

THE FARMER.

REMARKS ON THE POTATO DISEASE.

By J. L. HYDE, Esq., at the Farmers' Club of the American Institute.

The subject of the malady in potatoes has been so much discussed, that the mention of it has become rather repulsive, and perhaps an apology is due for again reverting to it; yet, it is a fact that thousands are perishing by famine, in consequence of the failure of the crop of this valuable root, in foreign lands; and in our own country the loss in consequence of the malady is to be reckoned by millions. The difference in the cost of potatoes consumed in New York and Brooklyn in one year, may be seen by the following estimate. Allowing the population of the two cities to be 400,000, and supposing each family to consist of ten persons, the number of families will be 40,000. Each family, probably, on an average, consumes one bushel per week, or say fifty bushels in a year. By this estimate the yearly consumption is 2,000,000 bushels. The increase in the price per bushel in consequence of deficient crops is about 60 cents per bushel, making the whole yearly loss \$1,200,000. The loss to the whole country is immense, and as the season has arrived when the remedy for the evil is to be applied if used at all, the importance of the subject seems to justify introducing it, although rather stale.

To consider the potato disease as one of those inexplicable visitations of Providence, which no human skill can avert, and therefore, to give up all further inquiry, seems to me a conclusion unworthy the intelligence and enterprise of the present age. When careful and long continued experiments and observations shall have been made, and scientific research exhausted without any indication of success it may be given up in despair; but neither have the efforts to ascertain the cause of the disease been so long continued, nor the indications of success so unpromising as to justify such a conclusion.

Much has been said and written upon the subject and many theories have been advanced, most of them founded upon careful observations and adhered to with great pertinacity. One discovers aphides among the vines of the diseased plants, and after many examinations he finds that where these abound the tubers decay, and where there are none the tubers are sound. He therefore concludes he has discovered the true cause, and gives no credit to any other theory. Another concludes, from his observations, that the disease is caused by fungi. Some attribute the disease to different manures, others to soil or to peculiarities of the season. All may be right in one sense; any or all of these causes may contribute in completing the destruction; but that no one of them is the primary cause is very evident. The very fact that there are so many and so various causes, either of which appears by careful observation to have been adequate in itself, sufficient to prove that they are all secondary, and in reality only effects of some thing beyond which still must be sought as the true primary cause through whatever instrumentality it may exert itself.

There are certain facts probably known to all which I shall state here, not as anything new, but as the foundation of an argument. 1st. Potatoes have very generally ceased to produce seed, although blossoms may be seen in abundance; you may, in some instances, examine large fields in the proper season without discovering a single ball. 2nd. The potato crop is much inferior in quality to what it was formerly. I have known a 1000 bushels produced from a single acre, cultivated in a very careless manner, and in some parts of the field I have seen a bushel dug from four hills. 500 bushels per acre was formerly considered only a fair crop without much care in manuring, planting, or cultivating. What is considered a fair average crop now?

These facts seem clearly to indicate the loss of vitality in the plant. I infer, therefore, that the potato malady is in consequence of vitality, occasioned by long continued propagation from the root, without renovation from the seed. This inference appears to me reasonable, because established principles of natural history justify it. It appears necessary: 1st. Because the committee appointed by the Viceroy of Santa Fe de Bogota, nearly one hundred years ago, to investigate the same subject, after laborious research reported that the disease was caused by loss of vitality, which must be renewed by planting the seed from the vines; and further, after five years they reported that among the planters who had propagated new varieties from the seed balls of healthy tubers, not a rotten potato could be found. This is a matter of record found in the archives of the government. [See Mr. Williamson's statement Agricultural, p. 44.]

2nd. Because the well attested facts, stated by Mr. Smith of Buffalo, as the result of his experiments, prove the same thing. (Agricul. p. 51 and Cul. p. 21.) It may be stated also that the Savans of Russia, appointed by the Emperor, to investigate the subject have come to the same conclusion, and induced the Emperor to order from this country, all the seed that could be procured—as stated here by the venerable Mr. Thoburn.

