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Halifax, Dec. 11, 1869.

It is pleasing to find that the subject of HEMP CULTURE is exciting some attention in our Province. As a hardy crop, of easy culture, requiring no summer labour beyond sowing and reaping, it is in many respects well suited to the agricultural conditions of Nova Scotia. If, in common with Quebec and Maine and Massachusetts, we cannot raise wheat enough for our population, let it not be said that we need to import material for rope. No wheat weevil will eat hemp; no early autumn frost will injure it; no summer heat will burn it up; no potato rot will attack it—the better it is rotted or “retted” the greater price will it bring; the weediest land it will perfectly clean without hoe or cultivator; and, alike on the poorest and richest soils, it will pay the farmer for his labour, and give him a rent for his land. The essential conditions seem to be that the land should be ploughed in the fall, and a reasonable amount of manure applied. The *Colonist* has devoted a leading article to the subject, in which judicious advice is given; and this month we furnish the concluding part of Mr. Joly's communication. There are still a few points of practical importance upon which information is desired,

and we have taken the necessary steps to obtain it. The subject will no doubt engage the attention of the Board of Agriculture at next meeting, and as the existing Board has from the first been in the habit of moving in such matters in a practical way rather than by theoretical discussion, it is to be expected that effective steps will be taken to promote the object, by offering substantial encouragement. Whether this is to be done by the importation of seed in the first instance, scarcely admits of doubt. But probably additional steps may be taken by the Board. There is of course great room for difference of opinion as to what steps ought to be taken, and as there is but one object in view, the promotion of the country's good, we trust our readers will not be backward in offering any suggestions of a practical and practicable kind. Better give suggestions and recommendations now, when they can be acted upon, than fill up our columns with complaints after they are too late to be of any service.

It is not too early now for our horticulturists to be selecting their FLOWER SEEDS for next summer. By sowing under glass early in the spring a great advantage is obtained in our short seasons, and we would suggest to the trade

that if they were to open out their Flower Seeds in February instead of May or June, they would merit more encouragement, and would be likely to have more customers. This remark is suggested by the receipt of some Flower Seed Catalogues for 1870 from other countries, where they do things better than in Halifax. Henry Mette, of “Quedlinburg,” in Prussia, sends us a catalogue preceded by the statement that his plantation for the cultivation of garden and agricultural seeds covers 2500 acres, and that 200 acres are devoted to the culture of flower seeds alone. That, however, is only one of a hundred flower-seed-gardens in Prussia, Mr. Haage of Erfurt being probably the chief grower. The new *Dahlia imperialis* is the novelty of the season, and is said to be very fine, the chief objection being that it is so tall as to require a ladder of some length, (or a telescope) to bring the flowers within the reach of ordinary eyes. It grows more than twelve feet high, and the white flowers are in large panicles on the top.

M. Huestis thinks he has established, by careful observation, a certain periodicity in the severity of winters. During the last century and the present there has