

The Farmer's Journal.

MONTREAL, JANUARY 1858.

To Subscribers.

Those who have not sent in the amount of their subscription, are requested to do so during the month, by post (prepaid), if not we shall be obliged to discontinue to send them the journal.

DE MONTIGNY & Co.,

Proprietors,

Montreal.

2nd January 1858.

THE NEW YEAR.

To all our subscribers we beg to express our best wish of a "*Happy New Year.*"

It shall ever be our most sincere prayer that our readers may derive from the perusal of our columns during the year 1858, all the information that can be advantage to them. — We will endeavour to make it interesting, and give the best possible information on the improvement of the agriculture of our Country. Providence has furnished Canada with a fertile soil, and the climate is the most favorable. If our beautiful country farms do not produce what they at first produced, it is because they are exhausted; they have produced for years the same crops, and often without any manure. One of the great secrets of agriculture, well known to all able agriculturists, is the *rotation of crops*; that is the cause for which agriculture is so backward in Canada. To this great secret may be added the draining of lands, and deep ploughing. In fact, how can we

hope to have sound and abundant crops, when we have sown in the *mud*. Generally the soil is ploughed six inches deep only; the subsoil hardens, water does not soak into the soil, and remains near the roots which it rots. If, on the contrary, the soil was ploughed twelve inches deep, rain water would only water the roots, and at ten inches lower it would maintain that freshness so necessary to vegetation.

The selection of seed grains, their proper keeping in safety until sowing time, their adaptation to the different soils, are certainly things not generally taken enough into consideration. Climate, heat, light, moisture, predominating winds, difference of soils must also be considered, and the culture adapted to them.

The importation of wheat from the United-States or Europe, would do a great good to the Country; seed grains must necessarily be changed; if our wheat was renewed, the crop would certainly be better — The fly, which injures it since many years, deposits its eggs on the grain; they adhere to it, and in the spring *wheat and flies are sown*: the fly hidden into the soil, comes out again in the spring, but it is certain that she deposits her eggs on the grain, and they are *taken care of* during the winter—hence the necessity of changing the seed grain, of washing it with some solution which, in destroying the eggs of the fly, would in no way injure the seed wheat. It is just the same with the potato:—how can we hope to have a crop of sound potatoes, when rotten or half rotten potatoes have been sown. Select the soundest potatoes when dug out; put them during winter in a dry place, where they will not freeze, for if you put them in a wet cellar, they will be full of water when you sow them, and they will certainly rot. In perusing paper and reports on this plant, we see that it is easy to prevent the rot; at least many succeed. Some sow them in