



# CULTIVATOR.

"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—Dr. Johnson.

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## THE CULTIVATOR.

"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practice, and every inquirer into nature improve."—Dr. Johnson.

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### HAY-MAKING.

THERE are but few departments of business which demand more attention than this; for the weather adapted for making good hay can seldom be depended upon, for a long period of time, together, the most vigilant circumspection is therefore necessary to insure the due performance of the work. It requires a very experienced man to be a good mower. The farmer, or his foreman in his absence, should examine the swarths of each mower respectively, and caution them to mow or swing their scythe perfectly level, and to cut the grass close and clean at each stroke, and enforce upon them the truth, that an inch at the bottom is worth two at the top.

Mowing should commence at the early dawn of day, and if the weather be favourable, the swarths should be opened and well spread, as soon as the dew is off, and not as is too much the case, be deferred until the next day. As soon as the upper surface has become partially dry, which will generally be in the course of four hours from the period of spreading, the whole of the

grass must be again shaken out, by which means it will be cured in the least possible time and its colour and juices will be more effectually retained, than if it be long exposed in the same position to the sun. At the close of the day just before the dew begins to fall it should be collected into "windrows," and if time and circumstances will admit, into "foot-cocks" or "cocklets," each weighing about 112 lbs., and left during the night. On the following morning it should be again spread evenly over the ground, and a few hours afterwards turned and collected as before into windrows—and may be carried to the stacks or barns, and if a peck of salt be added to each ton of hay made after the above directions, it will be found to retain its original colour and sweetness. The chief points to be observed are, to mow the grass at such periods as will not admit all hands to be spreading, turning, raking, &c.: to preserve the hay as much as possible from dew and rains; therefore to bring it into windrows, if not to cock it at night-fall.

The above directions will be found to be a little different from those we gave a twelvemonth since on the same subject—the essential features, however, are the same, and will be found to work well if honestly followed out.

If there be a prospect of a long continuance of fine weather, and if it be desirable to have a considerable quantity ready for housing or stacking together, the following may be adopted, and will be found particularly advantageous when there are but few hands employed; not to shake the grass as much as above described; to draw it into windrows every evening, and only to spread and shake them out for a few hours in the middle of the day, and to make it up in its last stage into large cocks, containing from

four to six hundred weight each, in which state it may be allowed to remain and sweat until the whole field is ready for housing. This, although not as good a plan as the former, will lessen labour, and will be found to be an improvement over the common plan practiced in the country. The methods above described are best suited for fine weather, but when weather is unfavourable a less direct and more arduous one becomes necessary. Under such circumstances the chief aim is to secure the making with the least possible risk, and it often happens that the grass after being mown will have to remain in swarth one or two days, but great care should be taken that the swarths underneath do not become yellow or any way discoloured, to prevent which it should be shaken out the moment the first symptoms appear, without any regard to the prospects of the weather becoming fine.

The process of making clover hay is essentially different from the above systems.

Clover should be mown when the heads are in full blossom. The proper time will be indicated by the leaves at the bottom of the plants showing symptoms of decay, but it is better to cut earlier than later, as the error of cutting the first crop too early is fully compensated by the additional increase of the second, and a much better chance is given for the seed of the second properly to mature. Clover being very succulent, requires great care, and much time to dissipate its juices. It should be left in the swarth during the whole of the first day, and at the evening or "night fall" may be collected into small cocks, averaging each a half hundred weight—by this arrangement each swarth will present a row of cocks. The second day these may be spread abroad for a few hours during the heat of the day, and then collected into large cocks, in which state it should remain for two or three days.

The delay of the issue of the present number has frustrated our plans, as we intended to have given full directions on the curing of the tender clover plants.

Every farmer should be provided with a good horse rake, by which the work will be greatly facilitated.

Space forbids us to proceed farther,—we would however remind our friends of the old adage which cautions them to "make hay while the sun shines."