

3. The remedies for the disease, explaining the principles on which the remedy is founded.

4. The treatment of the potato in planting, both from the tubers and from seed, and in various stages of its growth.

5. The mode of pitting and preserving potatoes in ordinary seasons, with the principles upon which any improved plans may be found.

Prize of £20 for the second-best essay on the same subject.

Prize of £30 for the best history of the disease at the present time affecting the potato, involving a condensed detail of facts developed by experiments.

Competitors for this prize will be required to furnish information on the following points:—

1. The history of the disease in the potato in Great Britain, with particular reference to authentic returns regarding any peculiarity of season or seasonal variations.

2. On the methods for retarding the progress of the disease.

3. On the methods proposed for extracting the nutritive ingredients of diseased potatoes.

Dr. Lyon Playfair, the Consulting Chemist to the Society, having kindly consented to deliver two Lectures on the Potato Disease before the Members, on the occasion of their present general meeting, the Council, at the suggestion of the Journal Committee, directed all papers on that subject to be submitted to Dr. Playfair's inspection previously to their future consideration by that Committee; and the Royal Institution of Great Britain having liberally placed their Theatre at the disposal of the Council, for the delivery of these lectures the President, in the name of the Council, and on behalf of the Society, has expressed to Dr. Lyon Playfair his best thanks for the important practical Lectures delivered to the Members on that occasion; and to the Managers of the Royal Institution of Great Britain his best thanks for the favour they have shown to the Society, by the courtesy and liberality of the grant of their Theatre, and their cordial co-operation in thus aiding the Society in the prosecution of its objects of public utility.

ENGLAND IN 1815 AND 1845, OR A SUFFICIENT AND A CONTRACTED CURRENCY.

By ARCHIBALD ALISON Esq., F. R. S. E.

Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London. Price 5s. TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

Sir,—I have read the above mentioned book with great interest. Every landowner and every farmer who can spare 5s. ought to buy this book.

I send you some information in a tabular form, extracted from it, together with some conclusions which I have drawn therefrom, for insertion in your columns if you think proper.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
AN OXFORDSHIRE FARMER.

December 26.

	1814.	1841.	1843.
Bank of England Notes in Circulation	24,801,080	16,397,450	19,361,410
Country-Bank Notes in Circulation	22,700,000	10,251,450	7,114,458
Total Cash-Note Circulation	47,501,080	26,648,900	26,475,868
Population of Great Britain	13,200,000	18,609,009	19,200,000
Amount of National Debt	752,857,236	766,371,725	773,063,340
Yearly Revenue	71,134,503	62,315,326	66,935,022
Shipping (Amount of Tonnage of)	2,616,965	4,657,433	4,751,341
Commitments Annually in England and Wales	6,390	27,670	29,591
Average Price of Wheat per Winchester Quarter	85s	51s 6d	47s 4d

CONCLUSIONS.

1. That the commitments in 1814, 1841 and 1843 are

an index of the proportion of the population in distress at those periods, seeing that crime generally prevails in proportion to distress.

2. That taking this as a data, it follows that 13 millions of people, employing less than three millions of tons of shipping in 1814, raised a revenue of upwards of 70 millions sterling, with less difficulty and distress than 50 millions of revenue could be raised in 1841 by nearly 19 millions of people employing 4½ millions of tons of shipping.

3. That this extraordinary anomaly may be accounted for by the fact, that the 13 millions of people had a domestic currency of cash notes amounting to 47½ millions; whereas the 19 millions of people are restricted to the employment of 26½ millions of similar domestic currency, regardless of their great increase in numbers, and their enormous extension of manufacturing and commercial operations, as is indicated by the shipping employed at each period.

4. That notwithstanding this extraordinary extension of commerce and enterprise, and nearly 30 years of profound peace, the national debt is greater in 1841 than it was in 1814, and greater in 1843 than it was in 1841.

5. That notwithstanding the efforts made during 30 years profound peace, to extend education and improve the morals of the people, the commitments has considerably more than quadrupled during a period which has only increased population from 13 to 19 millions, or, in other words, crime increases in a greater ratio than population.

6. That these facts are traceable to the odious money laws, which are enriching the hundreds to the destruction of the millions.

7. That this enormous evil falls mainly on the occupiers of land and their dependents, as the falling off of the country bank note circulation, which was almost exclusively that of agricultural districts, from nearly 23 millions in 1814 to little more than seven millions in 1843 clearly exhibits. The commercial part of the community to a great extent circulate amongst each other bills of exchange in place of the cash notes withdrawn, but which the agricultural classes cannot do; therefore the restriction is more severely felt by them.

8. That it is the policy of the owners and occupiers of land to abandon at once the useless struggle for the maintenance of the corn laws, and to employ all their energies, prior to the next general election, in circulating information on the effects of Peel's money laws, and to select and return members who are convinced of the injustice of these laws, and who will engage to advocate their repeal.

DISEASE IN POTATOES.

Dr. Ryan in a lecture at the Polytechnic Institution, on the disease in potatoes, said, it owed its nutritious properties to the starch which it contains; 100 parts of a fresh potato, denuded of its skin, are composed of water, from 78 to 72; meal, from 32 to 28. The meal consists of starch from 15 to 17; fibrous matter, from 8 to 9; mucilage, from 5 to 6. To extract the whole of the starch, from 15 to 17 per cent may be obtained. The idea of employing starch as an article of food may appear to many exceedingly strange; but the difficulty may, perhaps, disappear when they learn that arrow-root, sago, tapioca, &c., are merely varieties of starch. Wheat flour, rye, barley, &c., also contain large quantities of the same compound. The process of obtaining starch from these substances is comparatively easy. Formerly, all the starch of commerce was obtained from wheat flour or meal. That substance contains a considerable amount of glutina; to separate that entirely from the starch occupied a considerable time, upwards of ten days. First of all the wheat and meal had to be kept in cold water until fermentation set in. The fermentation was allowed to go on the acetous stage, that the acetic acid formed might dissolve the gluten, and allowed the starch to separate. The starch was then removed and washed repeatedly, and passed through sieves of various degrees of fineness. In making potato starch, the skin is first removed.