

The wheat crop cuts up thin in straw, but the ears are large and well filled; and I cannot find cause for complaint by blight, &c., which in some parts I notice has occurred. This district may safely be taken as an average crop for wheat, and of fine quality. Oats below the average. Beans nearly a failure. This is not a barley or turnip county.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Goold Aug, 14. JOHN WELLS.

### PEAT CHARCOAL AN ANTIDOTE TO THE DISEASE OF THE POTATO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

Sir,—My attention having been drawn to a paragraph in the recent number of your publication, which states that "Professor Liebig has discovered that soot is a perfect antidote to the potato disease," I conceive it but right, under the existing circumstances of the evil, which, permit me to say, I pointed out the *certainty* of the government of this country in September last, to state that several months since I laid before the leading authorities, both government and otherwise, of this country and England, facts incontrovertible, showing the properties and action of charcoal or carbon upon the disease of the potato, both as a preservative in pit or store, and as a manure for the healthful reproduction of the tuber. My papers written upon the subject were the result of many years' experience and practice, as regards the potato, both in its production, storage &c., and they pointed out in the fullest manner the fact which Professor Liebig now publicly verifies, namely, that CARBON is the only antidote to the disease!

I cannot but feel proud that I am thus upheld by an authority so truly eminent; but I have to regret that so long a period has been allowed to elapse without the promulgation of facts such as this, so deeply affecting all classes of the community.

Under existing circumstances, I do not feel it right to enter into the minutæ set out in my papers alluded to, detailing the causes and effect of the action of charcoal on the disease of the potato. But I should be culpable indeed if I held back one moment longer the two following facts; for they deeply concern some millions of the poor; and, without hesitation, I challenge proof to the reverse of what I state.

*The diseased potato may be almost entirely preserved from the effect of decomposition, by using pulverized peat or wood charcoal; abundantly interposing it between the layers and in the interstices, in pitting or storing, the pit or store being, of course, properly ventilated.*

The action is thus; the charcoal absorbs the over-abundant moisture, the attendant of the disease, and instantly corrects the putrescent matter which it largely contains; therefore effectually protecting the whole from infection or contagion, or the evil action of heated moisture.

As a manure for the potato the action of charcoal when properly applied is as follows:—It absorbs from the seed (which, under existing circumstances, must be more or less diseased, no matter how attended to or where procured in Europe) that over-moisture already named; and instantly correcting all putrescence, it leaves the soil around uncontaminated to act with purity upon the growth, yielding to the plant abundantly that of which the disease has robbed it—CARBON, and thus supplying a nutriment which constitutional weakness (its real malady) essentially requires.

These are the main causes and effects of charcoal upon the potato disease; and knowing them to be in-

contestible, I should feel unjustified in longer withholding their publicity, the more particularly as Professor Liebig has now, it appears, stamped the facts with his high authority, which so long since, have been proved by so humble an individual as myself.

It is but right to add that *peat charcoal* can be had to any extent from the bogs of Ireland, at a cost of no consideration; and that its value as a manure generally will be found of the highest consideration.

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
JASPER W. ROGERS, C.E.  
Nottingham St., Dublin, July 28, 1846.

AN AMERICAN IN ENGLAND.—"You do not know, sir, with what feeling an American looks upon your isle, coming from our vast mountains, our vast prairies, our primitive forests, our mighty rivers, our rude uncultivated country, your little isle, the second time I have visited it, seems to me a perfect gem (*hear hear*)—physically and aesthetically it appears a perfect gem. I see Britain itself cultivated in every part; London is increasing in beauty and stateliness; its dark alleys and corners are being exposed to the sun. Go on, fatherland! go on, and may God bless you! (*Cheers.*) War between you and us! Not yet, not yet (*immense applause*); there are to many praying people on both sides to admit that. The rainbow goes up; its arch reaches the mercy seat; its two extremities here and there. No, no; go on, Britain. We have no cannon to beat down your noble edifices; we have no soldiers to spill British blood—I think not—and we have none of our own to spare (*great cheering*). I repeat sir, that Britain is physically a gem. I believe that society in Great Britain is carried to a pitch of advancement which is not known anywhere else: the social refinement of Britain is altogether unparalleled; and British Protestantism, not her Oxfordism, or Romanism, is admired by the different nations. But one thing is lacking in Great Britain, and that is the bringing of Britain's splendour and misery side by side. This is the thing to change the aspect of society; this is the corrective of the evil: this is God's appointed way; and happy am I to stand here, with a stranger's eye and a brother's heart, to encourage you in this work (*cheers*). British Christians ought to strive to cultivate mind as the British nation is endeavouring to cultivate matter. Why, you are going to improve British land to such a degree that every inch of land will be worth an acre of land in America (*laughter*). Cultivate the soul as you are cultivating the soil."—*Speech of the Rev. Mr. Hick at the Home Missionary Society.*

CURE FOR THE CATERPILLAR.—A gentleman at Galasheils has discovered that exhausted bark spread on the surface round the roots of gooseberry bushes, is an effectual remedy for caterpillars. His garden used to be much infested by these destructive insects, which he had tried various modes of rooting out with success, until a lucky chance led him to try the effect of refuse bark from the tanyard. Two years ago he spread a considerable quantity of it round the roots of all the bushes in his garden, except one or two. Those missed were seriously injured by the caterpillar; the others were perfectly saved. The next year he neglected to renew the bark, and every bush in the garden was affected with the disease. This year he has again resorted to it, and not a single caterpillar is to be seen. A more simple and cheap remedy could scarcely be wished for. A cart load of the bark which costs about sixpence, is amply sufficient for the largest garden.