

Editorial, &c.

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HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

The principal business of August consists rather in gathering in the fruits of the earth than in preparing the soil for new crops, though a few varieties of plants, such as late turnips, and some garden vegetables may still be sown with advantage.

Wheat harvest in Upper Canada, appears now to generally take place somewhat earlier than in former years, and before these remarks reach our readers, the greater portion of that crop throughout this Province will probably be secured. The reports of the general yield of the crop throughout the Country are somewhat contradictory, being described as abundant in some portions, and inferior in others. We are led to infer that the general return will be at least an average one. In the beginning of August the farmer will have abundant employment, under the present scarcity and high rates of hired labor, to get his remaining field crops, such as oats, peas &c, secured before it becomes necessary for him to devote his chief attention to the sowing of his fall wheat. The mode of harvesting grain scarcely requires any further remarks than those already gives in previous numbers of this Journal. Harvest it soon as the crop is sufficiently ripened, and before it is over-ripe, cut and rake cleanly, tie in moderately sized sheaves, stook up neatly—it is advisable to place cap sheaves over oats, especially if the straw be rather green—and as soon as the straw and grain are sufficiently dry, but not before that, draw in the crop with all expedition, and avoid the risk of further exposure to bad weather. By the energetic practice of such simple rules little danger is generally to be apprehended of loss from bad harvest weather in this country. In case of storms, it is of course necessary to go through the fields at once and set up any sheaves that may be blown down, and if the rain has been heavy and long continued, it may be neces-

sary to open out the sheaves to prevent growing.

During these operations something will also be occasionally done in the preparation of the wheat fallows; either drawing out the manure, ploughing, or harrowing. In order to ensure getting fall wheat sown in sufficiently early time, the fallows ought to be ready to receive the final or seed furrow, at latest, as early as about the 20th of August. Much discussion has taken place, among theoretical farmers, on the question of the real necessity for making a naked summer fallow as a preparation for fall wheat, many contending that to sow after peas, barley or clover lea would answer equally well. But general observation and experience have taught farmers in this country, especially those who farm heavy clay soils, that there is no course of treatment so much to be depended upon for obtaining a good crop of fall wheat as that of a well worked summer fallow. Its uses are four fold: it affords the best opportunity of thoroughly destroying noxious weeds; of breaking up the soil to a sufficient depth, and bringing up a portion of the subsoil to the surface so that the whole becomes well incorporated; of getting the surface of the field into that mechanical condition which is most suitable for the reception of the seed; and lastly, by the thorough exposure to the sun and weather, the salts or inorganic substances in the soil, are disintegrated and rendered available for use by the plant. The fallow also offers a convenient opportunity of applying the farm yard manure to the field. In the present condition of farming in this country the naked summer fallow is generally found on clay soils to be the best preparation for wheat. When a judicious system of rotation of crops becomes more common naked fallows will not be so often required. It is very true that good crops are sometimes even now obtained after peas, barley or clover, but in these cases regard must be had to the condition of the land before those crops were sown. If foul, or in a poor condition, to attempt sowing wheat after them will generally, as a natural consequence, be attended by failure.

But although the naked summer fallow may