

stook. When grain is cut tolerably early, so that it will have to stand in the shock a week or thereabouts to become dry enough for the barn, there is an advantage in putting on cap sheaves. They preserve the color of the grain and straw, and in case of rain afford a considerable protection to the crop. In case of a soaking rain of long continuance, the caps require to be removed, to allow the free operation of the drying influences of the sun and air. In this climate we are comparatively exempt from the many risks and inconveniences on account of bad or uncertain weather which attend harvesting operations in moist northern latitudes. Still, we occasionally have a sufficiently troublesome time of it in harvest, and when a field is thoroughly dry and ready for the barn, it is always a safe plan to draw it in without delay, rather than to wait till the whole crop has been cut, or some other particular operation concluded, before commencing to carry it.

Accounts from nearly all quarters concur in representing the prospects of harvest highly flattering. It is true that the hay crop is comparatively light, that fall wheat in some limited sections was badly winter-killed, and that the depredations of the midge have been very serious in some localities; but we believe we have good grounds for anticipating that the crops of all kinds will on the whole be the best we have obtained for several years. The season was peculiarly favorable for the putting in of spring crops, and although there has been in the greater part of the country a scarcity of rain, still the general character of the weather, and the state of the land as left by the winter frosts, has been favorable to growth. Where failures have occurred, it is important to inquire into the cause or causes. In regard to the winter killing of wheat, we have made some remarks in preceding numbers, and shall revert to it again. In regard to the fly, experience this year supports the opinion that early ripening kinds of winter wheat, sown early, and on land in such a condition as to prevent heaving out by the frost, the crop will escape comparatively uninjured. Spring wheat, on the other hand, must also be of early maturing varieties, but must be sown late. We have before us a specimen from the field of a gentleman, alluded to and sufficiently described by him in a communication in another column. The yield of this crop, if thrashed at all, will probably not be one-tenth what it would have

been if it had escaped the fly. But had same field been sown with the Fife variety at the 15th or 20th of May, we do not doubt a return of twenty five or thirty bushels per acre might have been obtained.

We regret to observe that the season in the British Islands has been extraordinarily unfavorable to the operations of the farmer. In the spring, cattle and sheep died by thousands from sheer starvation, owing to the backwardness of the pastures after the stock of winter food exhausted. Since then, up to the latest account there has been almost a continued successive week after week of wet and untoward weather. The prospects of the growing crops were consequently very discouraging. Should the crops in Europe prove to be as inferior as has been lately feared, the ample return which we expect to obtain on this side the Atlantic will be peculiarly fortunate both for them and for us, and the remunerative prices which our farmers expect to realize for their produce, in connection with a bountiful harvest, will contribute to place the country once more in a sound financial position.

Parsnips, Carrots, Mangels, and Swedes not already hoed and singled out to their proper distances, should immediately undergo the operation, after which the skeleton, or cut plough, should be passed along the drills close to the plants as possible without injury to them, soon after which pass the drill harrow or scuffler to pulverise the soil between; or the operation may be performed previous to the hoeing or singling out. Swedes may be singled out at from 12 to 15 inches apart, mangels from 15 to 18 inches, and parsnips and carrots at 18 inches apart. Blank in mangels and swedes may be filled up by carefully taking up the plants in moist weather, preserving their roots, and dipping them previous to transplanting in a bucket of rich mould, mixed up with soft or manure water to a semi-fluid consistency, taking care in the transplanting that the roots are not doubled up, and that the soil is closed but gently, pressed to the roots, to keep out drought, and that the heart of the plant is not buried.

Varieties of the White turnip may still be sown on land properly prepared for them to produce a valuable supply of early winter food for sheep and cattle. Refer to the hints in our last number for details on this subject.