

aware that there are many who may think this a waste of seed, and an unnecessary outlay, and will say that they can produce a sufficiently thick plant without it; and I am quite willing to allow they may, *provided* they can ensure the growth of every seed sown. But when it is taken into consideration that one-fourth, at least, if not one-third of the seed bought will never germinate, either from old age or imperfect ripening, and another fourth, at least, may be reckoned upon not getting even a chance to grow, from various causes, such as being smothered by stones, lumps of earth, and rubbish of one kind or another; harrowed in too deep, or not harrowed or rolled in at all, as is the fashion with some people; and a part scorched up or frozen out immediately the seed begins to germinate; besides no small proportion being consumed by birds and all kinds of insects, I think I am not stating too much when I assert that *one-half*, at least, of the seed sown cannot be considered to come to maturity! Others, again, may say, as indeed I know they do, that they cannot afford, or have not the means to purchase a sufficiency of seed, at that rate. Pray let me ask those who talk thus, that if they deem it sufficiently important to furnish themselves with a proper quantity of seed for their wheat, and all other grain and root crops, why, in the name of all that is good, should they not equally and determinedly make the effort to procure seed for that *plant*, which, in my humble opinion, is equally, with the root crop, the foundation of all good and profitable farming; and more, *far more* sure of remuneration than any other crop grown, provided it is put in in a creditable and husbandman-like manner. But, after all, let us see what this extra outlay of a few pounds more seed will come to. Suppose, for instance, 5 lbs. of clover-seed, at a cost of 10 cents per lb., or six dollars a bushel, which is about the price at the present time, has been sown to the acre, and the farmer wishes even to double that quantity, the additional cost will be the trifling sum of 50 cents; or even suppose the seed to be 12 dollars per bushel, ought the small additional outlay of five shillings currency per acre to be a consideration for a moment, or an impediment with the farmer, to his sowing that quantity, when the immense advantages I have pointed out are to be gained by so doing. How, let me ask, can any man manure and keep his land clean so effectually at so trifling a cost? I well know there are those who have practised this system in this country, from my recommendation, years ago; and whenever I visit, or pass their farms, I invariably see a *very heavy crop of clover*, and nearly *double the quantity of stock* there used to be on the farm; and all other crops heavy in proportion.

I hope, Messrs. Editors, that this truthful statement may be the means of inducing some of my brother farmers to ponder on the subject. And I feel assured, that if they will once begin to reflect, they will not be long before they act! And I hope the consideration of my having written but of facts that have occurred under my own supervision, and of my writing neither for fame nor for profit—my signature being a feigned one—may have its due weight with those who may chance to read this letter. In conclusion, believe me, that the only inducement I have in taking up my pen, is to be of service, if I can, to those in the same profession as myself in this, the country of my adoption. And should you deem this letter worthy a place in your valuable paper, or think my future efforts can be of service to any of your readers, I may be induced to give you my experience in other matters relative to Agriculture. But I promise you that my next letter shall be a much shorter one. With my ardent wishes for the continued success and usefulness of your publication,

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

LEICESTERENSIS.

Guelph, 25th February, 1849.

P.S. Enclosed, you will find the subscription and names of 13 new subscribers; and I shall have great pleasure in renewing my exertions to add thereto, as soon as my health and the roads will permit me to get more amongst my neighbours.

I was much pleased at reading, in your first number, a very instructive article from the able pen of that zealous and successful agriculturist, Henry Moyle, Esq., of the Sheep Walk, near Brantford, on the advantages of sheep-farming in connexion with the growing of wheat; and of the great benefits realised by the use of plaster. The subject is, indeed, fraught with invaluable information, which the Canadian farmer will do well to reflect on, and profit by. The immense advantages attending, in a variety of ways, the liberal use of plaster, cannot be too strenuously urged upon the farmers of this country. And I will endeavour, if agreeable to you, to give you a few results of my own experience of its utility in your next number. In the meantime, I would say, let every farmer supply himself with it, almost at any cost or inconvenience, provided it is within his reach. I.

[The two preceding Communications would have appeared in our last, had our matter not been made up before their arrival. We beg our respected Correspondent to accept our warmest thanks for his good wishes and exertions. We shall always be happy to receive Communications from his pen.]