

Winn Bull

The Carleton Sentinel;

AND

FAMILY JOURNAL.

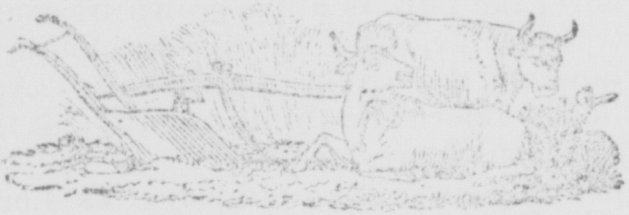
Devoted to Agriculture, Literature, and General Intelligence.--Neutral in Politics.

"Truth, Justice, Freedom, here shall find a home."

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AGRICULTURE.

THE POTATO.

This plant belongs to the night-shade family—a family, all the plants of which yield juices possessing certain sleep producing and stimulating properties. These juices are more or less poisonous, if taken in excess.

The potato plant rises with a branched and succulent stem, putting forth white and purple flowers, which are followed by fruit. The latter is in the form of round berries, or apples, of the size of small plums, green at first, but growing black when ripe, and containing numerous small seeds. The stem and fruit of the potato plant are highly poisonous. The root is fibrous, but has many tubers attached to it. These "apples of the earth" are generally of a round or oblong form, and although regarded as being very nutritious, still they possess certain poisonous properties, but which, providentially, are expelled by heat in preparing them for human food. The tubers, in their raw state, are not poisonous to the brute species.

The varieties of the potato are quite numerous, differing in earliness, lateness, form size, color and quality, which latter depends more or less upon the culture; but of that another time. "Hence, when we consider it either as smoking in solitary importance, on the laborer's humble board, or as taking its customary place among the viands of the great, the potato is equally welcome—not can it excite wonder, that it has always claimed the particular attention of agricultural experimentalists?" nor that in this present day of diseased potatoes that the whole community should be in search of a remedy, which we fear is to be found only in an improved agriculture. No specific will or can remove the disease. Thorough tillage, and proper replenishers alone are needed.

ITS PROPAGATION

"The potato may be propagated from its seeds, and it is in this way that new sorts are obtained; or it may be propagated by planting the tubers, in which case plants similar to the old, are produced." Lowe.

When potatoes are raised from seed, it becomes necessary to replant the tubers for several successive seasons, in order to bring them to a full size. The fruit or apples gathered when fully ripened (in the fall) and kept until spring—are to be sown in small drills, and when the plants have grown two or three inches high, they are then to be thinned to a distance of five or six inches. The following fall, the roots will supply some "small potatoes" or tubers, which are to be taken up and carefully preserved for planting the next coming spring. The tubers of this latter, being the second season, will determine more or less the quality, and although they may still be small potatoes, yet, by preserving the best varieties and planting them—a third season, you will then reap the reward of your patience, always providing, that you have raised them according to nature, and have not been guilty of crumming their throats with soluble pabulum—thus surfeiting the plant and rendering its tubers, waxy, watery, and worthless.

When potatoes are raised at once from the tubers, they yield their full produce in one season. Now the tuber, in the language of science, is an underground or subterranean stem, and upon its surface are many leaf buds, germs or eyes, from each of which a shoot or stem will put forth. Hence, it is not necessary to plant a whole tuber, but only such part of it as may contain one of these germs.

POTATO SETS.

Cuttings of the potatoes or tubers, are termed, in practical language, sets. In preparing them, (as with all other cuttings,) the internode, or part lying between eye and eye, should never be used. Such remark is only needed to preserve the analogy, since the tubers are generally cut up by passing the knife through them at the half distance between the buds which are sufficiently visible to prevent mistake. Small tubers are generally cut into two and larger ones into three or more pieces. Gardeners have observed that eyes taken from young tubers are more vigorous than those taken from more matured ones; this expression is expressed by the terms ripe and unripe, in effect the unripe potatoes give the best seed—an error of language which, we trust, will shortly appear. Among gar-

deners there is also a nice division of the tuber into three parts; that of the upper or watery end—the middle—and the lower, or mealy end: the former is said to be the unripe, the latter the ripened end; admitting all of which, it only serves to show that the potato tuber is in a progressive state of growth and maturation from the time of its first formation until further vegetation is checked by frost. In our climate the potato tubers are never fully ripened, unless through the intervention of art, as, for instance, if a short time before the close of the vegetating season, the vine be cut off, the tubers are then left to ripen in the soil, which will happen if warm weather continue, and the land be not too wet. The buds upon the upper end of the tuber are succulent, those on the lower end more firm, and thus through such different condition, the above practical division is well good; but it is not true that the gardener prefers unripe seed, even though such be his thought, for his very practice provides for the ripening of the sets before planting them. Nevertheless, buds or eyes taken from the upper end of the tuber yield the earlier, and those from the lower end the later crops, while the middle sets afford an intermediate one. This distinction is not necessary upon the farm, but you will observe that the sets should be ripened before they are planted, which may be done through either of the following practical methods: by spreading them out thinly upon the ground, thus exposing them to the action of sun and air; by rolling them in slacked lime, and then leaving them upon the bar-floor to dry; or by rolling them in plaster, and then drying them in a similar manner. In all of these methods, there is but one principle involved, that of ripening the sets; and although upon the sand-lands they will ripen after being planted, yet upon clays it is a bad practice to plant before this change is effected, yet the disadvantage may, in a great degree, be overcome by thorough, deep tillage, and judicious manuring.

PROTESTANT CORNER.

THE LETTER OF NAPOLEON RESPECTING ROME.

(From the British Banner.)

