

**LEGISLATIVE GRANT.**—The Legislature having deemed the publication of this Periodical, so essential to the Agricultural interests of the Province, passed a small grant towards defraying its expenses, conditioned that 15 copies of each number be sent to the several Agricultural Societies. The whole number to be thus distributed, will therefore amount to 180, which will materially effect its individual patronage, unless the several Secretaries take care that the monthly numbers are disposed of among the poorer classes in their respective Counties—such as are not likely to become Subscribers—so as not to make any person possessor of a complete volume at the expiration of twelve months, *free of charge*. The object of the Legislature in making this condition, was only to insure a general circulation of the Periodical throughout the Province, and in no way to interfere with its private patronage.

We have no doubt that all who feel sufficiently interested in the welfare of the Province to become Members of an Agricultural Society will also become Subscribers to the *Farmer's Manual*, as its object, in common with theirs, is to encourage farming operations; and we take the liberty to request the Secretaries of Agricultural Societies in the Province to distribute these papers, as they come to hand, in such a way as will not be likely to interfere with the support we ought to obtain, from persons who are well able to spare so small a sum for information which, to many, may be invaluable.

(For the Farmer's Manual.)

## LETTERS OF "A FARMER."

### LETTER IV.

#### *On the selection of Fields, Soils, and Rotation Crops.*

—Great care should be taken in the selection of fields for cultivation. The farmer who has an old field that has been often ploughed and become well seeded with weeds, should cease to plough it any more for seven years, and try if he cannot find out an old mossy meadow to supply its place while the old weedy field does well (if potatoes is the last crop) to sow it to English grass seeds in the Autumn, after harrowing it well, and it should be then well rolled with a common roller, which covers the seed better than the harrow.

It should be borne in mind that the seeds of grass and weeds as well as many other are covered with a hard shell which requires a winter frost to crack and open it—and some seeds if sown in the spring will continue without sprouting until after the next winter. For this reason seeds sown in the spring are always kept back on old weedy ground because the weeds spring up first and keep the lead.

No land should be ploughed more than four years successively or seldom more than three; and no meadow fit for ploughing should remain more than seven years without it, and when it can be attended to, it is better to plough the meadow once in four years, and let it go through a rotation of crops. If the soil is sandy and well manured it will answer for Indian Corn or Potatoes and Barley, or Oats. If it is clayey, Potatoes and Wheat; if dry, loamy and light—Swedish Turneps, Mangel Wurzel, Flax, Grain or Carrots.

**On Deep Ploughing.**—Some farmers who have given Agriculture their chief attention have been led into an error by the European. Agricultural authors, who have recommended very deep ploughing, by commencing to plough too deep at first; and I have seen some fields ploughed a foot deep, and thereby almost rendered useless for two or three years.

But deep ploughing should always be a progressive work—the land should be ploughed a little deeper every time, and it would be well for our fields if at least an inch of the subsoil was turned up on the top of the furrow every fall ploughing, particularly if the field is to be manured the next year. Our gardens, by spading and manuring to the depth of fifteen inches, become immensely productive and the same case will apply to our fields. Plough deeper and deeper and apply all the manure you can collect, and the fields may thereby be made so rich and productive that they will become a *Bank* of wealth, affording a liberal dividend.

**On Wheat.**—Wheat is too often called an uncertain crop, and the same observation is frequently made of all other crops, but it is certain that wheat requires more attention than is generally devoted to its culture.

If the land is too rich and the season wet and very warm, the wheat grows too fast, falls down and shrinks; if the land is too poor, the crop will be poor also,—all which requires the careful consideration of the farmer. Potatoe ground is allowed to be the best for wheat:—let the land be carefully ploughed and harrowed smoothly, let the seed be well cleared and then washed with pickle, to float off blighted, smutty or bad grain, then dried with slaked lime, then sowed and harrowed in. In about four or five days after plough it in narrow ridges with a shallow furrow, about three inches deep, then with a light harrow, harrow it lengthways of the ridges—shovel out the loose earth which may fall into the dead furrow, and let the ridges be smoothed with a roller. By this method wheat will seldom fail. In five or six days after sowing, the wheat will be sprouted but the weed seed which had been sprouted long before will then be up—by turning all over together the wheat gets ahead.

Good Wheat has also been raised on a very poor description of soil by the simple method of ploughing and harrowing the land smooth, sowing the wheat, and then without harrowing it in, covering it with straw. One acre of good wheat will afford straw enough to cover another acre of poor land. If the New Brunswick farmer can raise twenty bushels of good wheat from an acre it is much better than importing either wheat or flour. Good wheat weighs from 56 to 60 lbs to the bushel, and twenty bushels per acre is a fair crop, although it sometimes exceeds that quantity.

Much valuable information may be obtained from Agricultural writings, although the instructions are not all congenial to our climate. I have read many with attention, and adopted some suggestions with good effect; but in these letters I shall endeavour to go no further than my own experience and observation will justify.

### LETTER V.

Having in my last considered the best method of raising wheat, I would observe that my remarks were solely confined to the management of old cultivated farms. Upon new land, well cleared off, burnt over and harrowed, grain of all kinds grows luxuriantly, but the field too often falls into neglect