

*Experiments, &c. on the Plaster of Paris, made in the
Province of Pennsylvania—communicated by a Gentle-
man in Quebec, Member of the Agricultural Society.*

Copy of a Letter from ROBERT MORRIS to JESSE LAWRENCE.

“ AFTER the conversation which passed between thee and me, on the subject of Plaster of Paris, I conceived it might not be improper to give thee an account of the several trials which I have made with it as a manure for land. Perhaps it might have been in the year 1775, that it was recommended to me as a manure for land; I accordingly purchased five bushels, yet my faith therein was so weak, that it lay by me until 1778, when in the month of March, I sowed at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre, on some ground which I had tilled and sowed with clover seed the spring preceding, leaving a piece in the middle not sown, and likewise on each side. That season, where there was no plaster sown, the clover stood on the ground about 12 inches high; but where the plaster was sown, the clover stood upon an average 34 inches high. This ground I sowed for about four seasons after; I found it to have less grass every year, though that which was sown with the plaster, had as much more in proportion as the first year. I afterwards ploughed up all this ground except $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre; upon this I again put Plaster of Paris in the year 1785, and no other manure whatever since 1778, and it is now in much better order than it was at that time, and it has produced me about two tons of hay every year since, for the first crop, and a tolerable good second crop, and sometimes a third crop, or very good pasture; though the last time I manured it, I put in the proportion of six bushels of plaster to an acre. I have likewise made many experiments otherwise; I have tried it with Indian corn, where it does tolerably well; with buck-wheat, and it makes it grow so rapidly, that it has always fallen down, and I have lost my crop. I have tried it with wheat, and it is not possible to discover that it makes any difference when sown on the crop; but when it is sown on grass ground, and this ground turned up and laid down in wheat, it is amazing the advantage it is of to the crop. Last fall was a year, I put down about eight acres of wheat, which I harrowed in, and then sowed clover seed, which came up and looked very fine in the fall; but the winter being
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