

where it is practicable, seed should be produced from new land, being the first crop after the land had been cleared from the forest. Some attribute the failure to the fact, that the varieties in use, "*are run out.*" If this be true, new varieties from the seed must be substituted; but in all probability the cause of the potatoe failure may be attributed to the depredations of some species of *animalcule* with which this country in former years were not acquainted; and if this view be the correct one, the plan of planting the potatoe crop upon newly burnt land, or land very recently cleared from the forest, is unquestionably the one which will be the most likely of any with which we have any knowledge to secure a crop of sound potatoes. As an article of food for both man and beast, potatoes may be ranked next in importance to wheat; and indeed if by any means the cultivation of this vegetable should have to be suspended, as was the case very recently with the wheat crop in the eastern section of this province, such a calamity would be more severely felt than was the loss of the wheat crop; it therefore behoves every philanthropist to give the subject under notice a careful investigation, by which means the evil may possibly be checked, in its first stages.

*Culture.*—The mode of cultivating potatoes, may be varied to suit the nature of the soil, and other circumstances which may have an influence upon this crop. The largest yield of potatoes, within the recollection of the writer, gave a return of 500 bushels per acre. The mode of culture was as follows. The ground, being winter wheat stubble, was heavily manured, and ploughed and harrowed in the autumn, and received two ploughings during the spring. The seed were planted in rows, in every third furrow, the sets being placed twelve inches asunder in the rows, and the rows averaging about three feet from each other. The third ploughing, or seed furrow, averaged about three inches in depth, which placed the sets near the surface. A short period after the seed were planted, the ground was thoroughly harrowed with a pair of light seed harrows, and the process repeated every six days, until the potatoe tops averaged three inches in height; in a fortnight after the last harrowing, a double mould-board plough was used to mould up the rows, which was the only after treatment until they were harvested. By this mode of culture, no hand, or even horse-hoeing were required, as the repeated ploughings which the land and crop received, destroyed every species of weeds, and brought the land into the finest state of culture. Various other methods have been practiced with success, but space will not admit of a detail; but the main point at present appears to us to be, the adoption of some plan that will have the effect of allaying the evil spoken of, which may probably be done by following our suggestions; and where this cannot be done, the cuts should be steeped twenty-four hours in a strong solution of brine and blue vitriol, the strength of which must be regulated so that the germinating power of the seed shall not be at all impaired. The cultivation of this crop may with much profit be greatly extended in those sections of the province where this disease is unknown; and this may especially be done, with a certainty of profit, as a highly important machine has of late been invented and patented in New Brunswick, by the use of which the labor of *twenty able-bodied potatoe pickers* may be performed by one man, two horses, and the machine. Further particulars upon this subject will be given at an early period.