3rd. The inference is fairly drawn from principles and facts in natural history. I shall now attempt to show, and I hope to do it satisfactorily to every candid mind. It may be proper here to state some of these principles and facts—I offer the following propositions:— 1st. Although most plants may be propagated either by the seed or by cuttings, the former method only can be perpetual; the latter cannot be continued for any

length of time.

2nd. The progeny of any plant will possess all the essential properties, and generally most of the incidental properties of the progenitor.

3rd. There is in the procreation of plants a tendency both to improvement and to deterioration.

4th. The better the condition of the plant at the time of procreation, the better will be the condition of the progeny.

5th. Although great changes may be produced in plants, yet these changes require time and frequently among reproductions.

6th. The circumstances of soil, climate, cultivation, &c., will do much to vary the apparent loss of vitality from age in plants.

7th. Plants that have lost their vitality are more subject to the attacks of parasites than plants in a vigorous state.—Plants have their peculiar parasites but they are not always confined in their depredations to the plants in which they originate.

8th. The production of abundant blossoms, few of which are succeeded by mature fruit, is an indication of loss of vitality, and generally on account of old age.

These propositions are too simple, and obvious to every careful observer, to admit any doubt. It would indeed, seem to be a retrograde movement in science to attempt to prove them, yet if granted, they are sufficient for my purpose; they will explain all the phenomena that have been observed and reported in relation to the potato rot.

The plant is said to be attacked by aphides; this is true, but it is explained by the 7th proposition above. Plants that have lost their vitality are more subject to the attacks of parasites than plants in full vigor. Fungi have been found in great abundance upon the diseased plants. This is explained in the same way, but it is said the attacks of these same fungi are not confined to the potato, and hence it is inferred that they do not originate in a disease peculiar to this plant. Parasites often prey upon plants in which they never originate.

It is said again, that crops, in many instances were less injured by the rot in 1846, than crops upon the same ground were in 1845; although the seed for the crop of 1846 was taken from the crop of 1845. This is explained by the 6th proposition, which also accounts for the different degrees of disease in different soils and with different manures. In short there is no well authenticated fact in relation to the disease that may not be satisfactorily explained by supposing the cause to be too long continued propagation from the root, without renewing from the seed.

Although I have already said more than I at first intended to say, yet I cannot dismiss the subject without bestowing a happy notice upon some editorial remarks in the Cultivator.

I regret that a person who stands so high, as does the editor of this valuable periodical, allows himself to take so superficial view of this important subject. In an article in the January No., p. 21, he says—"If it were true that the potato disease were wholly constitutional, as our correspondent supposes, the vegetation would be equally effected in all locations, which is not the case." This is a strange inference indeed! He might as well say, if a man is affected with the scrofula, or any other constitutional disease, it is of no consequence what regimen he adopt, he will be just as likely to die under one course of treatment as another. Again, he says—"If it can be proved that varieties of fruit degenerate by being propagated by grafting or budding, we should regard it as evidence that the potato might be effected in the way indicated." He must be a young man, or have spent his days among seedlings, not to have had opportunity of knowing by his own observation, that although the quality of fruit is not deteriorated, but rather improved by grafting; yet the vitality of the graft cannot be protracted much beyond the natural age of the original stock. The choicest fruits of former times have all passed away, notwithstanding the efforts to continue them by grafting, and have been succeeded by new varieties, obtained from seedlings, many of which equal or surpass their predecessors. This is a fact so well established and so important, that it ought to be known to all interested in the cultivation of trees, and other plants; and especially to those, who, from their position, are to give direction to the opinions and practice of others.

Again he seems to infer from his own experience that the disease in the potato cannot be eradicated by planting the seeds. He says—"Of the six or seven kinds produced from seed, nearly all were evidently effected (affected) by the potato disease." Yet he admits that—"One or two kinds seemed to have more natural stamina than the others, and continued vigorous till the close of the season."—This is precisely the result indicated by the 3d, 4th, and 5th of the above propositions. It is not to be supposed that a deeply seated constitutional disease can be wholly eradicated from plants or animals, by a single reproduction.

