

foreigners*. This will, of course, attract a great number of visitors, and a vast number of Manufacturers from the State of New York; and, taking it altogether, one of the most interesting meetings which Canada has ever seen may be expected at Kingston on the third week in September. From the short experience which we have already had—at the very beginning of our organization I may say—of the benefits derived from our Provincial Exhibitions—it is hardly necessary for me to urge its claim for support by arguments however cogent. No man who really reflects, and can see in what the true interests of the country consists, will, for one moment, hesitate to declare, the advancement of agriculture to be the very foundation upon which rests our whole prosperity. Nor is it farmers alone whose interests are affected—the professional man, the merchant, the manufacturer, the tradesman, and the common laborer—all are equally concerned in its promotion, and all will become prosperous, or otherwise, exactly in proportion to the fluctuation attending the progress of Agriculture.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
H. RUTTAN.

Cobourg, 8th May, 1849.

POTATOE DISEASE—HOW REMEDIED.

The researches of intelligent and scientific men have been attended apparently with no success in their indefatigable pursuit for the causes of the potatoe rot. It is no part of our intention to examine the question at this time, but simply to make two or three of the most obvious and practical suggestions.

That the recent prevalent and fatal disease is the result of long-continued, artificial cultivation, cannot admit of doubt. That it has been, and still is, induced or augmented by the use of putrescent or barnyard manures, is in the highest degree probable. When the potatoe, like any other vegetable, is in a healthy condition, and sustaining a vigorous growth, there is no danger of disease, from the presence of putrescent manures. But when the seed lies dormant in the earth before vegetation has commenced, and especially when the freshly-cut, moist, absorbent vessels are lying in immediate contact with the putrid, decomposing manure, there may, and under many circumstances, must be injury to the fourth-coming plant; and again, when, from any cause, the progress of vegetation is arrested in the summer, or when growth has ceased in the autumn, the presence of these decomposing vegetable and animal matters may prejudicially affect these fleshy, sensitive tubers. The combined effects of this cause through successive ages of cultivation, have doubtless produced the present tendency to disease. Some atmospheric or other causes, which, under other circumstances would have been perfectly harmless, have kindled contagion in this susceptible mass, and sent destruction over every region where the plant is cultivated. Had it been in a healthy, vigorous condition, the cause which now produces decay might have fallen innocuous upon our fields; or like the cold blast, which fastens a rapidly-wasting disease upon the consumptive man, it would serve only to freshen and invigorate a sound constitution. We believe there is a weakness or want of stamina in the whole potatoe race, and that there is no empiricism, no quick medicaments, which, acting like a vomit or cathartic on the human frame, will purge the vegetable system of what has become a hereditary tendency to disease.

The cure for this must be gradual. Gentle tonics must be administered to the enfeebled plant, till it regains its former hardness and strength. These, we think, must be found principally in fresh, rich turf, or sod, (old meadows or pastures,) and in the exclusive use of saline manures. Keep from the potatoe field every particle of putrescent—organic manure—whatever has once been a portion of vegetable or animal, and which is now passing with more or less rapidity to decay, and which may possibly excite a corresponding sympathy from the sickly plant, and induce that, too, to join it in its rapid career of dissolution. Instead of these, use conservative manures, antiseptics, a part of whose nature it is to arrest decay or putrefaction. Salt, ashes from either coal or wood, lime, plaster, potash, bone dust, (which, if deprived of its animal matter by calcination, is nothing but a mineral salt,) old bricks and mortar, burnt clay, charcoal from peat or wood, marl or green sand may be used, either singly or in judicious combination, as the wants of the soil may require.

Let our farmers use good, uncut sound seed, properly harvested and preserved. (of which more hereafter,) in wide drills, on land ploughed deep and used for this purpose as seldom as possible; and make a proper application of some or all of the above-named manures, and especially of fresh lime, and we are morally certain of a mitigation of the potatoe rot, and probably, if the plan were universally pursued, of its final extinction. We hope that careful experiments will be made the coming season, by intelligent, observing farmers, and that they will hereafter communicate the results to the agricultural public. Perhaps some enterprising farmer may find it not only for the public interest but his own, to devote his fields to the rearing of the potatoe exclusively for seed; and that those who prefer to secure a large crop by the use of fermenting manures, may sell or consume their entire crop, and thus avoid perpetuating decay, while they could secure a comparatively healthy seed for re-planting, from these carefully cultivated fields.—*American Agriculturist.*

THE COW—HER DISEASES AND MANAGEMENT.

Milk Fever.—This is one of the most dangerous diseases to which the cow is heir to, and unless timely relieved, very soon proves fatal. It is caused by whatever obstructs perspiration, and accumulates the blood internally; hence, it may be produced by the application of cold air, by lying on the cold ground, or by giving cold water immediately after calving; and these causes will naturally produce this effect, from the open state of the pores at this time, and from the external parts being so wide and relaxed after that operation. Cows in high condition are more subject to this complaint than others, especially if they have been kept up for some weeks before calving.

The symptoms begin to show themselves the first, second, or third day after calving, but most frequently the first day, and that often as early as two hours after the delivery. They may be known by the cow shifting about from place to place; she frequently lifts up her legs and then sets them down again; discovers a wild appearance in her eyes, and sometimes blares, as if wanting her calf. At this time, she is very ready, on a person going up to her, to give him a poke. As the disease progresses, there ensues a quick motion in the flank, and if confined in a stall, she begins to stagger from side to side, with open mouth, from which issues a clear water, and her tongue, at this time, is thrust out a considerable length. After staggering some little time, she falls down, but recovers herself again, and continues to do so until she is no longer able to get up, and seems entirely to lose the use of her limbs. She then throws herself on her side, with her head inclined to her fore ribs. The

* I must not be understood to mean that foreigners are to compete with us; competition will be altogether amongst themselves.