THE ORIGIN OF THE POTATO DISEASE.

By reference to the books and papers of the date of the first outbreak of the potato murrain in Europe, it will be seen that at that particular period there was a strong and wide-spread belief amongst agriculturists that the potato disease had been introduced into Europe with the Peruvian guano, which was then being imported by thousands of tons annually from the Chinca Islands, on the west coast of Scuth America, close to Peru. As far as I can learn, this belief has received little or no support from the men who have worked hardest in investigating the exact nature of the potato murrain. The men who associated the disease and guano together could give no solid or convincing reason for such association. Latterly the "guano theory" has had a strong facination for me, and I am inclined to think the rustles of 1844 and 1846 had good reason for associating the potato pest and

the guano together: for instance—

1. From 1841 to 1851 more than a million tons of guano were imported into this country from the Chinca Islands. This guano came direct from the very home of the potato plant.

2. The exotic origin of the fungus which destroys our potatoes has never been doubted, and all known facts point to the neighbourhood of Peru as

its home. 3. The potato fungus attacks other Peruvian and Chilian plants, as the tomato, the petunia,

schizanthus grahami, &c. 4. The potato fungua not only germinates readily in water and in dung, but the last two years' experiments clearly prove that it will live through one

or more years in a resting condition in dry manure

or its expressed juices. 5. Thick fogs at some seasons are described as being of nightly occurrence on the Peruvian guano islands, and in the old times of guano collection these fogs converted the whole surface of the guano into a "greasy paste." This "greasy paste" would be the very material the potato fungus would most

luxuriate in. 6. Known facts prove that the neighbourhood of Peru is the home of the potato and the potatofungus. That the fungus there perfects its restingspores as it does here-viz., upon excrement and refuse, there can be no reasonable doubt. That the ordinary spores will grow in and upon guano, and in this material produce resting spores, seems highly probable, and that resting spores and guano were at one and the same time brought to Europe would also appear quite within the bounds of pro-bability and reason. The potato-fungus clearly stops with us because it luxuriates far better on the cultivated plants of Europe than the wild and rank Solanacere and Scrophulariacere of Peru and Chili.

With these views in mind, I propose carrying out some experiments during the forthcoming autumn. In the meantime I shall be glad to make a micro. scopical examination of any samples of guano sent on to me, with a view towards the detection of any fungoid bodies that may possibly be present.—"Worthington G. Smith," in Gardeners' Chronicle.

THE SO-CALLED "CLERICAL ABUSES" BILL-PROTEST OF THE CATROLIC UNION OF NEW YORK .- The Catholic Union of New York, recognizing in the so-called Clerical Abuses Bill now before the Italian Parliament, an attack upon the rights of the Church and the rights of all Catholic peoples throughout the world, protests against the impending measure as tyrannical, unjust and irreligious in its provisions: 1. Proposing to punish the clergy by fine and im. prisonment for any word or action that, in the judgment of the civil power, may tend to "disturb the public conscience" and " the peace of families." it prohibits an essential function of that Christian ministry which our Lord sent into the world with an express command to disturb false consciences; and it usurps an authority over the soul which no civilized temporal government has ventured to claim for more than fifteen centuries. 2. Forbidding the clergy to criticise the institutions or laws of the kingdom, it not only interferes with the performance of a duty laid upon them by God, but it robs them of a right enjoyed by all classes in all free countries, and makes of the Italian monarchy a despotism which American citizens in particular must regard with horror. 3. Obstructing the action of the clergy in the purely spiritual order, forbidding them either in pulpit exhortation or in the administration of the sacraments to censure acts which are contrary to the commands of God, and subjecting the altar and the confessional to the surveillance of the police, it strikes at the very existence of Christian liberty, and is therefore hostile to the principles upon which all legitimate governments must be founded. 4. By making the laws of the State supreme over the laws of God and the dictates of the individual conscience, it destroys modern civilization; it restores the ancient pagan state as it existed under Nero Diocletian, when the only criterion of virtue was obedience to the will of the emperor; and it sets up a standard by which Christ and His Apostles, and the noble army of the early martyrs must be judged malefactors. 5. It aims at a separation between the Catholic world and the Sovereign Pontiff, by preventing the publication of all bulls, encyclicals, allocations and other utterances of the Holy Father, and thus impeding his action in the government of the Church, in spite of the assurances of his spiritual independence contained in the Law of the Guarantees. 6. It treats the legitimate exercise of the Pope's ecclesiastical authority as an act of felony and conspiracy and punishes the Sovereign Pontiff in the person of his alleged "accomplices" for the most necessary acts of his sacred ministry. For these and other reasons the Catholic Union of New 1 ork unites its voice with that of the Universal Church in reprobating a law which in silencing the Supreme Pastor outrages the entire flock and invades the rights of the Catholic population not of Italy alone but of the whole world. HENRY AMY, President of the Catholic Union of N. Y.

