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The Field.

American Farm Implements.

Our friends on the other side of the lines have long been renowned for their skill in contriving and manufacturing labour-saving implements. Their constructive ability was greatly stimulated by the late war, which by rendering labourers scarce, and wages high, put a higher premium on labour-saving inventions. To such a pitch has their ingenuity attained, that thousands of acres are now cultivated at the west, without the use of any tool worked by the human hand: man's part of the task being restricted to the driving of the team by which the implements of tillage are put in motion. Having recently attended some of the States' Fairs, and had an opportunity of inspecting a variety of useful contrivances for doing farm work which were on exhibition, we propose to give our readers the benefit of a few notes respecting them.

To begin with implements for turning up the soil, we believe that a species of plough is in use in the prairie States, which enables the man in attendance to ride instead of walking, his weight having an important influence on the depth of tillage secured. As we attended no exhibition farther west than Michigan, we did not see any implement of this class, and were led to suppose that it is only adapted to the smooth, and regular surfaces of the prairie region. Among a number of ploughs of different shapes and styles of get-up, we specially noticed those exhibited by Collins & Co., No. 212 Water street, New York city. They are described as "*Hartford New Patent Solid Cast Steel Turf and Stubble Ploughs.*" The mould-boards, land-sides and shares of these ploughs, are made by pouring molten cast-steel into iron moulds. Hence the apparently repetitious name of "cast cast-steel ploughs." After casting, they are highly tempered, ground and polished. Their extreme hardness and smoothness, together with their peculiar shape, give them both durability and lightness of draft. It is claimed for them that they will last from three to six times longer than any other steel plough; that they will "scour" in the most difficult soils, and stand friction in the most "gritty" land; and that they draw fully one-fifth lighter than any other plough while cutting the same width and depth. They will work from four to twelve inches deep; turn under stubble and all manner of rubbish; and with rolling coulter and drag chain attached, will bury weeds of four and five feet in height. They are made from 45 to 90 lbs. in weight, in sizes adapted for one or two horses.

"*McQuiston's Improved Cultivator,*" manufactured by W H Burtis & Co., Maltaville, Saratoga Co., N.Y., is an implement apparently well adapted for cultivating fallow ground, or fall-ploughed green sward

It will also till between rows of corn or potatoes; and being worked by a span of horses, the cultivator straddling one row, and working in two furrows at once, the ground is got over much more quickly than it can be by any single horse-hoe. It is cheap, costing only \$35 American money.

"*Monroe's Patent Rotary Harrow,*" for sale by the inventor, H. F. Monroe, Rockland, Maine, and by Emery & Sons, Albany, N. Y., is a valuable implement and worthy of being widely known, if the merits attributed to it by the maker and users of it, are really possessed by it. It can be worked by a single horse, attended by a boy, it never clogs, is not liable to get out of order, and is warranted to do far more and better work than the ordinary style of harrow.

The days of toilsome potato-planting and digging are numbered! Rejoice all ye whose backs are too stiff to bend, and in whose vicinage the Irish labourer is not to be had for love or money.

"*True's Potato Planter,*" does the work of twelve men; marking the rows, making the furrows, cutting the potatoes, dropping and covering them, all in one operation! It needs but one horse to work it, and will plant six acres per day, any distance apart that may be wished. So says the manufacturer, J. L. True, Garland, Maine. Price \$50.

"*Aspinwall's Potato Digger,*" made by Wheeler, Melick & Co., of Albany, N. Y., is said to do the work of digging potatoes perfectly, and faster than can be done by twenty men. It is drawn by two horses, which travel between the rows. The driving-wheels also run between the rows. A broad shovel plough runs under the potatoes,—the earth, tubers, and vines are thrown back on double vibrating separators, which riddle out the potatoes and leave them lying upon the surface. Nothing more is wanting but a machine to pick the potatoes up. Who will invent that?

Great improvements have been effected of late in mowers and reapers. On no description of farm implements have our American cousins laboured more assiduously or more successfully than on these, and surely no more benign invention was ever bestowed on the farmer than that which has so materially reduced the labour of haying and harvesting. A very thorough trial of mowers and reapers was held in Auburn in July last at which we were, part of the time, present. Never before had we any adequate conception of the amount of close and scrutinizing care bestowed upon this class of implements, both by the makers and users of them. Little points of detail were explained and discussed with a particularity and discrimination, which showed that intelligence and mechanical skill of no ordinary grade, were being expended upon them. Very severe tests were applied in the way of tangled grass and lodged grain, and while really good work was done by most, if not all, the large number of machines that competed, we do not wonder that the judges marked the performance of some

of them "perfection," for surely nothing better in the way of shaving the face of mother earth could be desired! A list of the successful machines has already appeared in this journal, but we cannot forbear adding a few observations in regard to some of them. The "*Buckeye Mower,*" made by Adriance, Platt & Co., of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and operated by Mr. Adriance himself, is certainly a "jewel" of a mower. For shortest and evenest stubble, durability, least side-draft, superior portability and facility of management, the palm was deservedly awarded to this machine. In some respects, however, the "*Rhode Island Clipper,*" and "*Wood's Mower,*" trod pretty closely on its heels.

"*D. M. Osborne & Co's Reaper and Raker,*" though it did not so completely out-distance competition as the winner in the preceding class, well deserved the gold medal which it got. In Self-Rakers, Seymour, Morgan & Allen, of Brockport, N. Y., took the first prize, their machine unquestionably surpassing all others in quality of work, durability, smallness of side draft, and facility of management; the only objection to it being its greatest draft; this, however, being caused not by excess of friction, but by greater provision to secure durability, the force of the objection is considerably lessened. In "Combined Mowers and Reapers," the competition was pretty close between the "*Eagle*" and "*Woods*" machines, but the advantages of the "*Woods*" were considered slightly to preponderate. In "Combined Reapers with Self-Raking or Dropping Attachments," the machine of Williams, Wallace & Co., took the gold medal, it being best as to quality of work, ease of draft, and facility of management.

Machines for tossing and spreading hay are now coming into extensive use. In the days of scythe-mowing it was necessary when the grass was heavy, to turn it in order to get it well cured. This is even more necessary now that the mower has come to be so generally adopted. The mower leaves the cut grass pretty evenly distributed on the surface of the ground but when the crop is heavy there is a non-conducting layer or top exposed to the scorching rays of the sun, and if this is left undisturbed, the layers below it will remain wet for a long time. It is very desirable to cure hay as evenly and as quickly as possible, so that the nutritive ingredients in it, may not be wasted, or its sweetness and fragrance lost. The "*Hay Tedder*" as it is called, accomplishes this. It shakes up, turns over, and scatters about the newly-cut grass, and in good, airy, hay-weather, the crop may be cut, turned, raked, and carried the same day. Three of these machines came under our notice at recent American Exhibitions. "*Bullard's Improved Hay Tedder,*" is the oldest implement of this description, having been patented, May 21, 1861. John Giles, of South Woodstock, Conn., the noted breeder of Alderneys, nearly all of whose farm is taken up by meadow and pasture, uses this tedder, and speaks of it in the high-