

Further, the extension of the pure breed has reached America, and the extensive British Colonies in the Southern Hemisphere. Some of the finest animals, from the choicest English herds, have been purchased of late years at enormous prices for Australia, where the breed continues to maintain its high position. In many of the States of the adjoining Republic, it has become firmly established; for many years an importing company has existed in Kentucky, whose operations have been attended by the happiest results. The names of Vail, Morris, Thorne, Allen, &c., of the State of New York, are familiar to the reader; and very recently American bred Shorthorns have been exported to England, where they have attained to a high position. In Canada and other British American Colonies, this world renowned breed has been cultivated with complete success. Among the early importers was Mr. Wingfield, of Guelph, whose herd came afterwards into the hands of Mr. Howitt, and from it many really good animals have been diffused over the Province. The late Hon. Adam Fergusson, of Wentworth, was among the earlier importers and improvers of Shorthorns, a vocation which he continued to pursue up to the recent period of his lamented death. The Wades of Cobourg, Mr. Arnold, of St. Catharines, and others, successfully followed the example, while Mr. George Miller, of Markham, Mr. Snell, of Peel, and, within the last few years especially, Mr. Stone, of Guelph, have, in conjunction with others not perhaps so generally known, contributed much to the improvement and extension of Shorthorns in Canada. The distinguished position which this breed has of late years occupied in the Provincial Exhibitions, fully attests its suitability to the climate and wants of the country.

THE TURNIP CROP OF LAST YEAR.

EDITORS OF AGRICULTURIST:—I would like to learn from some of your readers their experience in regard to the turnip crop of past season. Owing to the drouth of last May much of the carrot seed failed to vegetate, and the land had to be resown with turnips. Such was my own case with some six acres. The turnip seed came up finely, was pushed past the danger of the fly, and gave promise of a good crop. There were some in drill 18 or 20 inches apart, and thinned out to from 6 to 10 inches. The ground was well manured in the spring, plowed twice,

cultivated and harrowed several times. The ground had been to spring wheat the year before. But the turnips never came to more than half the size they should have been, and had long necks and large roots, to which there was sometimes attached a tuber something like a small rough potato. This disease I believe is called "fingers and toes." They were very tough in the flesh and of a particularly strong turnip flavour. I do not think that the time of sowing had any thing to do with these malformations, as some were sown at the same time as the carrots, (to mark the rows), some from the 10th to the 15th of June, and a few in July, but they were all of the same character, not that every specimen was so but very many of the whole lot were.

My own case was not the only one in this Township, but the same complaint is made by my neighbours. The seed was imported, I was told by the person who sold it to me, from England, by Mr. Fleming, of Toronto. Of course Mr. Fleming is not to blame, even if it were the fault of the seed. He could only test its vitality, not its quality. But it may be possible that as the seed business with this country has assumed some magnitude, dishonest growers may have raised seed from inferior or diseased roots and thrown it into the market. But I would suggest that every care should be taken to ensure a true article, or, what perhaps would be better, that every one should buy only a small quantity of imported seed and from the produce of it raise seed for the ensuing year. I sowed quarter of an acre with a white Swede, the seed of which was raised by Dr. Beadle, of St. Catharines; but which though, sown in the same field, showed none of the peculiarities of the imported seed.

R. N. B.

Niagara, Feb. 14th, 1863.

THE POTATO DISEASE.

EDITOR AGRICULTURIST:—In your issue for January, you have an article on the "Potato Disease," copied from the *Evening Times* over the signature of "A FARMER." He thinks it is owing to exhaustion of vitality in the tuber, and that the plant needs renewing by raising new varieties from the seed, and that they will be free for a time from the rot. If A FARMER will only try this experiment he will soon be cured of any such ideas. I have tried it and the first year fully one half rotted. The white fleshed and white skinned varieties, that promised to be the most delicious, were the most affected and in consequence rejected. The dark skinned yellow fleshed ones were rather better, and for some twenty sorts that were obtained from the seed not more than one or two will be worth propagating. The seed was taken from a field planted with different kinds, the "Peach Blow" predominating.

The Chilis he speaks of were most likely the "Garnet Chilis," which are a valuable kind of