

Esquire, President of the Horticultural Society of England, and the other from a correspondent of the "Gardener's Magazine:"—

ON POTATOES, *by T. A. Knight, Esquire.*—In a letter which I Published last autumn, I stated that I had obtained a produce of potatoes equivalent to 887½ bushels and 3 lbs., (each bushel weighing 90 lbs.) per statute acre, and I then expressed an intention which I now fulfil, of pointing out the means by which such an extraordinary crop was obtained, and by which, of course, other crops of equal magnitude may again be obtained; and I look forward with confidence to obtaining in the present year a produce equivalent to 1000 bushels per acre of potatoes of first-rate quality.

The first point to which I wish to direct the attention of the cultivator of the potatoe is, *the age of the variety*; for it has long been known, that *every variety cultivated gradually becomes debilitated, and loses a large portion of its powers of producing; and I believe that almost every variety now cultivated in this and in the adjoining countries, has long since passed the period of the age at which it ought to have resigned its place to a successor.*

No variety should ever be cultivated which uselessly expends itself in the production of seeds, nor even of full grown blossoms, unless it possesses some valuable redeeming qualities.

The distance of the intervals between the rows should be regulated wholly by the length required by the stems in each peculiar soil and situation. If the utmost length required by the stems be four feet, let the intervals between the rows be four feet also; and if the variety be of dwarfish habits, and its longest stem does not exceed two feet, intervals of two feet will be sufficient.

The rows should be made from *north, to south*, that the mid-day sun may be permitted fully to shine between them, for every particle of living matter found in the tuberous root of the potatoe plant, has been generated in the leaves, (which act only when exposed to light,) and has *descended* beneath the soil.

Each set, should weigh *at least six ounces*, and they should never be placed at greater distances from each other, than six inches from centre to centre, and a preference should be given to *whole potatoes*, when such can be obtained. If the growth of the plant be very dwarfish, four inches between the sets from centre to centre will be preferable; and if the form of the potatoe be long and kidney-shaped, a good deal of advantage will be gained by placing them to stand upon their ends, that end which joined the parent plant placed downwards.

The largest produce will generally be obtained from varieties of rather early habits, and rather low stature, there being in very tall plants much time necessarily lost in carrying the nutriment, which has been absorbed from the soil, up into the leaves and down again, in the state of living sap to the tuber.

Varieties which have strong stems and erect forms, are to be preferred, because such are least subject to fall upon, and shade the foliage of each other.

It is much more advantageous to incorporate the manure with the soil by means of the spade or plough, than to put it in with the sets;

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