

Leveillé
P. Lauson & Co

2 July 1856

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
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SPECIAL CIRCULAR.

EDINBURGH, July 2nd, 1856.

WE have the pleasure to announce, that, for the third time, we have the gratification of being the medium of securing for this country the First Prize for AGRICULTURAL SEEDS, GRAIN, &c., at a General Competition of Nations.

The Jury of Produce of the Great Agricultural Show at Paris, just concluded, have awarded to us the SPECIAL GOLD MEDAL OF HONOUR* (the highest reward in their power to bestow), for our Collection, illustrative of the Agricultural Resources of the United Kingdom.

We consider this a matter of congratulation, not so much to ourselves as to the general body of Agriculturists in this country, to whom we were indebted for the greater number of samples in the Collection. Beyond the exercise of our judgment in the growth and origin of the stocks, and in the selection of the samples raised therefrom, together with the necessary expenditure of time and money, we take no credit.

The competition has been with countries possessed of equally good, if not better soils, and, certainly of more favourable climates; our success, therefore, must be considered as mainly attributable to the superior skill of the Farmers of this kingdom, as shewn, not only in the intrinsic value of the articles exhibited, but also in the care bestowed in cleaning and preparing them for the market.

We cannot, however, affect to overlook the rapid progress now making in Agriculture by our Continental neighbours, more especially the French. The systematic method by which they test all our theories, the indefatigable energy they exercise in developing the resources of their soil, the scientific aid they unceasingly invoke in elucidating the conflicting theories and practices of other nations—all tend to shew that, to maintain the position this country now holds, still more energetic exertions must be made by all engaged in the cultivation of the soil and the improvement of the several varieties of our cultivated plants. With special reference to this (which is strictly within our province as Seedsmen) we wish to impress upon our friends the importance of preserving the purity of all our recognised species and varieties of Agricultural Plants; as upon these and the introduction of foreign kinds, we must rely for the means of increasing the number of new sorts of superior quality and productiveness.

PETER LAWSON & SON.

* (Extract from the Decree "Concours Agricole Universel de 1856.")

" III^e Div.—PRODUITS AGRICOLES ETRANGERS ET FRANCAIS.

" ART. 19.—Des médailles d'or, d'argent et de bronze seront décernées aux exposants des produits agricoles dont le mérite aura été constaté.

" ART. 20.—De GRANDES MEDAILLES D'OR pourront être décernées, par le jury, à tout exposant d'un produit jugé très-remarquable, ou pour un ensemble complet de produits exceptionnels."