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# FROM THE QUEBEC GAZETTE.

Mr. NEILSON,

AS it is said, that the Grain this year has in many parts of the Province suffered by the Smut, the Directors of the Agriculture Society request of you to insert in your next Paper the annexed Letter addressed to the President, with the Treatise therein mentioned, which points out the cause of the Smut, and the means to be used to prevent it.

HUGH FINLAY, Secy.

S I R.



1789

have followed with great care and attention the directions given in the collection of Letters and Papers lately published by the Directors of the Agriculture Society, relative to the preparation of seed grain, with intention to prevent the smut; and it is with much satisfaction I now inform you, that I have experienced the efficacy of the Receipts communicated to the Public, for that purpose. Until last Fall I thought that the quality of my land was such, as would not produce grain fit for seed, for whether I sowed wheat, barley, or oats, it brought nothing but smutty grain; However I perceive at present, that the Evil was in the seed, for by washing, scumming steeping it in a Pickle and sprinkling with lime after the manner described No 2 and 5th page of your Pamphlet, I have had a very plentiful crop of fair, full, and very sound grain, whilst that of my Neighbours was either more or less affected with the Smut.

Having some days ago met with a Treatise wrote by Mr. Gossfreville of Andeley in France, that fully shews the cause of the smut in grain, and points out a remedy to prevent it, I took the liberty to send you, as president of the Agriculture Society, a copy of it; referring to your better Judgment, whether the discovery made by this gentleman through his Experiments, could not, by inserting them in your next publication be (with the assistance of the Curés) diffused throughout the Province—for without their Aid, Sir, the laudable Efforts of the Society for the progress and improvement of agriculture would but little avail in this Province where the major part of those who are Farmers (and but a very few excepted) cannot read.

The Province would derive great advantages from the general adoption of the very simple method recommended for the preparation of seed, as it would give a reputation to, and increase the value of our Grain in foreign markets, to the great benefit of the Canadian Farmer. But as this, very much depends upon the Curés of the Country Parishes in this Province, it is to be wished that the directors of the agriculture Society would do their endeavours to prevail on those Gentlemen (as well for their own interest, as for that of their poor Parishioners, and the general prosperity of the Province) to communicate all the experiments and observations relating to Agriculture, by reading

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