

additional inducement for our friends in that County, as well as other portions of the Provinces, to make a joint, united, and vigorous effort to place the *Cultivator* in the hands of every individual who is capable of reading, we would take this opportunity of informing them, that we have means at our disposal which will enable us to make our Journal one of the most useful, and practical and cheapest agricultural papers published in the English language.

In addition to the purchase of seeds, and valuable breeds of live stock, by agricultural societies, the most improved descriptions of farming implements might be purchased from the makers and sold to farmers or members of the societies at their original cost. We hold it to be an improvident expenditure of money, for an agricultural society to invest large sums of money for the purchase of any article of improvement unless there be a certainty of the money so expended reverting back to the society for the legitimate purpose for which it was subscribed and granted. It is, however, neither our wish nor province to dictate to the agricultural societies how they shall dispose of their funds; but, as a friend to agriculture, we feel no scruples in asserting that the money laid out in the purchase of seeds, live stock, and implements, by associations, might be returned to the societies for premiums, without diminishing the value or importance of the services rendered. First convince the members of the society, through the information obtained in the agricultural journal the necessity of improvement, and then we pledge our word for it, there will be a grand turn out to attend the public sales of articles imported for their benefit. There are many other points in the subjoined correspondence, which, if space would permit, we would feel a pleasure in offering a few remarks, but suffice it to say, for the present, that the public are under high obligations to Mr. Ruttan, for the very able manner in which he has brought this important subject before their notice.

To the Editor of the *B. A. Cultivator*.

Sir,—The writer of the letter of which the sub-

joined is an extract, is a gentleman extensively engaged in farming operations, and withal belonging to one of the learned professions, and president of the Jefferson County Agricultural Society, N. Y.

I presume no apology is necessary for introducing the subject of an improvement in our seeds to your readers; every observing man must be more and more convinced from the last two or three years' experiments, that our seeds are what is usually termed nearly "run out," and that an immediate effort should be made for their restoration, otherwise I am convinced that the effect will be ruinously felt within a very few years. The greatest benefactors to any agricultural country are those who introduce into it the greatest number of new seeds or varieties of grain or valuable breeds of stock. It is true, that now and then some public spirited individual here and there purchase some new variety, by which means the country is not as yet absolutely bankrupt; but we are now so run down, that this partial supply is manifestly inadequate; and a combined effort on the part of the Agricultural Societies, for the full attainment of this object has become absolutely indispensable.

The process of deterioration goes on surely, and yet so slowly, that none but the vigilant, active, zealous, and intelligent farmers, such as Mr. Clarke, can perceive its downward course; and it follows that none but such can be expected to make any effort to arrest its progress.

If our farmers generally were reading-men,—if they could be prevailed upon to spend two or three hours once a month to attend a township club or other meetings, for the discussion of agricultural subjects, all these matters might safely be left to themselves; but deplorable it is to say,—this is not the case as yet,—though I am happy to say, that a very great improvement in reading, which I consider the foundation upon which agriculture must rest, has taken place in this county within a year or two, as you are aware 200 copies of the *Cultivator* is taken by our society, where three years ago, not one was taken. To return from this digression: Mr. Clarke informs me that he sows one and a half bushels of the Odessa (or black sea) wheat upon an acre; and since he procured his twelve quart he believes that his county has made a clear gain, over and above what it otherwise would have raised, of one million of bushels!

Having successfully introduced several new breeds of cattle, our society intends devoting nearly all its available funds in the importation of new seeds for the next season, from Great Britain and the United States; and it is to be hoped that other agricultural societies will direct their energies to the same object. The gradual failure of the potatoe crop in Western and Northern America, should open our eyes to the necessity of immediate action; and it is not the potatoe alone which requires renewing, but the whole of our seeds, grains as well as grasses, are what is usually termed "run out."

The general introduction of new seeds is always,