

kept well during the coming winter, wherever they can be had, as it will be a great risk to plant any others.

THE DISEASE IN THE POTATO CROP.

On the 1st day of April last, Mr. Hudson, of Cartmeal, planted a quantity of early kidney potatoes, known by the name of Ladies' Fingers, and on the 1st of June the crop was taken from the ground, a large and excellent produce. Within three days after, the same ground was again planted with similar seed, and the produce, which proved even better than the first crop, was taken up a few days ago. Thus two fine crops of potatoes were reared on the same ground in the short space of about four months.—*Lancaster Gazette*.

The *Cologne Gazette* states that, notwithstanding the late fine weather, nearly the whole of the growth of potatoes in the Rhenish province is lost. The Chamber of Commerce at Elberfeld has sent a petition to the Minister of Finances, praying that the exportation of potatoes from the provinces of the Rhine and Westphalia may be interdicted; and the same application is expected to be made by the other Chambers of Commerce. The last accounts from Belgium confirm the reports as to the disease in the potatoes; and add, that the quantity of good potatoes this year, in that country, is not equal to one-sixth of the average annual produce. The mayor of Valenciennes has published a notice forbidding potatoes, marked with yellow or brown spots, the sign of the disease which has lately prevailed in that root, to be sold in the market of the town.

The Antwerp journals arrived to-day mention that accounts received there from all parts of Belgium, relative to the potato harvest, are most distressing. The decay or rot affecting this esculent has been found general, no district of the kingdom being entirely exempt. In the province of Antwerp the deficiency would be fully one-third of the crop. In the north of Germany, according to letters from Hamburg, the same scarcity would be felt. The advices concerning the wheat harvest were more encouraging. About Verviers, Spa, and other localities of the province of Liege, they were planting their potato fields afresh. The Flemish prints are full of the subject of the failure of the potato crops, a proof of the extreme importance attached to it.

At the present season, when it is likely that potatoes will not keep in the usual way, it may be useful to many persons to know that, when steamed or boiled, and then *trod firmly* into pits, they will keep as food for pigs or cattle for twelve months or more; the little earth that will adhere to them is of no consequence when used for pigs; and can be cut off with very little waste if given to cattle.

Potatoes looked well up till about the 20th. The heavy rains and wind afterwards, and nights tending to frost, have changed the appearance generally for the worse; and a disease, probably the same said to be prevalent over England, is appearing very generally on crops most advanced in maturity. The stem is broken just above the ground, rots and falls down, and becoming withered and sapless, the general aspect of the field is that of premature ripening. A small black substance is found in the stem where injured, and sometime insects. The disease is attacking the most luxuriant and promising crops, as well as the weaker; and is most general on the earlier sorts of potatoes. Farmers look with anxiety to the progress it may make, and the extent of injury it may produce, by stopping the growth of the

root. The same disease was observed, and considerable injury ensued, in the year 1830—a season similar in character—and less or more of it has been noticed in other years. These remarks apply to the middle and upper parts of Annandale, which have fallen under the writer's observation; and as these appearances have only attracted attention during this last week, it cannot be stated how far they extend over the county.—*Dumfries Herald*, Sept. 4.

We regret to hear that large patches of potatoes in this neighbourhood have become diseased and unfit for food; some have been brought to our office for examination, which appeared in a very bad state, approaching to rottenness. The stalk is first affected, which becomes decayed and spreads to the root; in some places the crops have been taken up and burnt, being considered unfit even for pigs. Nor is the disease caused altogether by wet, as even on the chalky soil at Gogmagog and Fulbourn it has made its appearance. This is a very serious matter as regards the poor, especially as a great breadth of land was this year planted, and there was every appearance of a prolific crop; but great care is now requisite in the purchase of potatoes for the table, and on no account should any be eaten that are at all diseased.—*Cambridge Independent*.

The potato harvest may be now said to have commenced early and under unusual circumstances, which now has spread throughout Somersetshire, confining itself to no locality, soil, or stage of the crop. The symptoms of the disease and its effects have been described in your paper already. To make the best of the injury is now our purpose; and as I have been giving my attention to this, I will state the conclusion arrived at. We have been very busy getting them up this fine weather, and I believe much depends on their being held dry, as, since this fine weather has set in, a check has been given to the disease as affecting the potato; and there are very few, on cutting, found to be rotted deep under the surface of the potato; and if kept dry, and not in heaps, I think a large portion of the *affected ones* would keep a long time for the use of pigs, &c. In many cases I have found, after the bad are taken out, a saving crop of the early ones remain: these should be put away thin, in as airy a place as possible, to remain a month, when, if they are again carefully examined, and all the bad ones taken out, the remainder will, I think, *keep sound*. *Directly the leaves and stalks are dead*, or before, I should advise their being dug up and separated, the worst may be consumed at once, the others injured kept thin, and if they can be kept without heating quite, the disease will be, I think, averted; but should we have much wet, and the potatoes placed where fermentation is promoted or accelerated, I think much injury will be sustained. I have given to pigs the *worst picked out*; they eat them very readily, and have *done well* by them: and I have found when the injured parts is cut off the potato in paring, the remainder eats very well, and it would not have been known, except from it not being quite so floury, that anything had been the matter with it. Those that are sound, taken from the same plant as the unsound ones, I have found very good, and have no doubt a large portion may yet be saved if care is taken in getting them in. The bulk of the late potatoes will be most injured, as the leaves die away, from the disease, even when they have not been long above ground. If any of these observations are worth a place in your paper, they are at your service.—*Street*, Sep. 5.