"Hope on! hope ever!" Things have taken a very remarkable and most unlooked for turn in Rome. Most men, even the wise and far-sighted, had given up all for lost. It seemed that the blood of the patriots had been shed in vain; that the hopes of the Romans and of their friends, in every land, had been raised only to be disappointed; that even the reforms which had been effected before the Revolution were to be all destroyed, and the ancient system, in its utmost hideousness, was to be once more re-established. The only Power that could sympathize with the revolution was England, while she was placed in circumstances that rendered it next to impossible to act with effect. France, in her pride and rashness, had thoroughly committed herself, and resolved to go through with her barbarous undertaking. She seemed hardly to know for what purpose she had interfered, unless it might have been to stand between Austria and the Romans; and when she had overthrown the Roman people, she scarcely knew what to do. Governments with Governments proceed intelligibly, whether as it refers to war or peace; they understand each other, and they can advance; but the Government that has to do with Popes and Cardinals, especially in the adjustment of matters of such moment as those which have been transacting at Gaeta, finds it very perplexing work. They who have to deal with Jesuits need to have their wits about them, and be thoroughly skilled in a science little known to Republican Governments, and still less to Field Marshals and Military Staffs. Things had, indeed, come to that pass, that there seemed no hope for liberty. Never, even in the wonder-stamped history of Rome, has the hand of a Divine Power been more remarkably visible. By little and little, the darkness thickened; wishes multiplied; negotiation came to a dead halt. It was under these circumstances that the French Government took the wise resolve to retrace its steps, and to do at last, that which it ought to have done at first, distinctly announcing it at the outset. It was, indeed, with professions, to the same effect that it proceeded; but the misfortune was, that the whole of its subsequent conduct belied those professions. The President of the Republic, in a happy hour, has just addressed to one of his principal functionaries the following letter:—

The following is a copy of the letter addressed by President Louis Napoleon to Colonel Ney:—

Elysee National, August 18, 1849.

"My dear Ney,—The French Republic has not sent an army to Rome to strangle Italian liberty, but on the contrary to regulate it, and preserve it from excesses, and on a solid basis to restore to the Pontifical throne the prince who at the first placed himself boldly at the head of all useful reforms.

"I learn with pain that the benevolent intentions of the Holy Father, and our own deeds, remain unfruitful, in consequence of the influence of passion and hostile feelings. It is wished to have as the basis of the Pope's return, proscription and tyranny. Say on our part, to General Restolani, that it cannot be permitted, under the shadow of the tricolor flag, to commit an act derogatory to the character of our intervention.

"I sum up thus the re-establishment of the temporal power of the Pope,—a general amnesty, the secularization of the Administration, the Code Napoleon, and a liberal government.

"I have been personally hurt, on reading the proclamation of the three Cardinals, to see that it has not even made mention of the name of France, or the sufferings of our brave soldiers. Every insult offered to our flag or to our uniform goes right to my heart; and I beg you to make known to them that if France does not sell her service, she requires at least that she may have gratitude for her sacrifices and self-denial.

"At the times when our armies made the tour of Europe, they left everywhere, as the traces of their passage, the germs of liberty, and the destruction of the abuses of the feudal system. It shall not be said that in 1849 a French army has acted in another manner, and brought about another result.

"Desire the General to thank the army in my name for its noble conduct. I have learned with pain, that even physically it has not been treated as it deserved to be.

"Nothing should be neglected to make our troops comfortable.

"Receive, my dear Ney, the assurance of my sincere friendship.

LOUIS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE."

Colonel Ney, on receiving this letter, presented it to Restolani, who was not a little piqued that the communication had not been sent to him; and, therefore, refused to have it published. But, in the meantime, the document was communicated in a non-official manner to the Commission of Cardinals, whom it smote as a thunder-bolt. The messenger begged them to authorize its insertion in the official journal. To this suicidal proposition, in the confusion of their alarm, they consented; after a few hours' consideration, however, they revoked their decision,—but it was too late;—in the meantime, copies had been multiplied, and got abroad, both among the people and the army—everywhere creating an electric effect—the soldiers themselves not less rejoicing than the inhabitants.

This is incomparably the best, and almost the only good thing that Louis Napoleon's Government has yet achieved. The letter is so clear, so resolute, so just, so manly, as to resemble not a little some of the manifestoes of his uncle, who, in this sort of thing, excelled all other mortal men. The general amnesty is a great act of justice and humanity, especially when it is remembered, that it was with Priests and Inquisitors—men familiar with cruelty and blood—that the patriots had to do! It will again be observed, that the "secularizing" of the Administration involves the complete exclusion of every mother's son of the Popish priesthood; they have nothing to do with the Government. A mighty step this! This, indeed, is pre-eminently the thing on which the hearts of the patriots, from first to last, have been set; and nothing so galled and mortified them as the return of the Cardinals. The Code Napoleon they will receive as an especial boon.

The Legations have long since been familiar with it, and grateful for it; and well they might, for this embodiment of law was the pride of its author, who gloried more in it than in all his victories. He said his ambition was to go down to posterity, not with the sword, but with the Code Napoleon, in his hand. A "Liberal Government," under these circumstances, follows less as a provision than as a result; and thus, after all, the sum total of that for which the Romans rose, and fought, and bled, will be gained. It can hardly be doubted that the French Government will not materially deviate from the line that they have here marked out. The result is truly soothing to the spirits of all that love their fellow men, and rejoice in the progress of true liberty. This letter of Napoleon has descended upon them as a flash of light from heaven irradiating the gloom which had gathered on the Continent and diffusing gladness on every side. In a word, as to its practical issue, it is tantamount to the annihilation of the Popedom.