His own account, however, shows considerable advancement towards renovation by a single experiment. There is certainly enough of probability about this theory to claim for it a candid consideration. Let it then be fairly and fully investigated. Let experiments of planting seed be continued, and let the facts observed in all attempts, to renew the vigor of the plant in this way, be compared with the laws of propagation. If there are apparent discrepancies let them be published, and if they cannot be explained, by the principle of this theory, let it be abandoned.

An important step has already been taken by Mr. Smith, of Buffalo, and his success has been as great as could reason-

ably be expected. It has, in fact, been in exact accordance with the fixed laws of nature. This subject should be met by careful investigation founded upon sound principles, and guided by common sense; not by that guessing method which knows no principle, unless it be to adopt the most popular opinion. In conclusion, let me ask—is there not much reason to believe, that if these experiments be continued, not only planting seed, but the seed of balls, selected from the most vigorous plants; in a few years the potato rot will have wholly ceased, and this distressing calamity will have passed away.

Telegraph posts are now being erected from Washington to New Orleans.

TERMS OF THE HERALD. This paper is published every Tuesday, at \$2 per annum, payable half-yearly in advance.—If not paid within the year, \$2.50 will invariably be charged.

No subscription taken for less than six months.—nor can a subscriber discontinue unless at the option of the editor, until arrears are paid off.

Advertisements will be inserted at \$1 per square, for the first three insertions, and 25 cents for every subsequent insertion: longer ones in proportion.

NOTICE. All persons indebted to the subscriber on Note or Book account are requested to call and settle their accounts immediately or they will be placed in the hands of an officer for collection.

JAMES H. BENFORD. Somerset, March 30, 1847.

MARBLE TOMB STONES. The subscriber thanks for past favors, respectfully informs the public generally, that he continues to carry on the Stone cutting business, at his shop in Somerset, where he will always keep on hand and finish to order a variety of MARBLE and COMMON TOMB STONES,

all of which will be sold at reasonable prices. Country produce taken in exchange for work at market prices. BENJAMIN WOOLEY. March 2, 1847—1y

Latest Arrival of NEW & CHEAP GOODS At the "Big Brick," N. W. CORNER OF THE DIAMOND.

The subscriber takes this method of informing his friends and the public in general, that he had just received from Philadelphia and Baltimore, a large and well selected assortment of Spring and Summer Goods, which he is determined to sell at such prices and terms, that cannot fail to please.

He will take in exchange for goods, all kinds of country produce, viz: Butter, Eggs, Wool, Rags, Boards, Hides and Skins, Grain of all kinds, &c., &c., &c. JOHN M. HOLDERBAUM, May 4, '47.

Cheap Tin-Ware. WILLIAM A. PARKER.

HAS removed his shop to the building recently occupied by Elias Benford as a saddle shop, one door east of the Herald office, Somerset, Pa., where he will constantly keep on hand a general assortment of TIN-WARE, manufactured of good material and in a neat and substantial manner. He will also make to order COPPER WARE of every description on short notice. All of which he will sell uncommonly cheap for CASH or exchange for approved country produce.

Country merchants who wish to buy ware to retail, can be supplied on short notice and accommodating terms. April 6, 1847.

'Gen Taylor never surrenders!' PINE MILL MANUFACTORY,

one half mile East of Stoytown, Somerset Co., Pa., near the great Philadelphia and Pittsburg Turnpike Road.

THE subscribers would respectfully announce to the public, that they have entered into partnership in the Woolen Manufacturing Business, and having received new

POWER LOOMS and **CARDING MACHINES** from the East, of the most approved and latest fashion; and all other machinery new and in prime order, they are ready and anxious to accommodate customers in every branch of manufacturing; from

WOOL CARDING and Felling to manufacturing Sattinets, Cloths, Jeans, Flannels, Blankets, Carpeting, &c., &c., according to order, in a workmanlike manner.

And at 20 per cent lower than usual for manufacturing, without delay or disappointment. Having in their employ the most skillful workmen that can be procured, they feel confident of rendering entire satisfaction.

S. KIMMEL, D. KOONTZ, Pine Mills, April 27, 1847. P. S. All kinds of domestic goods and an extensive assortment of merchandise received lately from the East to be had at S. Kimmel's Store at the Mills very low in exchange for wool, Flaxseed or other approved produce. S. K.

