

so high a value upon the staff of life, that the indigent are comparatively deprived of the common necessaries of life, and hundreds of thousands are to be seen crying aloud for bread, whilst millions of bushels of wheat are locked up in the bonded warehouses. We have never advocated the repeal of the corn-laws, nor have we a desire to do so at the present moment; but it appears clear to our mind, that nothing short of a total repeal at this crisis, will establish order and good feeling among the British people. Anything that the people of this colony may say or do in this matter, will not have the slightest influence upon the minds of British statesmen, when legislating upon so great a question as the one under discussion; and therefore it would be wise for parties to make up their minds to aid in developing the abundant resources of wealth with which Canada abounds, by which means as good a market may be established for the productions of the soil in our own country, as can be had across the Atlantic. By holding out proper encouragement to the various branches of the mechanical arts, thriving towns will spring into being, in sections of the country where nothing now is to be seen but the howling wilderness and the water-fall. The inhabitants of these towns will consume the surplus productions which our farmers may have to dispose of, and their industry will furnish the materials we now purchase from abroad.

The great boon which we are about losing, perhaps never to regain, can be fully made up by the adoption of a sound system of encouraging manufactures, and working the vast minerals which abound in several sections of the province. It would be premature to enter more fully into the merits of this question at this time, because it is not yet positively known what course the British Ministry will pursue in regard to the repeal of the Corn Laws; but our agricultural friends in Canada may rely that no effort shall be spared on our part in steadily advocating their true interests.

Potato Blight.

The greatest calamity that has befallen the labouring classes in the present age, is the disease which has attacked the potato crops of Europe and America. The failure of the crops through this disease, has been so considerable, in the British Isles and the northern countries of Europe, that the greatest possible degree of desolation in

some districts is reported. The amount of damage from this source is yet unknown, inasmuch as the gathered crops are suffering more severely than those that were affected in the fields. In some sections of Canada and the United States, the farmers will have to purchase their seed; but from the best information we have received, the potatoes have been attacked only in a few localities in this country. No satisfactory cause has yet been given of this disease; and although the most scientific men of the age had given the subject much of their attention and research, the whole matter, up to a late period, appeared enveloped in inexplicable mystery. Professors Kane, Playfair, and Landley—three of the most scientific men in Britain—hold a commission under Government, to enquire into the disease which has attacked the potato crop in the United Kingdom, and their first report has reached us, in the *London Gardeners' Chronicle*, which has been published by the Irish Government, and distributed by means of the constabulary through the whole island.

Although a number of suggestions have been made by the commissioners, still they do not feel justified in proposing any mode of positive treatment; but they have led the public to anticipate that the true cause, and origin, and mode of preventing this disease, will appear in their next report.

We shall look forward for the receipt of this report with much anxiety, and shall give it as early an insertion in this journal as possible. Agricultural chemistry will now be brought most usefully into requisition, and we doubt not, but that through the means of correct analysis, that the commissioners and others, who are investigating the disease, will be able to solve the question which has confounded the wisest men in Christendom.

Many writers attribute the potato disease to a fungus production, and have recommended the application of alkalis, as a means of preventing the infection. The best evidence we have at hand to prove this theory correct, is the fact that the potato crops grown upon land recently cleared from the forest, have, so far as our experience goes, entirely escaped the attacks of the disease. In this view be correct, a majority of the Canadian farmers need have no dread of a failure of their potato crop.

Unless the progress of the disease be checked