

Sir

Monliello Apr. 19. 14.

Your letter of Mar. 16. was received on the 12th with only, & the corn-drill arrived at the same time by a boat. possessing already one of Martin's drills, this will be returned in the same way it came. for this reason as well as because you ask my opinion, I shall go into explanations. yours came with-out the pieces which go into the 3. mowies having chains appended to them: but I presume the foremost was the helve, ~~and~~ either with or without a small hoe for opening the furrows, and the 2. hinder ones carrying mouldboards to cover the seed. These Martin's has also, so that for opening & covering the furrows they are equal. but his has other valuable advantages over yours, in its present state.

1. yours has its buckets cut into the solid of the axle, adapted solely to the size of grains of corn, & the distances for dropping them. his has shifting bands of tape or leather, with sets of metal buckets to each, adapted to seed of every size from the turnip to the pea: and one size larger would do for corn.

2. his has a single wheel only, as light as a cotton spinning wheel, about 2.7. distant from the beam, turning an axis not bigger than the wrist, with a broken joint in that axis enabling the wheel to mount over stones & moderate shumps without interrupting the motion of the buckets. it depends on its 3. legs for steady motion on the ground, & these with a clevis regulate the depth of the furrows.

3. his whole machine does not weigh as much as the beam of yours. a man may draw his. I used it however with a little Jenny or mule.

4. his costs 8. Dollars, yours 18. D.

His may be ~~readily~~ easily improved so as to sow several rows, at given distances, at the same time. but so might yours, by lengthening the axis & digging different circles of buckets round it. it would be easy too to vary your buckets with the size of the seed, by digging, in the axis, square mortises instead of buckets, and filling these with plugs of wood, in different sets, each plug having a bucket dug into it, proportioned to the size of the seed. the distance of dropping too might

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be varied by making the mortises of each axle close to each other, & filling occasionally those not wanted with blank plugs. Still it would have no advantage over Martin's, and would be heavier & dearer: and protesting as I before observed one of these, yours would be of no utility to me. The expence of bringing and returning it shall be mine. Accept the tender of my best wishes & respects.

Thos Jefferson

Mr Saml P Tarson