grasses, as orchard grass and timothy, should be cut earlier than softer sorts."

All who have had experience with well-cured, early-cut hay, testify to its superior value. The cows give more milk when fed on it, the young stock grow more rapidly, and the fat cattle require fewer turnips, and a smaller allowance of oil-cake. We are persuaded that many farmers commit a grand mistake in deferring their hay-making too long. Not only better hay, but more of it, may be obtained by early cutting. By not allowing the grass plants to mature their seed, the sward retains a larger share of its vitality. Maturing seed is an exhausting process, and when this is avoided, the sward, if the weather be favorable, and the land in good condition, will soon send up a fresh growth, from which a second cutting may be had late in the season. Especially is it needful for those to begin mowing early who have to depend on the now old-fashioned scythe. Failing to commence until the grass is mature, they are unable to get through until some of the crop is dead ripe, and then the hay is little better than straw.

EXPENSE OF MAKING HAY.

On this subject we find the following remarks in the *Country Gentleman*:—

"When meadows were cut by scythes, and raked by hand-rakes, the cost of securing a crop was computed to be one-half its value. Now, by the use of mowing machines, horse-rakes, horse-forks, &c., it need not be one-fourth, as the following estimate for cutting fifty acres will show:

Interest on $100, cost of Mowing Machine	$7.00
Wear and tear, annually, say	3.00
Team and man, 8 days, 6 acres a day (a low estimate)	20.00
Cost of cutting 50 acres	$30 00
Raking, horse and man, 20 acres a day	5.00
Drawing, if 2 tons per acre, 2 men and 1 team; with horse-fork, 3 tons daily, $3 per day, 12 days	36.00
Contingencies, rain, &c., say	7.00
Cost of securing 100 tons	$78 00

Or, 78 cents per ton. It will be observed however, that the team of the farmer stands idle much of the time in harvest, and that the actual cost, as compared with the old way, would therefore be really less."

THE HAY SWEEP.

This is a labor-saving implement which any farmer may construct for himself, and although but little known, it is capable, under favourable circumstances, of greatly lightening the toil of hay-making. Where the hay is stacked in the fields, or put in a barn close to the meadow, the hay-sweep may be used to great advantage. It is estimated that used in connection with the horse-fork, two or three men and a couple of boys, with the help of three horses, can draw and stow away *thirty tons* per day with ease.

We extract the following description of this implement from *Tucker's Annual Register*:—

"It is essentially a large, stout, coarse rake, with teeth projecting both ways, like those of a common revolver; a horse is attached to each end, and a boy rides each horse. A horse passes along each side of the winrow, and they thus drag this rake after them, scooping up the hay as they go. When 500 pounds or so are collected, they draw it at once to the stack or barn, and the horses turning about at each end, causing the gates to make half a circle, draw the teeth backwards from the heap of hay, and go empty for another load—the teeth on the opposite sides being thus used alternately. To pitch easily, the back of each load must be left so as to be pitched first.

"In using this machine, not a moment is lost in loading or unloading. No person is needed in attendance, except the two small boys that ride the horses. If the horses walk three miles an hour, and travel a quarter of a mile for each load, they will draw 12 loads, or three tons an hour, or 30 tons in 10 hours, leaving the men wholly occupied in raising the hay from the ground when deposited, by means of another horse with the pitchfork.

"It will be obvious that this rapid mode of securing hay will enable the farmer to elude showers and storms, which might otherwise prove a great damage."

HAY CAPS.

These are laughed at by many as part and parcel of an effeminate parlour style of farming, but subjected to the test of experience, they commend themselves as well worthy of adoption by all judicious enterprising tillers of the soil. Some are incredulous about them and think they will get wet through like the cotton shirt on a labourer's back. On the contrary, they will shed rain like a cotton umbrella, or like the covering of a tent. It is said by those who have tried this expedient, that coarse clover will remain safe through a week's rain with such protection. And while preventing rain from coming in, cotton caps will permit the steam from the hay to go out. Mr. Emerson, an experienced New Hampshire farmer, says he has used hay-caps for upwards of fifteen years, and recommends them to all his friends and neighbours. In reference to the time consumed by putting them on—an objection urged by many, he says they save time, inasmuch as they render less particularity needful in trimming and shaping the cocks. And while he has often had uncapped cocks tipped over, or the tops blown off by gusts of wind, he never had such accidents occur when they were properly capped. Another reliable American agriculturist, writing to the *New England Farmer*, says, "Hay caps do pay, and no mistake, and on the whole, a farmer of moderate means who cuts much coarse hay cannot afford to be without some thirty or forty of them." For the guidance of such as are disposed to give hay-caps a trial, we copy the following directions from the *Country Gentleman*:—"Take four yards of yard-wide cotton sheeting; sew it together so as to make two yards square; hem the rough edges; turn up each corner two or three inches and sew it strongly; tie in a short strong twine to form a loop, and you have a hay-cap ready for use. Four sharp wooden pins of hard wood, half an inch in diameter, eighteen inches long, to be thrust upwards into the hay, at the bottom of the cock, complete the preparation."

HOW TO SHARPEN A SCYTHE.

"Mower" writes to the *American Agriculturist*:—"To properly grind and whet a scythe, requires a little practical skill, in the attainment of which the beginner may be assisted by a few hints. The cutting edge of a scythe or a similar instrument, when examined by a microscope, shows numerous fine projecting points or a series of minute wedges which are to be driven into the substance operated on, to separate the adjoining parts. In order that they may enter the more readily, these points should incline in the direction of the stroke given with the blade of the instrument. In cutting with the scythe, the edge strikes the grass at an angle of about forty-five degrees, and hence the grinding should be done so as to have the points set in that direction to the blade. This is done by keeping the blade firmly upon the stone, with the point drawn toward the body of the holder, at the above mentioned angle with the edge of the stone. Commence to grind at the heel and move it steadily along as the work progresses, until the point is reached, then grind the other side in the same manner. Never rub the scythe back and forth upon the stone as though endeavoring to whet it. The revolution of the stone will wear away the steel much better than rubbing it in this manner, by which the edge is likely to be made rounded, and to be set irregularly. It is preferable to hold the scythe so that the stone will revolve towards the edge. In this way the holder can see when the edge is reached, and the particles ground off are carried away clean. In the opposite method of grinding there is danger of making a "feather" edge which will readily crumble off, and leave the scythe almost or quite as dull as before. The blade should be ground equally on both sides. In whetting the scythe, lay the rifle or whet-stone flat against the side of the blade, and give a light quick stroke downward and forward in the direction of the edge, so that the scratches it makes shall keep the points set in the same direction as was given them by grinding. By fol-