

M-Corrick's, and Hassey's, and Bell's have shown us what can be done by reaping-machines. The old rake was the only implement for gathering stray hay and corn; but the modern horse-rake will do the same work ten or twenty times as rapidly. The old hay-fields exhibited simply the handicraft labor which supplied so many Daphnes and Co's to the pastoral poets; but the haymaking-machines now give a different aspect to the affair. The old carts and waggon in which the farmer conveyed his produce from the field to the barn, and from there to market, were a terrible drag to the horse; but now, like clipper on another element, they weigh less, carry more, and move more quickly. The old flail beat about the corn in a rude way on the barn-floor; but the new thrashing-machine enables either horses or steam to do the work more conveniently and more expeditiously. The old process of winnowing left the wind to blow away the chaff in a blind and capricious manner; but the modern winnowing-machines have such a discriminating power, that they can separate the grain into 'good corn,' 'good tail,' 'tail,' 'whites,' 'screenings,' and 'chaff,' thus enabling the farmer to carry to market, produce, the quality of which can be exactly determined. The sheep and lambs of old days had to munch away at whole turnips, as best they might; but the modern turnip-cutter, by presenting the root in nice mouthfuls, economizes the muscular power of the animal, and gives him an increased value in the market. The old chaff was cut by hand, with a sort of chopping or guillotine action; but the chaff-cutters now made, perform the work with far greater celerity. The old farmers drained their land, if at all, by using hand-made tiles, and pipes laid in hand-made grooves and gutters; but the new farmers can reap the advantages of the ingenious tile-machines, and can lay down the pipes by the still more ingenious draining-plough.

Nay, not only do farmers now display all this ability, but they have actually become poetical, which the world in general is perhaps not aware of. That Messrs. Moses and Hyam, as Messrs. Warren and Day & Martin formerly did, throw around their business proceedings a halo of poetry, everybody knows; but it has, until lately, been new to us that an agricultural implement-maker thinks it worth his while to lisp in numbers; and as it is not to be supposed that he would bring ploughs and poetry together, unless the farmers were pleased thereat, the latter must also have a share of the credit. Listen:—

Iron-ploughs as Kimble's, as Howard's, and Ball;
 Two narrow-axes as scullers, made deep or snail;
 Have ploughs too, for draining for riding and hoeing;
 Chaff-cutters and rollers, to prepare for sowing.
 With iron horse-boxes or with I make drills,
 Fit in one to ten coulters. Bean, cake, or malt mills,
 Then as to carts—

The tipping apparatus is simple and sound,
 So, passing up others its service is found.
 The self-acting tail-board is, too, a good plan,
 As I must be approved of by master and man,
 Its hinges upon hinges—no need to take off—
 For ds under the cart-frame, and catches aloft,
 To York I first sent it to meet public eye;
 The Royal Society to me gave the prize;
 Prince Albert and a shrewd old did declare,
 'It's the best one-horse cart that I have seen here.'

With a little chaff, we have done —

Sir, have you chaff-machines now worked by man?
 I recommend horse-power, my late improved plan;
 Many of them I have just lately put down,
 That give satisfaction to farmers around.
 And if you should doubt it—hear what I now say—
 You can go to see them; they're at work to-day.
 I fix it for cutting about if you please;
 And one horse can work it—an old hack with ease.
 Without a driver, one man with two boys,
 Can cut eighty bushels an hour without noise.

Opinions may possibly differ as to the merits of this poetic effusion; but there is no difference of opinion as to the simple fact—that agricultural implement-makers have placed the means of great advancement within the reach of farmers.—In 1851, Mr. Pusey made this important statement—that the improvement in farming-implements made within the preceding dozen years, had been such as to insure a saving on outgoing, or an increase of incomes, of not less than one-half on all the main branches of farming-labor.

Natural History.

THE OX.—HISTORY, MANAGEMENT, &c.

(Continued from last number.)

[The cuts illustrative of the following remarks, not being ready, we are obliged to go to press without them. They will appear in the next number.]

THE MIDDLE HORNS.

THE HEREFORDS.

The Hereford white-faced breed, with the exception of a very few Alderney and Durham cows, have almost exclusive possession of the county of Hereford. The Hereford oxen are considerably larger than the Devons. They are usually of a darker red; some of them are brown, and even yellow, and a few are brindled; but they are principally distinguished by their white faces, throats, and bellies. In a few the white extends to the shoulders. The old Herefords were brown, or red-brown, with not a spot of white about them. It is only within the last fifty or sixty years that it has been the fashion to breed for white faces. Whatever may be thought of the change of color, the present breed is certainly far superior to the old one. The hide is considerably thicker than that of the Devon. Compared with the Devons, they are shorter in the leg, and also in the carcass; higher, and broader and heavier in the chine; rounder and wider across the hips, and better covered with fat; the thigh fuller and more muscular, and the shoulders larger and coarser.

Mr. Marshall gives the following account of them; it is tolerably correct, but does not sufficiently distinguish them from their kindred breed. The countenance pleasant, cheerful, open; the forehead broad; eye full and lively; horns bright, taper, and spreading; head small; chap lean; neck long and tapering; chest deep; bosom broad, and projecting forward; shoulder-bone thin, flat, no way protuberant in bone, but full and