

the strangle-tare are eagerly sought for by the turtle-dove; and those of the wire-weed by the lap-wing. The fact is, there are very few birds, whether great or small, that we could well spare, except, perhaps, the house-sparrow; which, though very useful while rearing their young, which they feed with caterpillars, are professional and dexterous thieves all the rest of the year."

HAY-MAKING.

Hay is dried grasses of different kinds, and therefore differs in its nature according to the species of grasses from which it is prepared. When grown on a natural meadow, subject to irrigation, it is called meadow-hay, and of this kind a very large quantity is annually made and used in England. The making of hay from clover and rye-grass requires little care or skill in dry and genial climates, but it is attended with difficulty in those places subject to sudden alterations of wet weather. The process may be described as follows:—

When the grass has arrived at or near its full growth, but before the seed is perfected, it should be cut down, for by this means, if properly attended to afterwards, it will retain its nutritive qualities, as well as an additional weight, which it would not have had if permitted to attain a greater degree of ripeness. A short time after being mown, it should be turned over in full swathes, without being scattered. If not in a fit state to be cocked the first day after cutting, it should be put into small hand-cocks, as soon as its state of tilth will allow; from these it should be gathered into larger ones, and when its condition permits, put into tramp ricks. Sometimes, however, the cocks are so large, that they do not require to be put into tramp ricks. The gathering of the hay is generally performed by women and boys, some carrying and others raking up what may remain. A superintendent should be placed over the workers, to see that the hay is in no way scattered, as the less it is exposed to the sun the better. In wet seasons, any method which could possibly be devised to secure the hay crop in good condition, would be of the greatest benefit. It is in unfavourable weather that hay-making may be said to be an art, as in good weather the preparing of it is attended with comparatively little trouble. In Lancashire, there is a method practised called *tippling*, which is said to be a cheap and superior way of making hay in wet seasons. In making the tippie, a person with the right hand rolls the swathe inwards, until he has a little bunch, then the same is done with the left hand, till both meet, and the quantity will form about eight or twelve pounds. This bundle is set on end between the feet, and a rope of twisted grass is tied round it near the top. From the top a few straggling stems are drawn up, which are twisted to make the tippie taper to a point, and give it as much as possible a conical shape. After standing a few hours, these bundles are said to become so smooth on the outside, that the heaviest rains seldom wet them throughout, and when wet they are easily dried again. As soon as ready, they are put into the summer rick, or even into the winter stack, if very dry, but they never require to be opened up, even if not quite dry. By this method, it is said, not a leaf is lost; and the hay is nearly as green as if dried beneath folds of paper. In a moderate crop, one woman will tippie to one mower, and one woman will rake to two tippers or swathers; but where the crop is strong, it may require three women to keep pace with two mowers. After the hay is put up in this manner, the crop may be considered as secure, even though wet weather should continue for some time after.

The criterion for good hay is, that it should be green in the colour, and perfectly dry; and to secure this, the method which will expose it least when making, must be the best. Fine green hay, horses will eat to excess; while hay fully ripe has neither the sweetness to induce them to eat nor the nourishing effects when eaten. The loss of seed which the hay sustains from over-ripeness takes greatly from its nourishing quality: early cutting not only prevents the loss of seed, but the nutritive juices are retained, if properly managed. Making of hay may be compared to the drying of medicinal plants, which, if the colour is not preserved by being dried in the dark without pressure, are considered of little value. If the land on which the hay grew is to be devoted to succeeding years to pasture, early cutting is of essential value to its future productiveness; rye-grass, in particular, is much hurt by being allowed to ripen in the seed. Some cultivators, indeed, argue, that this defect is made up by the shedding of the seed upon the ground, which by growing will contribute to form a close sward; but the loss which the old plants sustain is not made up by this.

Grass when dried into hay loses about three-fourths of its weight, four hundred tons in the field yielding about one hundred tons when put into the stack; and by heat and evaporation it is supposed to be still farther reduced about ten per cent. In the stacking of hay in England, it is considered that a moderate degree of fermentation has the effect of communicating a flavor to it, which, as exemplified in the difference between old and new hay, not only renders it more nutritious, but also makes it more palatable to the cattle fed upon it. The greater the quantity of sap which can be retained, without endangering it being fired or becoming mown, the more perceptible will this flavor be. The time of putting the hay into stack, therefore, requires considerable judgment, and depends not alone upon the state of the weather, but also upon the condition and quality of the crop. It is a just remark "that if light crops, or those produced upon a poor, hungry, unmanured soil, were to be long exposed to the action of the sun and air, their juices would be dried up, and they would lose both in their weight and nutritive value." Hay may therefore be made too dry, or, when the crop is very heavy, be carried to the stack in too wet a state. In Scotland, there is little risk of the hay being spoiled by being stacked too soon, as in many instances, after it is ricked, it is allowed to stand for weeks on the field, and receives much damage from exposure. From these facts, it is evident that hay-making in England is conducted in a manner far superior to that practised in Scotland.

NEWS.

The arrival of the *Acadia* has furnished news to the 19th of May the principal items of which are contained in the following summary:

On the 8th instant, the Annual Budget was laid before the House by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Every branch of the revenue, with the exception of the Post Office, has fallen off. In the Customs there has been a deficiency of £750,000; in the Excise, it has been even greater—£1,200,000. The gross revenue would produce, Sir Robert Peel calculated, £47,640,000; it has only yielded £45,600,000—a falling off of nearly two millions.

The government has not succeeded by the concessions it has made in the scheme for educating the children of the poor in the manufacturing districts. The Dissenters still regard it as violating the rights of conscience, and foremost among them are the Wesleyans, the most numerous and influential of all the dissenters from the Church. The Bill, it is clear, must be abandoned, for to pass it, amid such a hurricane of opposition, would be madness. Sir James Graham has certainly denuded the measure of many objectionable features, but enough remains to give paramount supremacy to the Church party, in the mode of electing the trustees, in the appointment of the head-master,—on which the Bishop has a vote,—and other matters of detail. In this light the Dissenters and Roman Catholics view it, and from this feeling they oppose it. Besides, the measure receives a very chilling support from a large section of the *soi-disant* friends of the Government, for the very opposite reason, that it does not go far enough—that it does not throw the whole machinery for educating the children of the poor into the arms of the Church of England.

The Corn-laws were debated four nights last week in the House of Commons, rather from compliment to the people out of doors than from the least chance of the arguments *pro* and *con* influencing the members within. Near the conclusion of the debate Mr Cobden presented himself to the House, and delivered one of the most effective—if not the very ablest of the many able speeches which he has made in favour of Free Trade generally, and the abolition of the Corn-laws more particularly. The tone of the speech was most bitter against the landed proprietors, who form the great bulk of the House. Perhaps a more unpalatable speech to the majority of the Members, was never heard in the House of Commons. The voting showed 381 against the motion, and 135 for it. The minority, though small, comparatively speaking, has increased by nearly forty votes since the former discussion; but the result of the division is a very inadequate criterion of the feeling out of the House on the subject of these odious and unpopular laws.

The agitation for the Repeal of the Union is making strides in Ireland very alarming to the Government. Instead of attending to his duties in the House of Commons, Mr. O'Connell has re-