THE NEW POTATO CROP—APPEARANCE OF THE DISEASE.

The King’s County Chronicle of Wednesday says:—

"We take the following extract from a letter this morning received from F. A. Jackson, Esq., of Inane, Roscrea:—

'It may be in your recollection that I sent you a statement last May, which you published in your newspaper, of my early potatoes being diseased. It was the first public notice of the appearance of the disease in this district, and many of our neighbours were incredulous of the subject, and disregarded the warning. I am sorry to be obliged to have the same story to tell again this year. The fatal spots have again appeared within the last few days on my early crop, which have now attained their full height, and are nearly fit to dig. They are unmistakably infected with the potato murrain of the two last years, and about a fortnight earlier than they were last year. Whether the same is to be the fate of the general crop, sown and sowing, this year, no man can say, but it looks bad.'"

At a meeting of the Chemico Agricultural Society of Ulster, on Wednesday, in Belfast, Dr. Andrews produced a specimen of a potato plant, of this year’s growth, which exhibited, in an unequivocal manner the usual appearances of the disease that destroyed the crop of last year. Dr. A. had obtained the plant from a forcing bed in the vicinity of Belfast, and stated that the disease had attacked all the other plants in the same bed. The disease had appeared in the leaves and stem, which exhibited the withered and black appearance so familiar to every one; but had not yet attacked the tubers, to any considerable extent. In one tuber, however, a sphecidated spot was manifest, which extended to the centre of the potato; it was soft to the touch, and showed, on microscopic examination, the destruction of the cellular structure. On the external surface of the diseased part, the starch globules were distinctly visible by the aid of a magnifier, of moderate power,—an appearance well known to be very characteristic of the potato disease. According to the statement of the gardener, the disease appeared suddenly on the 21st instant, previous to which period the plants had been perfectly healthy. It had since made rapid progress, extending from the upper edge of the bed, where the blight was now nearly complete, gradually over the other parts. The potato was that commonly known as the ash-leaved kidney.

Mr. William Andrews stated that he had also observed the marks of disease on the stalks of the potatoes in the forcing bed at Comber.

These facts are sufficient to create considerable apprehension that this country has not yet been delivered from the disease. In the fields, however, accounts are generally good; and Mr. Howden, one of the members of the council, remarked, that some early planted potatoes of the same kind, belonging to him, planted in the neighbourhood of town, appeared quite free from taint.—Northern Whig.

Potatoes.—There were no less than twenty-eight cart loads of potatoes at the Inverness market for sale on Tuesday.