

TO AGRICULTURISTS.

A REMEDY FOR THE POTATO DISEASE.—Mr. R. Miles writes as follows to the editor of the *Bristol Times*:

"In all affected potatoes, even before the disease is visible to the naked eye, there is to be found a degree of moisture very far in excess of that met with in sound potatoes; and this watery principle gradually increases until the disease itself makes its appearance, when the character of the potato is changed, and the transition from comparative soundness to complete rottenness is sometimes the work of a day, but often the doing of an hour. Cultivators are indebted to Professor Bollman, of St. Peterburg, for the accidental discovery of a remedy which has been found to answer so well in Russia, that on many estates drying-houses have been built for the purpose of carrying out the experiment; and, as it has been in operation in that country since 1855, it has consequently undergone a seven years' trial. In the autumn of 1855 Professor Bollman received from a friend, a Cossack in the Russian army, stationed in Siberia, a sample of a new potato, with which he received two recommendations, namely, good in quality and a perfect hundred fold in produce. These potatoes were accidentally placed on the back of a stove used for heating the Professor's study, where, by some mischance, they were forgotten till the planting season arrived; when discovered they were shrivelled so much that fears were entertained they would not grow at all."

However, the potatoes were planted, and flourished to such a degree that the two recommendations before mentioned were pronounced to be verified; and what was more remarkable still, although the potatoes in the neighborhood and throughout the country was more or less affected by the disease, every potato of the new kind was entirely free from the disorder. This induced the Professor to adopt the expedient of drying, and in consequence the entire produce was submitted immediately (after being dug) to a high temperature, which had the effect of charing some potatoes, and shrivelling the rest. It was surmised at the time that the charred potatoes were killed; they were nevertheless planted at the proper season, and the charred potatoes grew and did quite as well as those potatoes which were merely shrivelled. The year 1855 also proved that, although the disease was generally distributed throughout the country, not one of the Professor's new potatoes were affected by it in the least. The experiment was again repeated in 1856, and the crop exhibited the same freedom from disease. The kinds mostly in cultivation were then operated on sorts which were yearly more or less affected by the disease, still with the same result. The digging time of 1857 produced a splendid crop of potatoes; upwards of three acres were planted with kiln dried potatoes, and although the produce exceeded 1,000 bushels, not a diseased potato was discovered.

"In 1858 Professor Bollman erected a drying-house with heated floors on his estate, and within the past two years similar structures have taken place in the different estates of the principally landowners. It is gratifying to find that the action of the shriveling process on potatoes already diseased arrests the progress of the infection and kills the disease; thus leaving a portion of the potato sound enough to be eligible for spring planting. It has been stated that by the constant raising of new varieties from seed, planters may be considerably diminished, and this proved to be the case with the fluke kidney, for the first two years after it was introduced, and even after its cultivation had become pretty general, this famous kidney had not been attacked by disease; but last year the fluke has been in some instances as badly diseased as the forty-fold regents, &c., so that the process of kiln drying promises far greater advantages and more certain results than all the experiments put together which have from time to time been offered for the consideration of the public."

At the Farham Cottagers' Annual Exhibition of Vegetables, &c., recently held, the Bishop of Winchester, referring to the potato disease, said: "He had learnt a receipt which he advised all the cottagers to try. In Norfolk and some parts of Devonshire the potatoes were planted in rows thirty inches apart, they were hoed up in the ordinary manner, and the first moment the disease appeared they were covered with the soils just like celery. In places where this plan had been tried the potatoes proved good and numerous. In some cases the potatoes had been planted one side the hedge, according to the new system, and the other according to the old, and the consequence was that in the former they were good and plentiful, and in the latter a failure. The cottagers would do well to try the new plan next year, and his lordship would thank them to tell him the result."

NEW MODE OF GRAFTING.—The French are practising a new method of grafting, a knowledge of which may prove valuable to American horticulturists, inasmuch as it can be performed at any season of the year when sound matured buds can be had, whether the sap is in a flowing state or not. It is performed by removing a small piece of bark and wood, leaving a smooth and flat surface, to which a similar piece containing the bud, which is to form the future tree, is fitted, which is sealed over immediately with collodion. This forms a strong, imperious cuticle, which secures a free circulation of sap on the approach of warm weather, and a perfect union of the parts.

HINTS ON SHINGLING.—Mr. Emerson, of Hollis, Mass., says that shingles soaked in thin whitedew made with brine water, will last much longer than when nothing is used. No matter how wide the shingle is, he would not place the two nails more than two inches apart. If nailed near the edge, and the shingle is green, shrinking causes it to split. If the shingle is dry and becomes wet and swells, the nail if on the edge is crowded out of its place. He does not drive the nail quite in, but leaves sufficient elevation to allow of the circulation of air and rapid drying.

WHAT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.—From the *Journal of Agriculture* we publish the following paragraph in relation to the growth of wheat in the vicinity of old Dartmouth:—"Col. Culver, of Lymne, has grown on six acres of fall sown wheat, 180 bushels, and on three spring sown, 120 bushels. The Town Farm, in Hanover, on a field of six acres, produced 226 bushels. John D. Bridgeman raised, on a little less than two acres, 96 bushels; and Elijah Remmey, East Hanover, from three bushels sown on 24 acres of soil, grew 125 bushels of fine spring wheat."

SPRING BARLEY BEFORE SOWING.—A writer in the *Horticulturist* recommends that seed barley should be steeped before sowing in a solution of copperas or blue vitriol, the same as is often done for wheat, and then rolled in plaster enough to dry it. He says it has the effect of giving it a rapid start, and makes it come up strong and dark colored. He thinks the benefit equal to ten extra loads of manure per acre.

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(See page 12 of *Hall's Grove, Pa.*)

B a n k Applications.

B A N K N O T E .—Notice is hereby
given that the undersigned have certified an Ac-
tivation, and prepared and executed a Certificate, for the
purpose of establishing a Bank of Issue, Discount and
Deposits, under the provisions of the act entitled "An
Act to establish a System of Free Banking in Pennsyl-
vania," approved the 31st day of March, A. D. 1860,
and Bank to be called "THE DOWNTOWN BANK,"
to be located in Downtown, to consist of a Capital
Stock of Fifty Thousand Dollars, in shares of Fifty Dol-
lars each, with the privilege of increasing the amount
of stock, not exceeding in all three Hundred Thousand
Dollars.

B A N K N O T E .—Notice is hereby
given that an Association has been formed and a
certificate prepared for the purpose of establishing a
Bank of Issue, Discount and Deposits under the
provisions of the act entitled "An Act to establish a System
of Free Banking in Pennsylvania, and to secure the
against loss from Insolvent Banks," approved the 31st
day of March, 1860. The said Bank to be called "The
Bethlehem Bank," and to be located in the borough of
Bethlehem, in the county of Northampton, but not
less than one mile from the city of Bethlehem, in a
place of not less than five acres, and in shares of Fifty
Dollars each, with the privilege of increasing the said
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