

CHOICE NEW VARIETIES OF POTATO.

To the Editor of THE ONTARIO FARMER.

DEAR SIR: On perusing Best's very interesting and instructive book on the potato and its experimental culture, the thought has struck me that a notice of it, with a few extracts therefrom might possibly be acceptable and advantageous to your readers. I myself deem it next to impossible to estimate sufficiently the great good that has been conferred on the civilized world by the introduction of these new and early varieties of potatoes—more especially so on the decline of many of the old and valued varieties—combining, as they do, earliness, fineness of quality and flavor, and enormous yield, with increased strength of constitution that enables them to resist the maladies which the potato has of late been subject to. What more, let me ask, does a potato-grower or consumer want? How, then, can we sufficiently express our appreciation of the crowning results of the persevering and energetic labor of the intelligent men of the Goodrich school, if I may so express myself, for the invaluable treasures that are now within our reach? In my humble opinion, it is quite impossible to duly value the gift and its importance. To the working, or more humble class of our fellow-beings, in particular, will the boon, in other parts of the world, prove an inestimable blessing—indeed, a perfect God-send, I may say with all due reverence, for it is nothing less to those who are compelled almost entirely to subsist on the potato. To the late Rev. Mr. Goodrich, then, who may justly be termed the pioneer and patriarch of the new potato movement, who was so successful with the "Early Goodrich," "Harrison," etc., and who devoted a third of his lifetime to the culture and improvement of that valuable esculent; and to Messrs. Bresee, Conover, Heffron, Best, and other gentlemen, following in his footsteps, too much praise and thankfulness cannot be given. As to the "Early Rose," of which so much has been said and written, and its value duly appreciated, raised by Mr. Bresee, and so well known to the community at large, no eulogy from me is required as to its merits: it has spoken for itself. But as Mr. Bresee has, by his untiring zeal and skill, been so fortunate as to produce other potatoes which are some days earlier than the "Rose," with other properties at least equal if not superior, I have thought it may be as well to make a passing notice of them, as also of two or three other kinds spoken of in that valuable potato book by Mr. Best, of Utica, N. Y., the perusal of which I would urgently recommend to every farmer and gardener, or amateur, growing potatoes either for sale or private use. I think it, however, very pertinent to my present subject, to remark that the great yield produced from these new varieties

has partially been the result of good and high culture; but is not that, let me ask, what every crop we grow ought to receive, if we wish or expect the crop to be a remunerative one?

I will now proceed to give a few curtailed extracts from Mr. Best's valuable book, concerning the late new varieties, and will commence with "Bresee's King of the Earlys, or seedling No. 4"—the "Fifty Dollar Potato," as Rev. Mr. Beecher pertinently calls it in his essay on "the potato mania," a very amusing and clever production:—

"This potato was raised in 1862 by Mr. Albert Bresee, of Hubbardton, Vermont, from a seed ball of the Garnet Chili. Vines quite dwarf; bears no seed balls; leaves large; tubers large and handsome; eyes small, and somewhat pinkish; flesh white and floury; cooks well, and is of the best quality for the table. It has thus far proved very hardy, perfectly free from disease, and the earliest in cultivation. It is pronounced by many experienced practical men who have grown it, to be ten days earlier than the Early Rose, and equally productive. The vines being of so dwarf a habit, it can be planted so much nearer together, thereby giving a much larger yield to the acre. So great was the anxiety among potato-growers to procure this variety last Spring (1869), that quite a number were sold at fifty dollars each! A silver medal was awarded to Mr. Bresee for his seedlings by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in the fall of 1868."

"BRESEE'S PROLIFIC, OR No. 2.—This variety originated with Mr. Bresee in 1861, and is from the same seed-ball as the Early Rose—both seedlings of the Garnet Chili. Vines of medium height, quite bushy, and have produced no seed balls; tubers large and regular in shape, and very smooth; eyes slightly pinkish; flesh white; cooks quickly; is very mealy and of excellent quality; yield very large, often exceeding one hundred fold; matures about three weeks later than the Early Rose, and will prove a most valuable variety for field culture. This variety has been thoroughly disseminated throughout the country the past season, and we are continually receiving the most flattering reports of its extraordinary productiveness and quality."

Then comes—

"BRESEE'S PEERLESS, OR No. 6.—The latest and best of all Mr. Bresee's seedlings for the Main crop. This originated from the same seed-ball as the Early Rose. Eyes shallow, oblong; flesh white, mealy; grows to a large size, often weighing from one to two pounds, and enormously productive. At a trial by a committee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, in September last, this variety obtained more votes as to quality than any other of Mr. Bresee's seedlings, and was awarded the silver medal."

The next is—

"THE EARLY MOHAWK.—This potato was sent to all sections of the country last Spring for trial, and having been most thoroughly tested, I have no hesitation in offering it to the public, as being the earliest of the early, of large yield and superior quality. From the large number of testimonials received from disinterested and well-known agriculturists from all sections of the country, I claim that it is without an equal in all the new varieties