

manured at an expense of some \$7 an acre, nine acres of the field yielded 936 bushels of corn, and 25 wagon loads of pumpkins; while off the remaining three acres were taken 100 bushels of potatoes—the return of this crop being upwards of \$1,200. The time had now come for the field to fall into the young man's possession, and the farmer unhesitatingly offered him \$1,500 to relinquish his title to it; and when this was unhesitatingly refused, he offered \$2,000, which was accepted.

The young man's account stood thus:

Half proceeds of oats and straw	
first year.....	\$165.00
Half value of sheep pasturage,	
first year.....	25.00
Half of first crops of clover, first	
year.....	112.50
Half of sheep pasturage, second year.	15.00
Half crops of corn, pumpkins and	
potatoes, third year.....	690.00
Received from farmer for relinquishment of title.....	2,000.00

Account Dr.....\$3,232.50

To under-draining, labor	
and titles.....	\$325.00
To labor and manure,	
three seasons.....	475.00
To labor given to farmer.	
\$16 per month, 56	
months.....	576.00
	1,376.00

Balance in his favor....\$1,856.50

Our farmers must learn that knowledge and enterprise and perseverance exercised in their business, will not only add a hundred fold to their own income, but will also confer more permanent benefit upon our country than these qualities exercised in the same degree in any other business whatever.—*N. Y. Times.*

—:—

THE POTATO CROP OF 1855.

There are some facts in connection with the potato crop of the last season, which are worthy of notice.

When that scourge of the potato, variously called "rot," or disease," began to rage generally and destructively in this country—about the years 1845 and 1846—speculation became rife as to the cause and cure of the malady. While the minds of some persons were laboring between "insects," "fungus," and "constitutional degeneracy" as the cause, and "salt," "lime," and "raising from seed" as the remedy, the new "philosophy" of the "Ponglikepsie Seer,"—endorsed by professed "spiritual mediums,"—summarily disposed of the subject by declaring that the plant had run its destined course, and was soon to become extinct! In future, potatoes, if brought to our tables at all, would be shown merely as fossil relics, to illustrate the grand idea of "progress."

But this new light did not beam with converting power on all men; many were determined that so valuable an esculent should

not be given up so. The potato disease, therefore, continued to furnish a theme on which much could be said on all sides. The advocates of the notion that the plant had degenerated from long propagation by tubers, contended that it could be renovated by propagation from seed. Of course varieties from seed were soon produced, for which a credulous public were willing to pay enormous prices, without waiting to have their superiority demonstrated—such was the confidence in the system. It would be interesting to know how many of the kinds produced from seed sold at five dollars an ounce, or from tubers sold at ten dollars a bushel, within the last ten years, are still cultivated. So far as we know—and we have seen trials with many of the new kinds—a large proportion of them have been thrown up as worthless or unprofitable. Taking them together, they have even shown more tendency to rot than the old kinds. It is true that some valuable kinds have been produced, but this fact is nothing in reference to the idea that the species has degenerated and can be renovated by raising from seed. The new kinds should show a general improvement. But where one has proved good, a dozen have proved good for nothing. The history of the superior sort known as "Davis's Seedling" may be given in point. We have been informed by the originator of this variety that he produced many others about the same time, and that all except one were given up after a few years' trial, on account of their tendency to rot. We know that something like this has been experienced in numerous instances.

But the results of the last season ought to give a quietus to the hypothesis (it is not worthy the name of *theory*) that the potato disease is attributable to degeneracy of the species in consequence of propagation by tubers.

The vigorous growth of the potato plant in 1855, attracted attention from the start. The stalk was large and strong and the leaves numerous and of good color. The early crop in this vicinity was greater in yield per acre, and came to market in better condition than for many previous years. It consisted in a great degree of the variety known as Mescer, with various synonyms—as Gilky, Neshannock (sometimes corrupted to Meshanick), Chenampo, &c.—a variety which, although not comparatively old, has been so predisposed to rot that in some sections it has been given up on that account; yet it came out this year in great perfection, as to yield, appearance, and quality.

The later and main crop showed the same flourishing growth; but in some instances the tops were so green as to be somewhat injured by the frost of the 31st of August. In other instances the tops were affected with the blight—the premonitory symptom of the rot—though the attack was much less general and less virulent than usual. Some

tubers have rotted, but we have heard of only a few sections where the damage has been serious. The soundness and excellence of those which have come to market during the autumn and up to the present time has left nothing to complain of on this score, while the price—50 to 62 cents per bushel, at wholesale—shows that there is no deficiency in the quantity. The favorite Carter variety, possessing all its pristine meanness and flavor, has been *retailing*, at 70 to 75 cents per bushel. This is another of the kinds which has been very liable to rot—so much so that its cultivation was to a considerable extent abandoned. We have never seen it better in every respect than it was at the late harvest, and our winter's supply laid in at that time, is free from every defect.

The superiority of the last crop is not confined to our own country: from the British Islands and the Continent of Europe we have accounts of its good yield and quality. The *Mark Lane Express* in its review for October, says—

"The potato crop in all parts of the United Kingdom, but more especially in Ireland and Scotland, is proving wonderfully large and almost wholly free from disease. It is much to be regretted that so many reports of an opposite tendency should have found their way into print during the last two or three months. Whatever arguments may be advanced to the contrary, we affirm—and we do so advisedly, and after the most mature consideration—that the aggregate growth of potatoes is by far the largest and best ever known. This great fact will, no doubt, have considerable influence upon the value of other kinds of food."

Of the crop in France, the *Revue Contemporaine* says—

"We receive from all sides most satisfactory accounts of the potato. The disease with which it has been attacked for the last ten years, is on the eve of completely disappearing. It has scarcely shown itself at all in a great number of departments the most remote from each other, and in those where it has appeared the injury it has inflicted is very trifling."

It should be noted that in these accounts nothing is said about the new kinds doing any better than the old. If any such superiority had been shown, it could not have escaped attention and remark. All that can be said is that, from some cause which human knowledge has not yet reached the potato, on the whole, has been comparatively free from disease during the past season and that *this exemption has no special reference to new or old varieties.*—*Boston Cultivator.*

—:—

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—The Scottish agricultural statistics for the year 1855, voluntarily rendered and collected, for the second year, by the intelligent and public-spirited farmers of Scotland, show the follow-