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July 27. 1869

Sir I have been reading with  
intense interest & pleasure  
your new work on Variation &c  
I little expected to have  
any fact drawn from my  
personal observation worthy  
of your notice, until I came  
to page 314 (chap. xxv), where

You remark of the potato  
that it is probably a "tender"  
in England as when first  
introduced." -

I have a <sup>partially</sup> sheltered garden,  
but not sufficiently so to  
have shielded my early  
potatoes in the Spring of 1865  
& 1866 - in which great  
damage was done to the crop  
of human kidneys out of  
Leicestershire.



The crop of 1865 was remarkably  
weak & scanty owing to  
premature budding in the  
previous autumn. But I  
had an idea that the plants  
might be strengthened by  
immediate selection of the  
largest & soundest tubers  
& by richer manure of the soil.  
Less & less damage has been  
done by the preceding year  
of frost; for the last two  
years there has not been one

plants destroyed, and the  
year, in sheltered &  
unsheltered parts of my  
garden alike, there not had  
even a single blasted leaf.

To give further value to this  
fact, I must add that my  
potatoes were not of ground  
a full month before those  
of my neighbors, and it  
is the wonder of the district  
that while reported here  
frosts injured the crops  
all directions, mine



erupted. The stems were  
splendid with their leaves  
straight (2 ft. 9 to 2 ft. 8)  
The produce has been  
magnificent. -

I am perhaps not likely  
in inferring that the largest  
tubers will furnish the  
best tender plants, provided  
the land be in rich  
culture. -

I am Sir

very faithfully &c

Charles Dreyfus

London, Dec 18 1844