

THE POTATO TRADE.

GENTLEMEN,—At the close of the potato season, when the old potato year is going out, and the new potato year is coming in, it is but right to consider how far the traffic is honestly conducted. The consumption of this esculent in Bristol alone is close upon 600 sacks per day, or 20,000 tons per year. In the bands of the wholesale dealers, at the stores of the retailer, and in the markets, there is certainly an advance in the right direction. £100,000, at the very least, is our annual city expenditure for potatoes. If the trade was in proper hands—if responsible vendors were the only recognised dealers—if the trade was not degraded by the pranks of rogues in grain, much of this capital ought to be found in the banking accounts of the city, and the transactions ought to be conducted with the same regularity which characterises the dealing in corn and flour, or any other staple, which belongs to the produce markets. When Messrs. Webb, Brothers, and subsequently Messrs. Webb and Green, took the trade by the hand, the business was fast getting up in the world. Had the firm followed up what they had so well begun, the trade would have been to them what corn and flour is to some of our principal factors in these necessities of life.

ELIZABETH MILES.