

with the cheaper process and heavier products of the former.

Digging potatoes should be done early, or as soon as the dying of the tops or their destruction by frost, shows that growth is at an end. If deferred the late autumn rains may render the soil muddy, making the work more laborious. The old mode of digging by hand is only to be adopted for small patches. A number of digging machines have been patented and manufactured within a few years. All of them so far as we know, have operated well, and proved labor savers, but more time will be required to determine which is best for general practice. One of the cheapest and simplest, and which appears to do its work well, is that of J. E. Morgan of Deerfield, N. Y.—made by substituting hooked teeth for the common straight teeth of his square harrow. When this is passed over the surface it rakes out the potatoes by an operation quite similar in character to that of the old hand potato hook, leaving them on the surface. In the absence of any digging machine, we have found a good mode to consist in throwing out the potatoes with a common plow, run carefully at a proper depth, and when these are picked up, the remainder are thrown out by first harrowing lengthwise with the furrows, and afterward cross-harrowing. In this way, two men will harvest in a day three times as much as by hand digging. One of the best preventions of rotting consists in having the potatoes perfectly clean before stowing away for winter. Hence the importance of selecting dry weather when the soil has not been soaked by rains.

Different modes are adopted for keeping potatoes through winter. A good way is to place them in large boxes, covered from the light, in a cool, dry cellar. Tree boxes or such as are used by nurserymen for packing their orders, are a convenient size and answer a good purpose. They are often cast aside as useless when received, or else split up into kindling wood. The bottom should have slats or openings between the boards. They should be placed on blocks a few inches from the ground or floor so as to admit ventilation—an important preventative of the rot. Potatoes may be buried out of doors, and will keep well if the work is properly done. Three requisites are necessary—ventilation, freedom from water and protection from freezing. Large quantities of potatoes are spoiled every year by not attending to these particulars. Ventilation is effected by making a hole at the top and filling it with a large, even wisp of straight straw. Farmers have often observed that their potatoes were rotten at the top of the heap, and have erroneously supposed that it came from freezing, when, in fact, it resulted from the foul air which had no escape. The best way is to use a large quantity of straw with a thin stratum of earth, instead

of the more common practice of using but little straw and much earth. We have found that by placing sixty or seventy bushels in a heap, covering with a foot of packed straw and three inches of earth, has been uniformly successful, not one per cent. generally being lost by keeping through winter.

Many varieties of the potato have been raised and cultivated, and diversity of opinion exists in relation to their value. This is partly in consequence of a want of full trial, and partly from the fact that many of them succeed well on some soils and imperfectly on others. We notice briefly a few of the leading sorts. Among the older varieties, the *Long Pinkeye* was one of the best in quality—white, with purple eyes, very white flesh, and fine and delicate in quality. They spread much in the hill, did not yield well, and have now nearly passed from cultivation. The *Round Pinkeye* was larger, with a yellow flesh, more productive, but poor in quality. The *Mercer*, with purple streaks through the flesh, has long been one of the best table sorts; but as it often rots badly, its culture has been discontinued, except on light and dry soils where it still succeeds well. The *White Mercer* is a sub-variety without the dark streaks. The *Early June*, large, white, roundish, and smooth, has long been a fine early potato, but is now superseded by more productive sorts. The *Buckeye*, a large, early potato, with deep reddish eyes, is a fine early variety, but has the formidable objection of becoming frequently hollow. The *Dykeman* is a famous early variety, much cultivated in the vicinity of New York city, but we have found it quite unproductive. The *Prince Albert* is a widely known, very productive and popular white potato, long and flat, often tapering and curved at the smaller end. It is commonly of good quality, particularly if kept till Spring. We have found it of late years much more liable to rot, and less productive than some of the newer sorts. The *Fluke* somewhat resembles the *Prince Albert*, and, although occasionally excellent, is often only of second rate quality. The *Jackson White* is a good potato, but is not productive. The *Orono* considerably resembles it, and yields much better crops. The *Carter*, although considerably affected with the rot, is still cultivated to some extent, and is not on the whole, excelled in quality. But all these sorts are becoming more or less superseded by the best of the *Goodrich Seedlings*. Some of them, introduced several years ago, although very productive, have not proved of the highest quality. The *Cusco*, for example, has yielded on the grounds of the writer at the rate of five hundred and twenty bushels per acre—and there was but one objection to this sort, namely, that the potatoes were not good for anything. The *Garnet Chili* has been widely introduced, and is a good hardy sort of medium quality. The latter

sorts, however, are much the best of the *Goodrich* varieties. Perhaps no potato ever raised, has proved more valuable than the *Early Goodrich*. Taken altogether we know of no early potato that will approach it for general value. It is quite early very productive, has scarcely ever been affected with the rot, is excellent in quality, and is a good keeper. The *Gleason* and *Calico* are later sorts, and about equally productive and excellent. If they succeed as well in all localities, as where already tested, they will, at least for a time, become the principal or standard varieties.

We have excellent accounts of the *New Brunswick* seedling, and from acquaintance with persons raising them we may say we have heard of none to surpass them. They are a potato for general use, good at all times of the year, good croppers, and will resist rot when all other varieties have failed. We intend to plant them to a considerable extent ourselves this season. Next year we hope to be able to supply you at lower rates. We expect the demand will be greater than our supply, for each of the above named varieties. Should any of our readers know of any other kind for sale, please inform us immediately, stating price delivered at the nearest railroad station.

Our circulation has increased faster the last month than at any previous time. The Emporium business has also rapidly increased, and our prospects for the future are most encouraging. We now feel ourselves in a favorable position, and look back on our labors with wonder and astonishment on what we have done. The foundation is firmly established, and the Emporium must rapidly loom in view to every one, and its benefits felt by all. Let one or more persons join together and take charge of one class of stock or variety of seed, not more than one in each county. It matters not what part of the Province they may be in, the rail unites all, and each can form a profitable and beneficial connection with the Emporium. See prices in this number.

We will guarantee that in three years each purchaser of either class will say it has been the best agricultural investment they ever made. They will be expected to follow to some extent instructions from us.

It is said that during the past fifty years statistics of the dry-goods trade have proved that ninety merchants in every hundred have failed; five in every hundred have made a living, and one in every hundred realized a fortune.