REVIVAL OF BARBARISM.

Says the Catholic Review :- To many a superficial observer the events which have transpired in Germany, Italy, and Switzerland have had their origin in the opposition which the declaration of the dogma of the Pope's Infallibility met from the different civil governments. But the storm which burst out with such violence after the events of 1870 was brooding for a long time before, and only waited this opportunity. A few rebellious priests whose pride led them to reject the authority of the Church which had trained them in the ways of knowledge are taken in hand by these governments, patronised by them, and held up to the world as the true exponents of the Church's teaching. Laws are enacted which are in direct opposition to the spirit of the Church, and which their authors well know that it is impossible for Catholics to observe. The Church's property is confiscated, her priests and bishops are exiled and imprisoned, and defenceless nuns are driven from their quiet homes in their convent cells out into a thankless world which can have no charms for these devoted souls. It is treason to impart a religious education to the child, who is compelled to imbibe the most violent social poison with the rudiments of knowledge, and to make the matter still worse, education of this kind is rendered compulsory. Not only have the worst abuses of the feudal times ceturned, not only are Henry IV., and Frederic II., surpassed in iniquity, but the world is threatened with a relapse into that paganism and moral lawlessness which were consuming the very vitals of society when the light of Christianity dawned upon the world.

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SECRET SOCIETIES AND THE ROYAL FAMILY.-A meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Freemasons of England was held recently at the Freemason's Hall, London. It was announced that the Prince of Wales, Grand Master, had appointed Earl Carnarvon Pro-Grand Master; Lord Skelmeredale, Deputy Grand Master; Duke of Connaught, Senior Grand Warden; Prince Leopold, Junior Grand Warden. A banquet afterwards took place.

MEEKLY TEST.

Number of Purchasers served during week ending May 5th, 1877..... 3,872 Same week last year..... 2,845

Grand News.

The cash system is increasing faster than ever. Which means that the old credit system is dying out, and the sooner it is dead the better for Montreal. Betail men that have failed blame the credit system, and unfortunate Wholesale men blame the same system for their misfortunes. There is little or no credit due to any man for doing a large credit business. We could double our trade in a month if we choose to offer goods on credit, and could get from seven to twelve per cent, more pro-fit. But it would be going back forty years in the style of doing business, which would be like adopt-ing the old Stage Coach in preference to the Rail-

Wrong.

Some people say that it is more difficult to succeed in business now than it was twentyor thirty years ago. This is a great mistake. It is a notion peculiarly Canadian and American, and is the result of the Mercantile Agency system. It is easier to make money in Britain and other countries now than it was years ago. And why should it not be here? Let the Agency system die, and things will right themselves.

Note.

A most disgraceful failure which has lately taken place in Toronto is by an Agency subscriber, whose estate is not likely to pay more than about eight or nine cents on the dollar. The firm appears to have been insolvent for several years, yet they were kept rated up to a large capital and good credit up to the very day of failure. What did this firm fee the Agency men for? Not for reliable information because the reason of failures is said to be losses through bad debts. Montreal has furnished several similar cases during the last few months.

No wonder people think it hard for honest people to make money in Canada with such a system amongst us. It is the duty of every American and Canadian to help and put down all bad system.

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SUPERIOR COURT.

Dame Esther Laurent of the City and District of Montreal, wife of Joseph Brunet, of the same place, trader and duly authorized to ester en

Plaintiff.

The said Joseph Brunet,

Montreal, 25th April, 1877.

An action for separation of property has been instituted in the cause returnable on the 21st May Montreal, 7 May, 1877

ROY & BOUTILLIER. Attorneys for Plaintiff.

MONTREAL | Mary Eliza Laughlin of Mont-SUPERIOR COURT, treal, duly authorized,

Plaintiff; No. 2352. Charles Walters, gentleman, of Montreal,
Defendant.

An action for separation of property was this day issued in this case.

A. BRUNET, Attorney for Plaintiff.

38-5ins.

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The undersigned has fyled in the Office of this Court a Deed of Composition and Discharge, executed by his Creditors, and on FRIDAY, the FIRST DAY OF JUNE next, he will apply to the said Court for a confirmation of the discharge thereby effected. JOHN HATCHETTE,

By DAY & DAY,
His Attorneys, ad litem. Montreal, 26th April, 1877.

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