

as many imagine, I am unable to say, but I certainly find no occasion to mix it with any other variety for flouring, as one correspondent suggests. As to there being an art in milling there can be no question, but certainly my flour was not the product of much skill or experience, especially in the milling of grain grown in this country, with our appliances. I do not believe such special skill to be any more necessary for this than other wheats. A correspondent reports a miller who claims to have made a barrel of flour from 4½ bushels of the Clawson. It will be seen that my 159 pounds from 4 bushels, besides the toll, is still better than that. I was much pleased in reading an article in your paper on this wheat, from the pen of Mr. Geddes, a few weeks since. He considers the Clawson the best variety of wheat now known to him, and assuming for him a fair knowledge of modern cereals, it is strong talk, though for my own part I am inclined to believe him; at least, I have just put in a larger acreage of it than before, and sown no other. Last year it was sown broadcast, as evenly as possible. This season it was put in with Bickford & Huffman's drill, on the 12th ult.

#### The Farmers of the West in Their Glory.

Never were the prospects of the farmers throughout America brighter than they are now; and never was a change for the better more needed than from the harvest of '76 to that of '77. There are good paying prices for all the produce of the country, and a crop the heaviest on record. Whether the present prices may continue during the winter is a matter of uncertainty, but one thing is certain—the luxuriant crops are a blessing not only to the producer in America, but to those also in other countries who will be looking to the New World for the necessary breadstuffs. North American exports of grain will this year exceed any before known. The *London Times* of the 9th ult. says:—“Since the beginning of the present year we have imported 23,000,000 cwt. of wheat, against 18,000,000 cwt. last year. Curiously enough the increased supplies have not yet come from the United States, which sent us nearly 4,000,000 cwt. less this year than last. Our chief sources of the extra supply have been British India, Russia, Germany, France and Egypt. No doubt India, Egypt and Russia have been stimulated to export more largely than usual by their financial necessities, but the figures are none the less significant. On that account it is just possible the corn dealers in the United States may hold back a little too long in the hope of obtaining higher prices, and it is quite evident from the ease of the market at present it will not yet, at all events, bear squeezing.”

Under the significant heading, “Fair Weather Ahead,” the *Prairie Farmer* represents the feeling of American farmers as follows:

On the 5th of the present month nine ocean steamships, with over 390,000 bushels of grain, sailed from the port of New York. The demand for freight accommodations is so great that the steamship lines have been compelled to put extra vessels into commission to meet the increased volume of exportations. Butter and cheese are shipped in large quantities, and canned goods, one of the most extensive of our native industries, are beginning to move actively. The experiment of shipping oysters is repeated, 245 barrels going out in one vessel. Another cause for congratulation is the material increase in the volume of the wholesale trade for home supply. In Chicago the merchants say trade was never better, and many of the larger establishments are running night and day to fill orders.

All these indications speak well for returning trade. The resources of the country are almost without limit, and can be drawn upon all the more freely because they have so long lain idle. The West with its vast fields of grain, the South with its cotton, and the North and East with their industrial and mechanical productions, form a union of articles for which there must always be more or less of a demand across the water. Europe has been suffering from the same commercial stagnation that has paralyzed us, but that she is recovering from it is evidenced by her demands upon our productions. All trade must, of course, be based upon the law of supply and demand, and the country may have been plethoric in rich crops and still be poor, were there no demand for them. It is cause for congratulation that the demand has come, and that the bow of prosperity beams so brightly.

#### Seeds for Next Year's Planting.

“Like begets like.” There can be no doubt in the mind of any reasonable man of the truth of this old proverb. Not only is it true in its full extent as regards animals, but it is also true of the inanimate objects that are to us as agriculturists, and to all who are dependent on our labors for the fruits of the earth, matters of great interest and of high importance. How important it is for us to select at all times the very best seed that it is possible for us to obtain—such seed as we may reasonably expect to give us crops in return of good quality. It must also be an object of great care to procure not only seeds that are good in themselves, but also most suitable to the climate and soil. To this important branch of farm husbandry farmers are paying greater attention than ever before. Agriculturists who devoted the powers of their minds as well as of their hands to this science—for such it undoubtedly is—have long been sensible of its importance, and have impressed it upon others; but it is only of late that farmers as a class have acted on this principle, and been particular in the choice of their farm seeds.

On this subject, “Seeds for Next Year's Planting,” the *Western Farm Journal* has a well considered article in its last issue, which we republish, slightly abridged, for our readers:—

The excellent crops of 1877 have not come of any unusual care observed in saving seed from the crops of the preceding year, but more likely from the partial rest given the land by reason of its having produced two light crops in succession, just preceding the present year. We may add another reason, viz., that the wet weather which came so freely after sowing and planting, and the dry weather of July, were opportune events, producing, in the first place, vigorous growth, and in the second place, prompt filling, and thorough ripening of the small grains.

