

from becoming mouldy, by admitting a free access of air under the frames.

In building round stacks, a sheaf is placed upright on its butt end, as near the centre as possible, around which other sheaves are placed circularly—and also upright, with a small inclination of the tops inwards, until the bottom of the stack is nearly filled. The stacker then places an outside layer of sheaves, horizontally with their ear ends inwards, and pressing them together with a considerable force, he then continues to lay on rows, with their butts all outwards, till he has raised the outside of the stack to nearly the height of the centre—he then builds up the whole of the stack by having the heads of the sheaves inwards, with a regular slope downwards and outwards to the butts. The centre of the stacks should always be fuller and less compressed than the outside. When the stack is built sufficiently high for roofing, the outside circular row of sheaves should have the butt ends projected a few inches beyond the body of the stack, which would form the eaves; after which every successive row should be placed gradually more inwards, and at the same time the middle of the stack should be kept well filled, as the safety of grain much depends upon the absence of this, until the roof is drawn to a narrow circle, when a few sheaves are placed upright in the centre, which they fill completely up. These stacks to be convenient, should be about 18 feet in diameter, and about 16 feet to the pitch of the roof or eaves. Stacks as above directed should be thatched in a few days after being built.—The laying on the thatch being a description of economy but little practiced in even the best agricultural districts of Canada, and one which few regard as being a remunerating concern,—we shall consequently be very brief—but we would just say for the information of our readers, that for the time that is required to execute the mere thatching of a few stacks, that no department of farming pays a heavier profit.—We have known twenty bushels of wheat to be destroyed on the roof of one stack, and in one instance, the whole of the roof of a long stack containing the produce of ten acres, was completely grown together, so that it had to be cut down with axes—and all for the want of proper stacking. It is very common with some to leave this branch of business until late in autumn, by which time much damage will be sustained to the grain,—indeed but few attend to it at all. This is not as it should be, and we would remind such of a very excellent maxim, which is in substance this:—that the great secret of amassing riches is not so much in producing property, as properly husbanding it after it is produced.

In laying on the thatch, the thatcher stands upon a ladder resting upon the roof of the stack, & lays it on in handfuls from sheaves placed within his reach. He thrusts his inner ends of his handful of thatch, gathered into a wisp, into the butts of the sheaves, and spreads out the lower end like a fan, overhanging the eaves; and covering as much as he can at arms length, in this way, he works upwards, causing each successful handful to overlap the one immediately below; and he thus covers the roof in triangular portions, till he has gone around the whole of the stack backwards, so that he may avoid treading on his work. When he reaches the top of all, he lays a considerable thickness of short straw upon the

crown, which should be covered with long thatch drawn to a point at the summit, which should be tied with a straw rope into a peak, giving it the appearance of an umbrella. The whole of this covering should be tied down with straw ropes and pinned at intervals of three feet, so that it may be secure under the severe tempests.

It will be readily seen that none but a careful fellow can be safely intrusted with the building and thatching of stacks, and would be better to give an extra price for a good stacker than to have them done for nothing by a botch.

Before our next issue, more or less thrashing will be performed, and in conclusion would take the liberty of reminding our friends of the necessity of preserving every handful of straw, and if they have no house room—let them stack it as recommended above, and we shall advise them in our August number of the best and proper use for all the refuse straw that they may be encumbered with.

