

the water was drawn off, and the oats laid in a heap, to drain, for a short time, say half an hour; then Plaster of Paris in powder was thrown on, by small quantities at a time, and mixed with the oats, till they acquired a sufficient degree of dryness to be sown evenly; in this process one bushel of the Plaster was consumed: the seed thus prepared, and dry seed from the same original heap, were sown on alternate lands throughout the field. The whole came up together, and in due time, and no difference was visible for seven or eight days. From that time forward, the distinction became very evident; the oats on the lands sown with the prepared seed were much more luxuriant and of a deeper green, until they began to ripen.—On the second instant they were cut, being then perfectly ripe, while those on the lands sown with the unprepared seed were yet green, the heads much smaller, and promising in every respect a worse crop.

On the eighth I left home. They were then unfit to cut, and appeared as if they would not be ripe for five or six days after.—To the facts above stated, many of my neighbours are witnesses.

I mean to have the oats, produced from the prepared and unprepared seeds, threshed separately, to ascertain with precision the difference in the quantity and quality of the produce, which shall be communicated to the society, so soon as conveniently may be.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

your obedient,
humble servant,

EDWARD HAND.

Philadelphia, August 17, 1790.

LETTER II.

Lancaster, March 14th, 1791.

SIR,

IN August last, if I recollect right, I troubled you to communicate to the agricultural Society the result of an experiment I made, the preceding April, by preparing seed-oats with Plaster of Paris, so far as the same could then be ascertained. Having since determined the difference of the produce from the prepared and unprepared seeds, I beg leave to lay it before the society.—The produce of the eight bushels of prepared seed was one hundred and twenty-two bushels and about a peck; of the like quantity of unprepared seed, ninety six bushels, the