

stating, in reply to it, for the information of subscribers generally, that it is our invariable practice to throw aside entirely our list of subscribers at the end of each year, commence a new book with the new year, and send no numbers of the new volume till ordered. To continue sending on the paper, as is the practice with the ordinary newspaper press, after the term of subscription had expired, would involve the making out accounts, and the outstanding of a large amount of arrearages, which, at the very low rate the *Agriculturist* is published, would be inadmissible. We may also observe for the information of our correspondent, that we could not possibly think of reprinting the back numbers of which we are deficient, unless orders for a large number of copies, say several thousands, should be received, which of course is not probable. The expense of resetting the type would be too heavy. We regret not having commenced the year with a larger edition, but we scarcely anticipated quite so extensive a circulation as we have obtained this year; we shall, however, be better prepared in future. We allude to this point elsewhere. We are glad to find that the prospects of the County of Bruce are so encouraging as stated by our correspondent in the latter part of his letter.—Eds.]

Agricultural Intelligence.

OATS—IMPORTED SEED.

Eds. Co. GENT.—Seeing recently in the Co. Gent., an enquiry whether the sowing of the heavier varieties of oats from England, was attended in this country with advantageous results, I will state that several years ago, another gentleman and myself imported from Liverpool a lot of the Potato oats, a very fine article, weighing 42 lbs. to the bushel—which we sowed. The resultant crop was also heavy, and a handsome sample; though I cannot state with certainty the weight, it was over 35 lbs., and I think it was 37. It continued to diminish in weight with each successive sowing for three years, till it reached my minimum standard for seed, twenty-nine pounds, when

I again changed for the Black oats grown on Prince Edward's Island, whence I generally renew my seed triennially. This also is over forty pounds in weight when well cleaned, and the crop of last year from it weighed thirty-six pounds when cleaned for market, and yielded on thirteen acres, six hundred and fifty bushels, not lodging. Drill sown oats are found to stand better with us than hand sown and harrowed, and the difference is sometimes striking when side by side.

[Our experience very much accords with that of the correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, as stated above. A few years since the Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada, imported from Aberdeen, in Scotland, several varieties of oats that are much esteemed in the British Islands. The seed of all the sorts was plump and heavy, weighing from 43 to 48 lbs. a bushel. They consisted of the Potato, Hopetoun, Angus, Berlin, Poland, and the Black and White Tartarian. The seed was sown by different persons on various soils, and the result was a gradual deterioration in quality year by year. These oats, however, were generally heavier than the ordinary varieties cultivated in this country for three or four years, when they seemed to have reached their minimum of weight. The mode of preparing the land, and the character of the season, of course affect considerably the quantity and quality of the grain. In Upper Canada our summers are generally too hot and dry for the oat. In the lower section of the Province this crop appears to do better; and in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, owing to the greater moisture of their climate, arising from their contiguity to the ocean, oats yield a heavy grain in large quantities. For ordinary purposes we think that the Tartarian, White or Black, is the best suited to this section of the Province. It is hardy, and will more than make up in quantity what it may be deficient of in weight by the bushel. Seed oats ought to be frequently changed; getting them from different climates and soils as far away as possible. Like pigs, oats rapidly degenerate by sowing the same kind