

foliage, or tubers, that are to all appearance to a casual observer healthy and unaffected; gangrene, putridity, and mildew take place, according to atmospheric and other causes, very quickly after those destructives have made punctures, which they do astonishingly quick, proceeding on to sore healthy parts. This will be clearly visible with a good microscope.

This conclusion is founded on long and close observation. I collect foliage and stalks from the most healthy plants, and if the above described insect is to be discovered on any part, the crop will very early show symptoms of disease; the full-grown insect may be observed with the naked eye, although its shape and limbs cannot be seen. By taking a handful of Potato-stalks and leaves, and placing them in a vessel of water, and covering the whole with a bell-glass the whole progress of both insect and disease will very readily and easily be discovered by a watchful observer. This morning I was looking through my microscope at the industry of two I had enclosed on a Potato-leaf. Their activity in making punctures is astonishing; they seem to stay a short time to suck out the juice, as one of them made five punctures, and the other two, in less than a minute, and a half, all of which were clearly observable, some of the Potato foliage I have seen thus punctured on the underside, as quickly as a village green would be with a drove of pigs without rings in their snouts, and has a somewhat similar appearance in one stage. It is of little utility to search for the offender, or cause of the disease. Where it is already visible to a casual observer, in the shape blotchings, gangrene, putridity, mildew, &c., the real cause will not then be found. The real offenders must be searched for on the most healthy parts, and if they are there to be found, the crop is sure to be considerably injured, if not a total failure. I discovered the very insect above described last year, but I could not imagine it to be the cause of the evil; but its again making its appearance this year so early in the hot-houses, pits, and frames, hoop'd beds, borders, quarters, and every field and garden, to have a very strong suspicion of him, and that this is the real cause of all the mischief I am fully satisfied. Where soot-water and charcoal-dust is applied, it either kills or drives them away; but as to Tobacco-smoke, it does not seem to take any more effect of this insect than it would on an old Chelsea pensioner. Whether

it is a small locust or thrips I cannot say; but as to its ravages, there may yet be hoped that they may be stopped, and that this useful vegetable will not be wholly lost to the country. Atmospheric changes and variations of seasons have an astonishing effect on retarding or entirely stopped the ravages of insects.—*Gar. Cron.*

WILD GOOSE WHEAT.—This variety of wheat has lately been favourably noticed by our friend, Mr. Evan's, in his "Canadian Agricultural Journal," which article has been subsequently copied in nearly every newspaper in the colony. It so happens that we have a long acquaintance with the variety of wheat in question, if wheat it can properly be called; and as long ago as the summer of 1830, we saw growing in the garden of a farmer in the southern division of Whitchurch, a small quantity, the seed of which was said to have been found in the crop of a wild goose, shot by a farmer's son, in that neighbourhood. This grain has been a source of pretty extensive speculation, not so much, however, with a view to ascertain its origin and intrinsic merit as a bread-producing plant, but solely with a view of gulping the credulous out of their money, without giving them even a shadow of value. Wild-goose wheat has been long known among the farmers of the United States, and enormous prices have been paid for a few grains; and, indeed, the mania at one time became so general, that the term "*Wild-goose speculation*," derived its origin from this source. For all useful practical purposes this grain is nearly worthless: it might possibly afford a small per centage of alcohol, but even for this purpose it would scarcely find a sale in the Canadian markets.

The grower of this wheat, by whom it was sold to the farmers in the neighbourhood of Montreal, is well known to us, and if we remember correctly, we cautioned him against its introduction among the Canadian farmers. We saw it repeatedly, while growing on his farm, and took some pains to convince him that it was precisely the same grain so long unfavourably known by the appellation he gave it. If he had acted upon that advice, this lengthy notice would have been uncalled for, but duty to the farmers of Canada, whose true interests we profess to advocate, forbade silence when there could be no doubt but that an attempt is about being made to scatter, as it were broadcast through the land, an entirely worthless variety of grain.