

realized. The flour made from the early cut wheat was superior, being white and lively."

Let others who have not full faith, in this reasoning, try a small portion of wheat or other grain by cutting it when just out of milk, and carefully note the results; we feel quite sure they will be satisfactory. The reaping machines, now so common, put it in the power of farmers to gather their grain crops at the most appropriate season.

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TO PREVENT THE FEET FROM SLIPPING IN HAYING TIME, ETC.—C. T., Queen's Co., N. Y., recommends tacking the soles of old rubber shoes on the bottoms of boots or shoes during the haying season, to prevent the feet slipping. Leather becomes very smooth by walking over stubble, and the mower sometimes finds it difficult to "get a good hold" as he advances forward to swing his scythe. It is also a good precaution to put on rubber shoes with corrugated bottoms when going on to a sloping roof, as there is less danger of slipping—unless the roof is very wet, when one should not go at all.

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### INDIAN CORN—TOP-DRESSING OF ASHES, PLASTER, ETC.

In looking over the mode of cultivation practised by those most successful in growing the corn crop, and especially the statements of those who have taken premiums for large products of this cereal, we almost invariably find that some fertilizer was applied in the hill before planting, or as a top-dressing after the corn appeared above ground, immediately before or after the first hoeing. The benefits of this course are not unappreciated by thousands who do not compete at fairs, and hence we find the latter practice quite general throughout the Middle and Eastern States. It involves but little labor and a slight expense, and is found to assist the young corn in getting an earlier and stronger start, so that it can forage for itself through a greater depth and breadth of soil.

A handful of ashes thrown around the hill just before hoeing the first time, is one of the most simple and common applications. That it is beneficial, long experience shows, and how any farmer can neglect it for the purpose of selling ashes for eight or ten cents a bushel in cheap calicoes and inferior groceries, is more than we can comprehend. In applying the ashes, if damp, a small paddle or scoop will be found convenient, or a piece of old tin or sheet-iron rolled up funnel-shaped, can be employed, the smaller end serving as a handle. A little practice will enable one to do the work very rapidly, and yet carefully, so as to place the ashes around and not upon the corn, which is injurious, especially if a rain follow immediately.

We have mixed ashes and plaster, one-third of the latter, and thought the application a more effective one—better than either applied alone. It should be remembered, however, that neither ashes or plaster can take the place of manure. The soil must be rich for corn, and there is nothing better to make it so than good barn-yard manure; but these top-dressings are useful, as before remarked, in stimulating the early growth, and thus encreasing the strength and hastening the maturity of the plant.

There are various mixtures employed by different farmers, varying in cost and value. Mr. Walrath of St. Lawrence Co., on his State premium farm, uses a composition of six bushels of ashes, one of plaster, one of lime, and half a bushel of salt, with a small quantity of sulphur, pounded bones, &c., mixing altogether, and applying a small handful both before and after hoeing. The effects are beneficial to this and all other farm crops. Salt alone has been commended as