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In all countries there are some districts and some particular farms which are famous for producing certain kinds of grain, and where the whole harvest is frequently sold for seed, and at very high prices. In such localities, we generally find that this advantage arises no less from the nature and properties of the soil being favorable to the production of one particular kind of grain, than to the infinitely more care and attention which is paid to the crop by the farmer. Persons who maintain that a change of seed is absolutely necessary, enquire whether it ought to be taken from a richer or a poorer, a stronger or a lighter soil, and from a milder or a colder climate? Our reply is, procure it from that place where it is most perfect and healthy. This is not always where the soil is richest or the climate the mildest, as, in such places, the grains are often too thick on the ground, and consequently not sufficiently exposed to the influence of air and light to allow the grain to acquire absolute perfection; besides this, the seed and grain is often too large, and there is more husk than *farine* in its component parts, the latter of which alone is capable of affording nutriment to the young plants. In those places, on the other hand, where the soil is so weak that it is incapable of furnishing sufficient nourishment to effect the complete formation of the grain, that grain will be equally improper for the re-production of other plants; for wheat grown upon a soil which only produces stunted grain, will always bear an imperfect seed, and will require to be replaced by seed really derived from good wheat land. It is a well known

fact, that in plants as in animals, strength or weakness, health or disease, are transmitted not only to the first generation, but throughout several succeeding ones, and these dispositions can only be gradually eradicated by the help of other influences. A change of seed to be entirely successful, must be managed with great circumspection, and be free from all mixture of varieties as well as from seeds of weeds.

Some seeds retain their germinating power for a considerable period, provided only that they are carefully preserved, while others, on the contrary, lose it quickly, and can hardly retain it for the space of one year. If we come to examine which are the seeds that retain their vitality for the greatest length of time, we shall find it is always the most perfect ones, and that the imperfect and sickly ones lose their power of germinating first. To this fact, is to be principally attributed the advantage of old seed over new in several kinds of plants. Vegetables and plants can only be procreated by perfect and healthful germs, which have not been deprived of their necessary space and nourishment during their growth by abortive plants which will never come to maturity, and which come from a crop free from those diseases, the germ of which lies on the grain, as is the case with smut, mildew, &c. But if we could fully understand this point, we must make ourselves perfectly acquainted with the nature of each particular kind of plant or vegetable. Grain which has become perfectly matured may be preserved for a very long time. Wheat of only one year old is almost