

# THE FARMER AND MECHANIC,

Devoted to Agricultural, Horticultural, Mechanical, and Domestic Subjects.

Vol. I.

TORONTO, CANADA WEST, JULY, 1849.

No. 10.

## Agriculture.

### HAY MAKING.

THE season for making hay has now fairly arrived, and a few practical directions, embracing the whole economy of this important branch of farm labour, may not be considered uninteresting to a portion of our readers. The great point to be observed in curing hay, so that it may retain its natural green color, is to keep it from being exposed to the parching influence of the sun, and also, if possible, to protect it whilst undergoing its curing process, from being drenched with rains. The ordinary method of spreading the newly-mown grass thinly over the ground is *not to be recommended*, only under certain circumstances. If the grass be very heavy, and the weather likely to be unsettled, the sooner it is cured the better; but even under such circumstances, it would be well to make it up into cocks, containing two cwt. each, rather than to put it into the mow or stacks before it becomes thoroughly cured. The loss sustained by spreading newly-mown clover, between evaporation and broken heads and leaves, must be equal to ten per cent. on the entire crop. To obviate that loss, the grass might be partially allowed to wilt in the swarth, say from four to six hours during a tolerably hot day, and then it should be put into small cocks, containing each about half a cwt. of cured hay. If the weather be rather cloudy and unfavourable for making hay, there doubtless would be a necessity for spreading; but, in doing so, care should be observed to retain, if possible, its natural green color, which can only be done by making it up into cocks, each night, so as to prevent its becoming discolored by the action of dews. When the practice of making up the swarths into small cocks is

followed, it may frequently be found advantageous to put from four to six of the small into large ones; but every farmer in this should be guided strictly by his own judgment, as to the state of the weather, the force of hands he can command, and the average value of hay in his particular locality, should regulate the expenditure. It is however a matter that none will pretend to dispute, that a ton of well cured hay contains more nutritious matter for stock than two tons badly cured. In taking extra pains in curing hay, the great difference in value between good a good and bad article should be remembered, and if by expending half a dollar extra in giving thorough attention to the business, a much greater return will be obtained, and a more ready sale; herefore it certainly would be judicious to make such an investment.

In countries where labour is high, and farm produce comparatively low, expedition in executing the operations on the farm is a matter of the greatest importance. For this reason there may be many cases in which it would not be judicious, on the the score of economy, to employ the pains required in the foregoing suggestions. The revolving horse rake, the coil tooth, or some of the other patterns of this useful implement, should be employed in the process of curing hay on every well-regulated farm. With this implement and a horse, a man may without difficulty, perform the labour of eight men. The economy in the use of this valuable invention does not simply consist of the money value of the labour saved, but by its use every farmer may safely reckon upon being able to cure his hay crop, let it be ever so abundant.

Where a very large business is done, it would be well to scatter the grass evenly over the ground, as fast as it is mown, and at