

France he received like honours, but soon returned to America, which he explored from Florida to Labrador, expanding the Biography to five volumes. At length the "Birds of America" was completed. The elegance of the engraving, the richness and delicacy, as well as the life-likeness of the colouring, took the world by surprise, and forever established the fame of Audubon as the great American Ornithologist.

As an instance of the wonderful perseverance of Mr. Audubon, it is related that having wandered and toiled for years to get accurate representations of American birds, he found that two Norway rats had in a single night destroyed two hundred of his original drawings, containing the form of more than a thousand inhabitants of the air.—All were gone, except a few bits of gnawed paper, upon which the marauding rascals had reared a family of their young. "The burning heat," says the noble-hearted sufferer, "which instantly rushed through my brain, was too great to be endured, without affecting the whole of my nervous system. I slept not for several nights, and the days passed like days of oblivion, until the animal powers being again recalled into action, through the strength of my constitution, I took up my gun, my note book and my pencils, and went forward to the woods as gayly as if nothing had happened." He went forth, and in less than three years had his portfolio filled.

For the last ten or twelve years of his life, Audubon reposed upon his laurels, and in his quiet little home, near the city of New York, enjoyed the only repose he ever knew. Satisfied to have around him a few choice spirits, he did not mingle much in society, and to the world he has been known only through the results of his labours. Here he died in peace on the 27th of January, 1851, aged seventy-one years.

THE SICKLE, THE SCYTHE, THE REAPING MACHINE.

In making a comparison between cutting grain by the sickle and by the reaping machine, we have been in the habit of regarding it chiefly as a question of expense; now, however, we are forced to look at it in another light: we must view it more as a question of expediency and of necessity. Our corn must be cut down and harvested—we cannot get sufficient hands to do it for love or money—what means must we adopt to attain our object? It is calculated that three scythemen, with their followers, will, on an average, cut, bind, and stock $4\frac{1}{2}$ imperial acres in the day. To perform the same work with the sickle eighteen people will be required, with the Hainault scythe twelve, and with the reaping machine seven. Now these people are distributed in the following manner:—

	Women reaping, gathering, &c.	Men cutting.	Men binding.	Men at machine.	Child at rake.
Sickle,.....	15	.....	3	.....	.....
Scythe,	3	3	3	.....	1
Hainault Scythe,	9	.....	3	.....	.....
Reaping Machine,.....	3	.....	3	1	.....

As the greatest number of hands is required for the sickle, it is evident that a general deficiency will be felt by those most who use it, while a deficiency in the number of men usually employed as scythemen and handsters will be felt by those most who use the scythe. But of the two there is no doubt that emigration at present will cause the greatest inconvenience to the former; for, though there may be a deficiency in men for handsters, this evil can be in some measure remedied by teaching others to do it, and by farmers being satisfied with an inferior class of work. We would, therefore, advise all whose crops are not too much lodged or twisted to endeavour to reduce their harvest expenses by using the scythe, which will, perhaps, at the same time, relieve them of no little anxiety if people are scarce, and reduce the risk of having a large breadth of crop ready to be cut, and no person to do it.

Of all the different modes of reaping however, the greatest saving of hands is that obtained from the use of the reaping machine. It is true we cannot expect to have all our crops cut by it in its present state, but by the use of it and the scythe very few more people than those ordinarily employed on the farm would be required during harvest,