



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

To the Hon. Secy
of the Society

Monument Sqrd, City,

April 6th 1846

Sir,
We beg through your medium to draw the attention of the Horticultural Society to some Potatoes and Maize, which we have just received in some quantities from the Azores, for the purpose of experimental trials being made for their use as food, and their cultivation in this Country, the Potatoes as a Substitute for those which have so generally failed and the Maize as one of the best sorts to be introduced as a new article of diet for which it has been so extensively recommended.

A small Cargo of Potatoes from the Azores was introduced in the early part of last spring, intended as a Substitute for the new Potatoes of home growth, and which being brought much earlier it was thought might be esteemed a novelty for the table. They were perfectly free from the disease which has been so extensively prevalent in all other parts of the world, nor do those now imported exhibit any difference in appearance or deterioration in quality. In consequence of the general failure of the crops in Europe subsequent to their introduction, arrangements were made for obtaining a further and larger supply for the present season of which those now sent are a specimen, and some of the best selected sorts were sent over from this Country for cultivation there, in order to ascertain whether the soil and climate of those Islands would not produce a variety more suitable to the English market, than their natural produce. The result of this experiment is looked upon with some interest as supplying a stick for sets for which purpose the present importation is principally recommended.

Although neither in size or appearance do they resemble any of the most esteemed English sorts, they cook well in boiling with their skins on, becoming firm and producing a palatable food, quite equal in quality and nutriment to most of the common sorts. The skin is of a firmer texture and does not break even by quick boiling. They cook equally well by steaming, but when previously peeled they become watery. Our object in introducing them to your notice is chiefly with a view for their use as sets, for as by the last account, the prevailing disease

has not made its appearance in those islands, it is not likely that their produce here will be affected, the experiments related at previous meetings of the Horticultural Society, having shown that this is quite independent of the Soil. At a time when so much anxiety prevails, upon the success of the coming crop, and whilst so many experimental trials are being made in various parts of the country as well as abroad, for the purpose of improving the Stock of Potatoes, we would recommend their trial for this purpose as likely to ensure beneficial results, as there is no question but that the difference of Soil, Climate and Cultivation will produce a Sort in many ways, more desirable for the home market.

The Maize we would introduce to your notice as an early and productive sort, and of a quality very suitable for food, whether received as an article of import from abroad, or by cultivation in this country,

We remain, Sir,

Yours Very Respectly

Keeling Plunk

907
St. Lincolley Esq.

cc cc cc

Horticultural Society.