

get a better crop, and also that they take less labour in hills. Those that plant in hills generally manure in the fall; then after ploughing in the spring, plant the land without any further preparation. Some just plant in every third furrow, either using a marker to mark the ground across the ploughing, or else setting up marks to go by. If planted in this way, they are generally well barrowed just as the young plants are coming up, and are either wrought afterwards with the cultivator, and set up one or both ways with the plough, or else they are cleaned and billed up with the hoe. Others, again, plough and harrow the land well, and then mark out with the plough, and then plant across the drill. When set evenly out in rows, so that they can be cultivated both ways, and set up with the plough both ways very little hard hoeing, if any, is required.

HARVESTING AND STORING.

As soon as potatoes become ripe, or their stocks are killed down by frost, it is time to take them up and either leave them in heaps in the field for a short time, (taking care to cover the heaps enough to protect them from a few nights frost), or else put them at once into the cellar, root house, or pit, where they are to remain during winter. Various methods are practised in taking up potatoes: many dig theirs' with broad tined forks made for the purpose; some take them out with the hoe; and others throw them out with a long handled shovel. By all these methods, two drills are dug, the potatoes in both drills, if not picked up as dug, are thrown together in a row, to be picked up afterwards. A number of implements for digging potatoes have been from time to time invented, and tried, but none of them, as yet, have been so successful as to bring them into general use. When the weather is dry and fine we mostly take them up with the plough, ploughing up two drills and carry one, then after gathering the potatoes off the ploughed up drills, we plough up the drills left, and after gathering the potatoes from them, the whole ground is barrowed twice or oftener, as may be required, the potatoes being well gathered up each time the ground is harrowed. Potatoes are mostly kept during winter in cellars, but they may be kept in pits. In that case they want to be well and deeply covered up, as the severe frost of our winter penetrates a heavy covering; with this precaution, they seem to come fresher out of pits in the spring than those that are kept in cellars.

DISEASES.

The Potato is subject to several diseases. The severest, and most destructive, is known as the "potato disease." It was first noticed in this Province about thirty years ago. I first saw it in 1844, in that year we had a severe storm of thunder and rain about the first of August. So great was the rain, that the drills were filled with water, which in low places stood full all night; the potatoes in a

day or so looked all black, and blighted, and never grew any more; the tubers were small, waxy, watery things, with some rotten ones among them. In the following year the potatoes grew well all the season, and yielded a fine crop. When taken up they seemed sound, but when put together in heaps or in the cellar, they rotted faster than they could be fed out. They seemed to become all black and rotten in a few days, with a very bad smell. Since that time there have been few (if any) years in which the potato crop has been free from disease, and though the disease has ceaselessly become less virulent, it still continues to injure our potato crop. Books, pamphlets, letters, newspaper articles, almost innumerable, have been written on the subject of the potato disease or "murrain," as it was sometimes called, but the cause and the cure for it is yet a mystery. The remedies proposed were numerous, and very various, — cut sets, large and small—whole potatoes, large and small—moist weather and dry weather—early planting and late planting—strong soil and light soil—high situations or low situations—northern exposure or southern exposure—shelter under trees and exposure in open fields—with manure, and without manure—manure applied directly to the sets, and indirectly to the sets—one kind of manure, and another kind of manure—pulling off the stems and letting the stems remain—picking the blossoms, and encouraging their growth—pulling off the seed apples and encouraging them to ripen—weeding the ground clean, and encouraging the growth of weeds around the potato plants—earthing up the rows and allowing them to remain flat—ripening the tubers in the ground and taking them up before they were ripe—trying one variety and another variety—a late variety and an early variety—an old variety or new varieties—steeping or dusting the sets in various mixtures or ingredients; one and all of these modes and methods, and many others, were tried with very partial success, and very often with none at all. For my own part I have been most successful with planting rather early on dry ground, and without applying any manure in the spring.

Besides this disease, which was by far the worst, the potato is subject to other diseases—the curl by which the sets either did not grow at all, or grew small, weak, puny plants,—the dry rot, and now they are attacked by the Colorado Potato Beetle which seems from the accounts given to be the most destructive of any insect enemy that has yet attacked the potato.

VARIETIES.

As these remarks have already extended to an undue length, it is not my intention to say much about the varieties of the potato, their name is Legion. For several years past there has been a sort of mania for producing new varieties of potatoes, earlier, or

larger, or more prolific than all others, and selling them at enormous prices. In former times there was such sorts advertised, the first of these that we had any acquaintance with was the *Rohan potato*. As a matter of curiosity, and to show how such things were done, I give its history, (somewhat condensed) as recorded in the *Gardeners' Journal* of that day.

"THE ROHAN POTATO," a new variety.—The following is an extract from a letter written from Geneva, of date, 25th April, 1834, by Prince Charles de Rohan, to M. Jacquemot Nurseryman. "I send you, through my friend Romilly, the potato which I promised you; and to which my name has been given in this country. The history of this potato is not less singular than the potato itself. He who obtained it from the seed, four years ago shows it, but will not give it to any person; he has refused it to King William. He has cultivated it in a little walled inclosure; he only wishes to see it in perfection, and the seed of the following year; he makes them to be taken up in his presence, keeps them under lock and key, and to be cooked for himself and cattle before his face. It is at great risk that I have been able to procure two tubers. This exclusive amateur having learned that I had got some, *Cactuses* which he wished much to have, begged me to give him some, I wished no money, but very much to have some of his wonderful potatoes—he gave me two of them, and made me give my word of honour that I would never send any of them to Holland, Belgium, England, Prussia, or Germany. Happily he has not thought of Switzerland or France, for without this omission, I could not have had the pleasure of offering these to you." The yields given of this potato were extraordinary, equal to anything of the Early Rose, for instance, the size, weight of single tubers are given at 13lbs. 7oz.—11lbs. 9oz.—9lbs. 13oz., and then again of 48½lbs. from one tuber weighing less than half an ounce—of 2½ bushels from one potato—of 18 bushels from four potatoes—of 4 bushels from one Rohan potato, and again of 3 bushels from 8oz. of Rohan potato, &c., &c.

Of course after such great accounts, every one wished to procure some of these wonderful potatoes; some of our Agricultural Societies bought a barrel or two of them, and distributed them among the members of the Society—the first I ever saw of them was procured in this way, the person with whom I was working, as a particular favour gave me a small piece of a Rohan potato to plant. My farm at that time consisted of a small part of a little used side-line—I divided the highly prized piece of potato, and planted it in two hills,—they grew uncommonly well,—and as I was quite proud of them, I hoed them frequently after regular work in the evening, hilling them up into two fine large hills, they grew the largest and strongest stalks I have ever seen on potatoes; after-