

from the sound potatoes when taken up to be housed. We managed our potatoes this way last year, and the sound portion of the crop kept very well until spring—scarcely one was unsound. We have not seen this disease reasonably accounted for. We have observed a great quantity of flies about the potatoe stalks in the latter end of August, and we have seen many small bugs upon the stalks, but we cannot say whether either insects have any connection with the decay of the stalks or the rotting of the tubers. Our own opinion is, that the decay in the stalks takes place previous to that of the tubers, as in most instances the whole of the tops decay, when only a small portion of the tubers are affected. This was the case in our own crop last year; the whole of the top became black in two or three days, without the slightest frost, and not more than a third or fourth of the tubers were diseased. The state of the soil at a time that the stalks are in a most luxuriant stage of their growth, may cause the decay, and this decay may infect the tubers, then in a very soft state; and we have observed that the potatoe nearest the surface are the most diseased. We believe it is injurious to apply a large quantity of recent manure in planting, and think it would be much better to have the manure previously well mixed with the soil, in land prepared for potatoes.

The pastures have very much improved by the late rains, and we hope the farmer's stock will be in good condition before the winter commences. The dairy produce sells at a fair price, and will probably continue so to the end of the year. The market is well supplied with butcher's meat—particularly with beef, mutton, and lamb. Indeed, our market exhibits lamb, mutton, and beef that might satisfy any epicure; and though we have often heard it stated to the contrary, we think the flavour of our beef and mutton is sweeter and better here than in the British isles, as we have not so much forcing in feeding cattle and sheep as at home. The improvement in the quality of our meat latterly is very great, and if we would only pay a little more attention to the breeding and selection of stock, and to our pastures, we should soon observe a further improvement. The prospect of our farmers, if the remainder of the harvest turns out fine, will be more favourable than it has been for some years. They will have a considerable quantity of wheat

to sell, and probably get a good price. We do not wish to see very high prices, but we wish to see them remunerating. This is the time for finishing summer fallows, and thoroughly cleaning them. It is also the time for draining and top dressing grass lands. As we have so often before stated, draining is the first requisite to improvement, and successful farming. Without it we never can have good farming, or be sure of good crops. It is the want of it that in most instances prevents early sowing and planting. Wheat must be sown late to escape the fly, but all other grain crops might be sown early, and they would have a much better chance of maturing perfectly, and be harvested well, and in good time. The great cause of bad crops is the unfit state of the land for harrowing in Spring, when the weeds that are in the soil commence growing, and hence keep a-head of the crop until both are cut down. No land that is not sufficiently drained can be cultivated to advantage for any crop. A large portion of the soil of Canada is strong clay; and when this is ploughed in the Fall, and left in a state that the water cannot drain off quickly in Spring; it runs into a mass again, that when dried by the sun, is not fit to be sown or harrowed until again ploughed. This every farmer may know who has any experience here. Labour has been at a high price this year, and scarce in the market, so that farmers found it difficult to procure as many hands as they required. The consequence of this is always a loss, from not having help to do the work. It cannot fail to be a favourable year for emigrants coming here for employment, as they have work offered in every direction of town and country, and this employment is likely to continue.

Cote St. Paul, September 12, 1845.

MANURES.

The following paper has been submitted to the Royal English Agricultural Society, and we copy it for our subscribers, as it contains hints that might be as useful to the Canadian farmer as to the English. We do not wish to give any selections but such as may be useful:—

To grow the greatest quantity of produce at least possible expense must be viewed as a subject of very great importance both to the landholder and farmer, which is only to be accomplished by properly constructed farmyards, with tanks, drains, &c. No farm can literally be considered eligible without it. On this subject I have addressed the Royal Agricultural Societies of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and also many noblemen and eminent landholders.