

prefers incorporating the manure with the soil, by means of the spade or plough, to the dropping of it in with the sets. The earlier potatoes are planted the better.

There has been some diversity of opinion concerning the advantage of using the whole potatoe, or the cutting, as seed. Mr. Knight is in favour of the whole tuber, and Mr. Dale, of Derbyshire, relates an astonishing difference of increase from it. He says that an eminent horticulturist was engaged in experiments upon the potatoe for 20 years, and finally came to the conclusion "that the best crop was obtained by setting whole."

Some farmers have planted merely the eye, which was scooped out of the potatoe for the purpose, but the practice is objectionable. The sets should not be taken from potatoes that are exhausted by growing in the heap. It is said that the eyes or buds nearest the root fibre, sprout a week or more later than those furthest from it, on the same principle that the top shoots of a tree come first into leaf, and, therefore, in planting uncut sets, the product will be unequal in size, and ripen at different times. In planting cut sets, the two sorts of eyes should be planted in different rows. This is practised in Lancashire. It is recommended by some to obtain seed potatoes that have grown in a soil different from that in which it is intended to plant them.

Various experiments have been made to ascertain the difference of produce from the whole and the cut tuber, and in a field of five acres it was found that there were only two tons in favour of the whole tuber. It would appear as a conclusion, that a single eye from the outer end of the potatoe, with a large proportion of the tuber attached to it, and taken from a full grown, healthy potatoe, is as productive as the entire tuber. Every farmer, however, should know and remember, that the eye of the potatoe on the end which connects it with the stalk, germinates later and

more feebly than the eye upon the outer end. This may be seen in the sprouts upon the tuber, before it is planted. It has been found, also, that the potatoe raised from the outer end not only grows larger and ripens sooner, but that it is also of a finer quality.

The "British Husbandry" recommends the entire cluster of buds taken from the top end, or nose, of the tuber.

There has been a great diversity of opinion, also, respecting deep or shallow planting, and the earthing up of potatoes. Some recommend deep planting and earthing for a copious crop; others, again, recommend slight earthing or moulding up, as they say the tubers do best, and ripen sooner, when nearer the influence of the sun and air. As climate influences the growth and productiveness of all vegetables, we would urge the propriety and advantage of instituting a series of experiments in our own Provinces, to ascertain the truth of these important questions. Similar contradictions exist with regard to the propriety of removing the blossoms with the intention of throwing more nourishment to the tubers. But the results of various experiments prove that the amount of produce is increased by the removal of the blossoms immediately upon their appearance. Some farmers have cut the *haulm*, or stem, and branches of the plant; this is decidedly wrong, for it has been found that this erroneous practice has caused a loss of 93 bushels per acre. This cutting not only lessens the quantity of the produce, but it vitiates the quality of it; for the leaves of plants imbibe a large proportion of nourishment from the air, and perform also a most important character in the economy of the plant.

We think it a question of some consequence, and worthy of attention and experiment, to ascertain whether the removal of the blossom does not injure the future productiveness of the tubers, which have been deprived