Millinery & Mantua Making.

MISS S. M. EARL,

WOULD respectfully inform the Ladies of Somerset and vicinity that she is capable of doing the above work in **The Neatest and most Fashionable Style.** and will be grateful for a share of their patronage. [April 27]

HOTEL FOR INVALIDS AT PITTSBURGH.

Drs. Speer and Kuhn.

THE object of this establishment is to supply a want greatly felt by respectable travellers on our western highways—by residents, without family, taken sick—and by patients from the surrounding towns and country who resort to this place for relief from surgical and other diseases. Such have often suffered from the want of the various comforts and attentions so necessary and agreeable to the sick, and from careless and unfaithful nurses; and been subjected to heavy and unreasonable charges.

Invalids will here be provided with constant, faithful and comfortable attendance, and at a rate much below the usual charges.

While the care of both physicians will be extended to every variety of disease, it is intended by Dr. Speer, to give special attention to

ALL SURGICAL DISEASES, PARTICULARLY TO **DISEASES OF THE EYE.** To these branches of his profession he has given a large share of his attention for the last twenty-five years, and he will continue to devote to them the experience acquired by a constant practice during that time.

The Hotel for Invalids is not an experiment. Its establishment is suggested not only as necessary to supply an evident want in this city, in the entire absence of any special provision for the sick, but is warranted also by the success of similar institutions at Cincinnati and New Orleans—the former under the care of Drs. Taliaferro, Marshall and Strader—the latter under that of Dr. Stone.

The building selected for the purpose is situated at the corner of Federal and Robinson streets, in Allegheny city, adjoining the city of Pittsburgh. It is commodious and roomy, and furnished with all accommodations necessary for the sick.

Applications for admission to be made to the subscribers, at their office on Penn street, Pittsburgh, or at the establishment. No contagious diseases will be admitted. J. R. SPEER, M. D. J. S. KUHN, M. D. February 25, 1845.

Worms! Worms!! Worms!!!

JAYNE'S TONIC VERMIFUGE.—This Vermifuge is perfectly safe, and so pleasant that children will not refuse to take it. It effectually destroys worms, neutralizes acidity or sourness of the stomach, increases appetite, and acts as a general or perient Tonic, and is therefore exceedingly beneficial in intermittent and remittent Fevers, Indigestion, &c., and is almost a certain cure for Fever and Ague, and what is of more importance, it does it permanently.

It not only destroys Worms, and invigorates the whole system, but it dissolves and carries off the superabundant slime or mucus, so prevalent in the stomach and bowels of children, more especially of those in bad health. This mucus forms the bed, or nest, in which worms produce their young, and by removing it, it is impossible for worms to remain in the body.

It is harmless in its effects on the system, and the health of the patient is always improved by its use, even when no worms are discovered. Numerous certificates of its usefulness have been received, which the Proprietor does not consider necessary to publish; yet to give the reader an idea of its Vermifuge powers, he will mention a few cases.— He gave it to his little nephew, not four years old, and in a few days he discharged upwards of ninety large worms.— He also gave it to his daughter, then a bout three years old, when it brought forth thirty worms in one night.

Josiah Thompson, near Salem, N. J. administered this Vermifuge to a child between two and three years old, and says that in a few days, she discharged one hundred and thirty seven large worms!

Mr. Joseph A. Lentz, of the Penn Township Savings Institution, in this city, gave it to one of his children, and says that after the sixth dose, it brought away about fifty worms at once, five and six inches long.

Mr. Ferdinand Woodruff used two bottles of this Vermifuge for Dyspepsia, and in the course of two weeks discharged upwards of thirty pieces of Tape Worm, and was thereby perfectly cured.

Another gentleman of this city had it administered to his little daughter, about three years old, when she had a number of discharges from her bowels, composed entire of little white thread worms. He says "they came away from her, not only by hundreds, but I may truly say, by thousands, separately, and in solid balls as large as hickory nuts, composed entirely of dead worms.

