderich* or *Harrison*. It attains to a large size, with very few small ones. It bears very light seeding, being very stocky. The colour of the skin is light red while the flesh is white, dry and well flavoured.

Western Chief is a good early variety but inclined to rot, as also is the *Phil-been's early white*. They are only valuable as very early varieties for early use.

Willard Seedling, from the *Early Gooderich*, and named by Mr. Gooderich the *Gleason Potato*. It is a half early variety, most productive; of a rich rose colour spotted and splashed with white. It resembles the *Gooderich* in form and size, and is also inclined to be somewhat rough and scabby.

The *Harrison*, another of Mr. Gooderich's seedlings, and the most productive of them all. Has a fine, clear, white skin. Is remarkable for its size, shape, yield, and handsome appearance. A good winter potato. The quality varies with the soil and season. It is remarkably free from disease.

The *Gleason*, another of Mr. Gooderich's seedlings. Skin thin. Flesh coloured. Pink eyes. Very productive. Quality excellent. A late Potato.

The *Excelsior Potato*.—Is remarkable as an excellent table variety, and retains its superior cooking qualities the year round. It is one of the most desirable kinds now extant. Very productive, sometimes yielding double of any other variety under similar treatment. There are few potatoes that combine so many good points. It is a seedling from the "*State of Maine Potato*," raised by B. B.

Whiting of N. H. in 1861, and was first introduced to the public in 1867, and is regarded as one of the best and most productive table potatoes known. It is white skinned and fleshed. Very mealy. Of medium size, nearly round. Eyes prominent, skin thin and smooth. The tops are short, stalky and bushy.

Early Gooderich yields well and heavily. Is little inclined to rot. Quality varies with soil and cultivation. Heavy manuring with strong manure causes it to deteriorate. Latterly it has shewn a tendency to a hard spine or core, making it difficult to cook.

Orono or Carter, a medium early kind, of good size. White skin and flesh. Eyes quite deep set. Dry and good flavour, but tends to blight and rot.

Bresee's No. 2, or Prolific, introduced in 1868. Flattish round potato of large size and handsome, rather rough. Flesh white. Very productive, dry and mealy, and of good flavour. A winter variety.

Bresee's No. 5.—This is nearly as early as the *Early Rose*. A flattish round potato, very white skin. Excellent in quality, but tends to rot badly. Only useful as an early potato.

Bresee's King of the Earlys.—This famous potato is earlier than the *Early Rose* by about a week. Can be planted quite close, as it makes small tops. It is a roundish, flattish potato, with well defined eyes. In 1868 a single eye was sold for \$5.

The *Gardener's Chronicle* (English) speaking of the new American varieties of potato, says, "We are fully satisfied with Bresee's seedlings, but in no respect astonished at them. The *Early Rose*, *Climax*, and Bresee's *Prolific* are large, handsome roots, and remarkably prolific; but in quality they fall far below the standard of our English varieties, and are decidedly deficient of highly organized fecula, and therefore lacking in both flavour and nutritive properties, as compared with many established favourites.

Unquestionably the best potato of the year is the *Rixton Pippin*, sent to the experimental garden at Stoke Newington, by Mr. Pierpoint of Warrington. This is a handsome root, cropping heavily, quite elegant when on the table, and fine in texture and flavour as any connoisseur in potatoes could desire. The late Mr. Patterson of Dundee, to whom the Highland and Agricultural Society awarded the gold medal last year for a report on propagating new varieties of potatoes, has originated a remarkable variety, the *Bovina* or cattle feeder potato, which is the most valuable and extraordinary of all his productions. It was raised from seed in 1864. It contains a large amount of farinaceous matter. The enormous quantity of 21 tons per acre can be raised on land where finger and toe destroys the turnip crop; also on land where mangold

cannot be grown profitably. With extra culture 40 tons per acre have been grown, many of the tubers weighing from four to six pounds. It is the heaviest cropping potato known, is remarkable for keeping in good condition for twelve months, and is excellent for table use. In the Haddington market March 18th, Mrs. Patterson attended with a sample to introduce the *Bovina* to East Lothian,—some of the potatoes weighing 9 lbs. She was liberally patronized by the farmers of the district, who seem to have appreciated the merits of the variety. It is recommended as well-adapted to feed cattle, and is stated to be much less precarious than the turnip crop, while its feeding qualities are far superior.

Yours, &c.,

W. BUSTIN.

Sir,—I noticed in one of your numbers you said milk should be skimmed before it turned sour. Will you kindly tell me if this rule should be followed in the heat of summer, when milk sometimes sours in much less than 24 hours. An answer to this in your May number would much oblige,

AN INEXPERIENCED DAIRY WOMAN.

Reports of Agri. Societies.

MIDDLE RIVER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Directors feel grateful to the Board for the strenuous efforts put forth by them for the advancement of agriculture generally, but more particularly for the liberal bounty annually allowed this Society, thus enabling our farmers to embark in matters which otherwise would be beyond their ability. The directors have much pleasure in stating to the Hon. Board of Agriculture the results likely to be derived from the animals purchased by the Secretary of the Society at the Exhibition held at Halifax, in October, 1868. The increase from the two rams purchased at the exhibition, is of incalculable benefit to the Society. The Alderney bull purchased at the same time, came too late to have seen any of his increase, but from his appearance and adaptation to this climate, he cannot fail to give general satisfaction. The Society have this year imported from the well known establishment of Messrs. A. P. Richardson & Co. of Worcester, Mass., a number one Buckeye mowing machine, which turned out far above their expectations. The use of this machine is of great importance to farmers, both in the saving of labour and time, and likely in a few years a good many more will find their way to this locality. The Society have also imported a large quantity of red clover and garden seeds from Halifax, which yielded wonderful results, thereby arousing our farmers to new energy. Before concluding this report, the directors feel thankful to The All Disposer of events for His bountiful providence in bestowing upon this locality plenty of food to sustain man and beast during the ensuing season.

Hay—This crop turned out well on deep