We cannot look for a frequent repetition of these influences, but on the other hand, good crops will come to the farmer, as a rule, only upon rigorous attention to all the means that usually contribute to their production. Among the most important of these is attention to seed. As we have before stated, the excellent wheat berry of the present year affords farmers ample guarantee in that direction, and it is a question whether seed for the coming two years should not be saved from this year's crops. The farmers of Europe are much more precise in these matters. Much attention is at present devoted to the selection of seeds. Ordinarily judicious siftings before sowings; steeping and skimming off the light grains are the practices employed. But not so much attention is paid to the selection of seed, the product of a different region, or of another latitude. The director of the agricultural school of St. Remy, in order to ward off the vicissitudes of temperature in the case of winter sown wheat, prepares a mixture of seeds cultivated in diverse localities, so that less blanks are caused by frost, or in the case of weak tillage on the part of a plant. Professor Ranjou, of Clermont, has drawn attention to the fact that the quality of seed varies in the same fruit, for example, with the position which it occupies. He recommends caution in selecting plants as seed-bearers, as the vigor of the plants may be deceptive; they are not always the most beautiful parents that produce the most beautiful offspring. In the case of fruit, make a choice of those that are most voluminous, and of the largest seeds therein contained, remembering that it is easier to perpetuate defects than good qualities. In a bunch of grapes the largest berries are those that have secured the most room.

M. Petermann, of Belgium, has studied the seed question as affected by latitude, in its bearing not only in the degeneracy of the grain, but on the diminished produce. Some countries are remarkable for their exemption from these two drawbacks, to a very superior degree; it is then to these countries that less favored regions ought to apply for their seed supplies. When seeds are transported from a southern to a northern latitude, or from plain to mountain districts, they develop themselves in a shorter time than formerly, even under a lower degree of temperature. If the same species of seed after some years of culture, be transported southwards or to lowlands, they will surpass in earlier maturity, those spe-

cies which have never been changed. In the first transport the seeds increase in volume and weight. Leibig has stated, that in England, farmers prefer the seed of clover and oats raised in mountainous districts, for sowing in the plains, and Petermann attests, the same leaning prevails throughout southern Austria. With Swedish farmers the production of seeds has now become a specialty; it is also well known that clover seed imported from that country, is exempt from that terrible scourge, dodder. How does a higher latitude thus influence, in so marked a manner, the formation and maturity of grain? Schubler attributes it to the greater length of the days, and the more prolonged action of the sun, in promoting these chemical changes essential for the plants' vitality—as the transformation of the carbonic acid into the organic combinations, in the cells. Sachs has demonstrated, the influence of light, in the formation of starch, by the plant. In northern latitudes the colors of flowers, not only of the same species, but of the same varieties of plants, are more intense; the aromatic principles of plants—celery, garlic, onion, etc., are more strongly developed in higher latitudes. Cumin seed grown in Sweden is more odoriferous than that cultivated more southernwards, and white wheat imported from Southern Europe for sowing in higher latitudes, becomes more brilliantly white, each succeeding year.

#### How to Farm in Canada.

Under the above heading a correspondent of the *Montreal Witness* makes these remarks, as applicable on sides of the border.

Stating the fact that Canada is essentially a grain raising province he says:—“Such a state of matters cannot last long; the farmer of Canada will soon find that he cannot produce any grain for sale, and scarcely enough for his own use. Indeed, such husbandry has proved the most lamentable calamity to many a European country, and we would feel deeply grieved to see the same thing repeated over here. While yet there is time, let us draw all possible benefit from the experience of other countries, and let us not trespass on the laws of nature, but acquaint ourselves with them and be guided by them. The most important of these laws is to never expect from the soil more than you can return. Now every farmer knows by experience that continued grain crops make the soil poorer and poorer; he must return certain articles of nutriment if he wants to keep up its fertility. But where will he get them from? He keeps only a very few cattle, and has consequently very little manure. Buy them. Yes, it is good advice if they are to be bought and if the farmer can afford it. But how can he be expected to have any money left for such purposes. When he forces grain crops he must spend a great deal of labor upon his fields, hire many hands, keep a uselessly large number of horses, and notwithstanding the yearly increase of expense in cultivating the land, the return grows smaller and smaller. This will continue for some years, until he, within a comparatively short time, has succeeded in bringing his land to complete barrenness. To bring such land to fertility costs, in most instances, more than the land is worth. In travelling through the north of Germany and western parts of Austria, large tracts of land may be seen too poor to grow even the shortest grass. These fields tell the most sorrowful story of improvidence and thoughtlessness, and will probably remain a sad warning for another generation yet. We most sincerely hope that every farmer clearly understands that a continued cultivation of grain crops invariably must lead to his ruin.”

SEED WHEAT.—Farmers, in cleaning your wheat for seed, do not be satisfied with merely producing clean seed, aim to produce a grade of wheat that will weigh. Run it through the mill until every shrunken and small grain and weed seed is screened or blown out, even if you have to run it through three times, yes, five times; it will pay; aim at obtaining plump heavy grain, and when you harvest the product from this carefully selected seed, you will plainly see and know the benefit of giving time and care to the selection of seed wheat. This is the way to improve crops, do not look to cultivation alone, select good seeds as well. If farmers would take more pains in the selection of their seed and plants, as well as the fertilization and cultivation of their crops, greatly increased product per acre, with consequently less cost, and more profit, would be the result.