PILES.—Numerous cases of Piles have been perfectly cured by the use of this valuable Vermifuge.

Finally, what the public long have desired, a medicine of this kind, which might be depended upon (prepared by a regular physician) is now offered to them, and can be had of DR. D. JAYNE, No. 8 South Third street, Philadelphia, and all persons who sell his Expectorant and Carminative Balsam.

New and Seasonable Goods

AT KIMMEL'S CHEAP CORNER!

THE subscriber respectfully informs the citizens of Somerset Borough and vicinity that he has just received from Philadelphia and Baltimore a large assortment of

SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS, Consisting of Cloths, Cassimeres, Sattinets, Tweeds, Pals Alto, Mexican and Velvet Cords, Blue Drills, Alpacaes, Lawns, Gingham, Muslin de Laines, & Calicoes.

Also Boots and Shoes, Palm Leaf Hats, Bonnets, and a general assortment of Hardware, Dye Stuffs, such as Madder and Ludigo, of superior qualities. **GROCERIES, &c., &c.,** which he will sell cheap for cash or exchange for approved country produce. April 6, 1847. **JOHN O. KIMMEL.**

NOW FOR CHEAP BARGAINS. **FRESH SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS!**

THE subscriber has just received from the East, in addition to his former stock, a fresh supply of merchandise, suitable for the season. His stock of **DRY GOODS** consists in part of Cloths, Cassimeres, Sattinets, Vestings, Cravats, Drillings, Muslins, Cords, Alpacaes, Mouslain de Laines, Silks, Silk and Cotton Handkerchiefs, Hose and half Hose, Lawns, Laces and Calicoes. Also; Ladies' and Gentlemen's Gloves, Boots and Shoes, Bonnets and Palm leaf Hats; together with a supply of **Queensware and Hardware, Groceries, Paints and Dye-Stuffs.** All of which he will sell at moderate prices for cash, or exchange for approved country produce. Call and see! April 6th, 1847. **DANIEL FLICK.**

R. L. STEWART, Attorney at Law, Somerset, Pa.

OFFICE OF F. M. KIMMEL, Esq., on Main Cross street.

A Fact Worth Knowing.

A gentleman of a scrupulous habit, became affected with Ulcerations of the Throat and Nose, and a disagreeable and troublesome disease of the skin. Indeed his whole system bore the marks of being saturated with disease. One hand and wrist were so much affected that he had lost the use of the hand, every part being covered with deep, painful, and offensive Ulcers, and his hand and wrist were as hollow and perous as a honeycomb. It was at this stage of his complaint, when death appeared inevitable from a loathsome disease, that he commenced the use of **JAYNE'S ALTERNATIVE**, and having taken sixteen bottles, is now perfectly cured.— **PUBLIC LEDGER.**

This ALTERNATIVE operates through the circulation and purifies the blood and eradicates diseases from the system, wherever located; and the numerous cures it has performed in diseases of the Skin, Cancer, Scrofula, Gout, Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia, and other Chronic diseases, is truly astonishing.

Prepared only by Dr. D. Jayne, No 3 South Third Street, Philadelphia.

Jayne's Hair Tonic.

We know Dr. Quigley personally, and there is no man in the country whose opinion is entitled to more respect. He is on all subjects, honest and sincere, and his high character as a Physician can be attested by the first medical men in the city.—Philadelphia Sun.

Shepherds' Town, Va., Oct. 10, 1843.

Dear Sir,—You inquire of me whether I have used your Hair Tonic, and with what effect. Several years ago my hair began to fall rapidly from the scalp, and I had the prospect of premature baldness. A length a friend recommended your Hair Tonic.

I used three or four bottles, according to the printed direction, and at the end of six months, my hair was thick set and since its tendency to turn grey was arrested.

I have never before given a certificate recommending patent medicines, which indiscriminately used, as they often are, do much injury; but in a case like the present, where I know the article to be beneficial, and that it can do no harm, I have no scruples in stating facts within my own knowledge. Yours, &c., **JOHN QUIGLEY, M.D.** Dr. D. JAYNE, Philadelphia. Sold by J. J. & H. F. Schell, Somerset Pa. Also by Edward Bevin, Stoytown Pa.