THE HESSIAN FLY.—A Correspondent in the July number of *The Baltimore American Farmer*, gives it as his opinion that this fly deposits her eggs on the upper surface of the leaves, as soon in the autumn as the wheat is up sufficiently high, and that the eggs is about a 50th of an inch long and a four-hundredth of an inch in diameter, of a transparent pale red colour. The egg hatches in about four days, the young larva or maggot creeps down the leaf, enters the sheath and with its head downwards fastens upon the tender stalk just above a joint, which feeds solely upon the sap of the plant. In about five or six weeks the larva begins to assume a brownish tinge, and soon is of a bright chestnut color, at which stage it resembles a flax seed—and remains in this state during winter; the root of the plant, as soon as the weather becomes warm, in the following spring, the insects are transformed to flies, which have black heads, tawny bodies and covered with fine greyish hairs, the wings black, but tinged with yellow at the base, and the body measures one tenth of an inch in length, and the wings expand upwards of one quarter of an inch. Soon as the fly comes forth in the spring they commence laying their eggs on the leaves of the wheat, these eggs hatch, the maggot pass to the stalk, and they become pupae in June and July. They are found in this state at harvest, and are left in the stubble in the fields and these again are transformed to flies as above. The winter recommends, as a preventive, that the farmer should sow about 20 bushels of unslacked lime per acre, over the wheat plants, and contends that the lime will naturally find its way down the leaf and come in contact with the eggs and maggots which will inevitably destroy them.

CROPS IN THE TALBOT DISTRICT.—An agent, under date of July 21st, writes thus:—“Wheat Harvest will have commenced here next week, and the crops will come up to a full average—the very being good and the head well filled, but rather thin on the ground. The Hay has been an exceedingly abundant crop. Corn and potatoes are promising a heavy return to their owners. I find that Plaster is of essential advantage upon the potatoe crop,—the few rows I tried last year gave full evidence of the usefulness of its application, and I consequently used it on the whole of my crop the present year, by sowing it copiously in the drills, along with the potatoes, and now I have the most promising crop in the vicinity. My neighbours are all astonished at

the superiority of my crop to theirs. The land in this neighbourhood is a deep sandy loam, having for its base a calcareous clayey subsoil.”

As the continued existence of *The British American Cultivator* is no longer with us a matter of doubt or uncertainty, and as we have resolved to do our utmost to surmount each and every difficulty that may impede the progress of agricultural improvement in this naturally fertile and highly favored country, we come to the conclusion to throw off all diffidence, and express our views in future in as frank, easy, and comprehensive a style as we are capable of doing, so that our little sheet will be sought after both by the learned and illiterate, as one possessing a fund of useful and practical knowledge, especially beneficial to the classes whose interests and welfare we advocate. It shall ever be our constant aim to elevate the standing and character of the agriculture of the province, and we flatter ourselves that much good may and will be done through the agency of our periodical. As a means of making it more useful and generally acceptable, the Editorial department will be more varied in its character, and more practical and comprehensive in its tone. The list of agricultural exchange papers which we receive, have now become so numerous that it would require a weekly issue as large as the monthly, to give insertion to even a tithe of the useful matter that pass our inspection: owing to this circumstance we have concluded to open a miscellaneous department, which will contain in a few words, the essence of much information that would otherwise not make its appearance in the columns of our Journal. This department may generally be found under the appropriate heading of **EDITOR'S MISCELLANY**.

AN IMPROVED CHURN.—At a meeting of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland, held on the 5th of May last, an improved churn was described, which consisted of one cylinder, placed concentric within another, the object of this arrangement is that water may be put into the outer cylinder to keep the cream at any required temperature.—It has been found by experiment that the greatest quantity of the finest quality of butter, is obtained from cream at a mean temperature of 55 deg. Fahr.; and assuming this is a settled point in practice, the outer cylinder gives the maker of butter the means to reduce the temperature of the cream in the inner cylinder in summer, and to increase it in winter to the mean temperature of 55 deg., and to retain it at that degree.—*Farmers' Herald, England*.

HENS EGGS.—A correspondent of the *Farmers' Cabinet*, states, in often repeated trials he found that the eggs which approached nearest to roundness always produced females, while those which were pointed at one end, always produced males.

It is not by the exclusive cultivation of one faculty—however astonishing the result may be thus obtained—that a truly great mind can be reared; nor is it by the exclusive cultivation of the intellectual powers, while that of the moral feeling is neglected, that a truly great and good character can be developed.