

directions for the preparation of seed wheat, with a view of preventing smut. Every man who has any pretensions or pride in the appellation of a FARMER, must be satisfied by this time that smut is a disease which may most easily be prevented. If the seed be entirely free from smut, then no preparation is requisite; but if there be only a few grains of smut in a bushel of seed, these few grains or balls, when broken, will impregnate the entire mass, and disease, as a matter of course, must follow. The safest plan is to carefully wash the seed in a strong solution of salt, and afterwards dry it with fresh lime. Other modes of preparation are equally efficacious, but in many of them, unless great care be used, the vitality of the seed frequently becomes destroyed, and thus the experimenter is afterwards deterred in employing any means for preventing smut. In every instance where the wheat-grower has for a series of years practised the plan of washing his seed-wheat in a very strong brine, and when taken out of the tubs had it dried with newly slacked lime, and sown as soon as possible, the smut balls have gradually grew scarce, until it would be difficult to find a single diseased grain in an entire field. If the Canadian farmers would be careful in selecting and preparing their seed grain, especially wheat, they would thus in a very few years, considerably raise the value of the article in the market, from the fact that the samples would be uniformly good, and thus our character as a wheat-growing country would be much improved.

INDIAN CORN.—In many portions of the province large quantities of this valuable grain have been grown the present year; and as the season for harvesting it has arrived, a little advice on that head might not be thought out of place. The old-fashioned method of cutting off the tops, when the grain is about leaving its milky state, is decidedly objectionable; and the better method both for the grain and fodder, is to cut up the stalks by the roots a short period before the grain is thoroughly ripe, and thus by standing them up in large stooks for a few weeks, the grain will become tho-

roughly hardened, and the straw will be nearly equal to hay for feeding horned cattle. Corn will bear cutting much earlier than most people suppose, and it may be harvested any time after the grain has left its milky state. The grain will *glaze* as the term is used, if the stalks be cut, as soon as the milk can no longer be pressed out of the grain with the thumb and finger, provided that the stalks be put into close and large stooks. By carefully preserving the corn-stalks when cut in that state, and by cutting them very fine with a straw-cutter, horses as well as horned cattle, will eat them with great avidity,—and it would prove stronger food for animals than the very best quality of hay. Corn-stalk fodder is not very highly appreciated in Canada, simply because it is allowed to ripen too much before the grain is harvested, and because they do not employ a straw-cutter in making it fit for animals to masticate.

PRESERVATION OF FODDER.—At this season of the year large quantities of grain are usually thrashed and marketed, and it not unfrequently happens that the straw is thrown into the barn-yard and trodden down with the horned cattle and other stock, without doing them much good, as an abundance of the best pasturage may be had for some weeks to come in the fields. In some instances there may be an excuse for this extravagance, especially where the produce in straw is very abundant, and the stock of horned cattle and sheep is limited in comparison to the size of the farm; but in a great majority of cases it would be wise to carefully preserve all the straw that is grown, if a large portion of it was used for no other purpose than for bedding the stock, and in keeping the barn-yard and sheep-folds liberally covered with fresh straw during the winter months. It often occurs that a large quantity of very valuable straw is wasted in the early part of autumn, when the owner of the article is obliged to buy before the close of the winter, or if not, he is under the necessity of feeding his stock very sparingly before the return of spring, all of which might have been avoided with a very trif-