

*Isle of Wight*.—Disease has made its appearance, but not general.

*Mid-Lothian*.—Seedlings of last year vigorous, as also crops from sets procured from the North and West country, and some from Rio Janeiro.—Many fields look miserable which had been planted with diseased tubers.

*Norfolk*.—All varieties affected nearly alike. Those manured with lime the worst in one instance. Disease spreading rapidly.

*Perthshire*.—Several fields much diseased. One of some acres a perfect wreck, and others in the same state; disease spreading fast.

*Shropshire*.—Crops generally affected. One field a month ago flourishing, now a pitiful spectacle, the leaves entirely stripped from the blotched and fast-decaying stems, and the tubers near the surface discoloured.—Winter sorts presumed to be a total failure.

*Surrey*.—Disease spreading rapidly. Those on poor soils least affected.

*Worcester*.—Disease of last year again; but plants in garden looking so well that if August proved dry hoped the calamity would not be so great as anticipated.

*Wigtonshire*.—Disease universal, and proceeding rapidly.

*Wiltshire*.—Disease spreading rapidly; and varieties which last year escaped comparatively uninjured, this season affected.

*Yorkshire*.—Early crops free from disease; 2d earlies a fortnight ago sound, now with leaves withered as in Nov.—stalks decaying—tubers all shew the spot. Winter potatoes in full flower, (22d July), with no disease discoverable.

After taking this gloomy view of the subject, it affords some relief to be able to approach something like a tangible practical conclusion respecting the origin of this appalling disease, in the following interesting extract of a Communication in the same well conducted periodical:—

*The Potatoe Disease*.—I have watched this peculiar visitation with much interest now for more than a twelvemonth, and although its reappearance has been doubted by some, it now begins to be generally admitted to have actually taken place, and to be carrying destruction into every quarter. I have not seen a piece of Potatoes in a cottager's garden, a farmer's field, or any other place, but what is previously affected with what is and has been termed "the disease," viz., ulceration, gangrene, putridity, mildew, and every form of mischief; and the effluvia is very disagreeable in every quarter.

I have the most abundant crops of Potatoes from autumn-planted sets, but the haulm and foliage of none are free from the pest, or ever have been, though to a casual observer they appeared all that could be wished, luxuriant and healthy. I had a beautiful bed of seedlings, and a quantity planted out in due time are growing away as luxuriantly as from a good sized tuber; they are all diseased, and have long been so, although the seed was brought from Ireland, and advertised as having been saved from plants free from disease. They were sown by me on a healthy, sweet, well prepared piece of ground, and planted, too, where a Potato to my own knowledge had not been grown for these last six seasons—if ever previously. I have observed that all those manured with charrings, soot, and lime, are the last to be attacked in the stalks and foliage: and I have not as yet found a decayed or affected tuber to outward appearance amongst those manured with the above materials, but I will look sharply after them on taking up the crop, which will very soon now take place, as I have long since burnt up all the stalk and foliage. I shall, as I did last year, dress all the Potatoes as they are taken up with the above materials; indeed I have all the early crops already done; but then it is of but little use unless my neighbours also put an effectual remedy into practice.

The real cause of all this destruction amongst the Potato crops is a very small insect of a light yellow straw colour, with a small pointed head with horns, and it has six legs. This appears to me

to be the female, the male is something larger, of a darker colour, having wings and four golden coloured strips on each side of its body: these insects are remarkably active in their movements, puncturing the ribs and other parts of the under sides of the foliage of the Potatoes, where they may easily be discovered with, or by the application of a good glass; and if the stalks and green leaves are placed in a good position in respect to the reflection of a good clear light, &c., both the insect, their wood and bunches of eggs, may readily be discovered on their stems, stalks, 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 destructive have made punctures, which they do astonishingly quick, proceeding on to more 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 insects 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 it 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, hooped beds, borders, quarters, and every field and garden, induced me 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 char-coal-dust is applied, it either kills or drives them away; but as to Tobacco-smoke, it does not seem to take any more effect on 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 hopes 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 in retarding or entirely stopping the ravages of insects.

After this clear, lucid, and to my mind highly satisfactory investigation of the origin and progress of the disease by so well informed and careful a practical observer, it might be considered altogether unnecessary to superadd another word, until further accounts from Britain shall have reached us; but as even the best evidence is strengthened by corroborative testimony, I will venture to adduce the following opportune additional proof which has lately come to my knowledge; namely, that *Mr. Balkwell*, a respectable Chemist of Kingsbridge in Devonshire, has addressed a Communication to the *Secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society* on the same subject, in which he says,—“The Potato disease is spreading in this locality more, if possible, than last year; and as I imagine that I have, beyond a doubt, discovered the origin of it, I am desirous of putting you in possession of the facts, which I will do in as concise