DOES NOT REASON AND COMMON SENSE teach us that Expectoration is the most natural as well as most effectual agent in arresting and curing **PULMONARY DISEASES?**

Reason says yes, because OBSTRUCTION is either immediately or remotely the cause of Inflammation and Catarrhal Fevers, producing Croup, Consumption, and Abscesses of the Lungs, Pain and Soreness of the Throat, Breast, Sides, or Shoulders—Bronchitis, exciting mucous and purulent secretions, thereby clogging up the lungs, so as to more or less impede both respiration and the free circulation of the blood, causing Difficulty of Breathing, and ASTHMA, Pleurisy, Hoarseness and Loss of Voice, Dropsy of the Heart and Chest, Rupture of Blood Vessels and Bleeding from Throat and Lungs, and Spitting of Blood.

To remove this Obstruction, from which all these alarming and dangerous diseases originate, and to produce a radical cure, nothing has ever been found equal to Jayne's Expectoration.

It stands unrivalled—It stands pre-eminent—try it, and you will be forced to acknowledge that its virtues have not, nor cannot be overrated; that it stands far above and beyond the reach of competition; that it is the only reasonable, the only natural and the only truly successful method of arresting and curing diseases of the Pulmonary Organs. For sale by J. J. & H. F. Schell, Somerset, Pa. Also by Edward Bevin, Stoytown Pa.



Another New Year!

Amid the ever succession of periods, once more has revolved around. How fraught with food for thought are those "mile stones" in human life!

Change after Change— how many the changes—that a retrospect of the past 12 months will conjure up to view!

The Struggling Poor have in some instances been made happy by the dawn of brighter days; while those basking in the

Sunshine of Prosperity have had to taste the bitter pangs of want. How ought these vivid lessons— from off life's truthful page—to stir up the hearts of all

—to goodly deeds, And thoughts of sympathy! Death, too, has not been idle; but has helped to make up the changes of the past year. And where health once took up its abode, disease now holds its thrall-dom. But how oft is ill health attributed to

Negligence or Prejudice, which induces the suffering invalid to refuse using the right remedy which his own peculiar malady calls for. The experience of more than

Ten Thousand Trials proves the unequalled value of that pleasant and most celebrated medicine, **Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry, For Diseases of the Lungs and Breast!**

ANOTHER ASTONISHING CURE! **Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry!**

For Coughs, Colds, Consumption, &c. Important to all those afflicted with Diseases of the Lungs and Breast. Will Miracles ever cease? More evidence of its surprising Health-Restorative virtues!

The following has just been received from Mr. Edward Stratton, of Lexington, Mo., which shows that Consumption in its worst form can be cured by Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry.

LEXINGTON, Mo., Jan. 21, 1845. Benjamin Phelps—Dear Sir: I take great pleasure in communicating to you what I consider an extraordinary cure effected on my daughter, about 11 years of age, by Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry. About the first of September last, my daughter was taken sick, and attended by several physicians, whose prescriptions were ineffectual, or seemed to do no good. She was attended with a constant cough and pain in the breast. Her physicians and all who seen her, came to the conclusion that she was in a confirmed stage of Consumption. I made no other calculation than for her to die. But as she commenced taking the Balsam she began to improve, and continued so until her health was restored, and is now entirely well. With a view of benefiting those who may be similarly afflicted, I take pleasure in recommending this medicine to the confidence of the public.

Yours, with respect, **EDWARD STRATTON.**

*The true and genuine Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry is sold at established agencies in all parts of the U. States. Sold in Cincinnati on the corner of Fourth and Walnut streets by **SANFORD & PARK.** Gen'l agents for the Western States.

AGENTS FOR WISTAR'S BALSAM. S. KURTZ, Somerset. J. Lloyd & Co. Donegal, S. Philson, Berlin, H. Little, Stoytown, G. H. Ketsner, Bedford, October 20, 1846—1y

JOB PRINTING, NEATLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY EXECUTED AT THIS OFFICE. **BLANK SUMMONS' AND EXECUTIONS,** For sale at this Office.