Farm Operations.

THE sickle and the scythe, the rake and the fork, are prominent among the agricultural emblems of August; although the labors of the field are various. In this month—perhaps quite as much or more than in any other—farmers must be forecasting—looking ahead—in many of their plans, and be active and judicious in devising the best means for expediting the different kinds of labour that need to be performed during the month. When the weather is fair, and when it is wet and lowry, if all plans are properly laid, but little time among laborers may run to waste. In this latitude Indian corn receives the second or third cultivation; haying is in full progress; summer fallows are broken and cross plowed; and in the early part of this month wheat and barley harvest will commence.

Suggestions about Haying.—Why do we not allow the grass of our pastures to grow up tall and heavy before our cattle are allowed to graze therein? And why do cattle like fresh, tender grass far better than that which is tough and old, and partly dried up? Because it affords them more nourishmen', and is not so very hard of digestion. All right: thus far we agree. Now, then, if tender grass affords more nourishment than the old and dried up grass, surely the hay that has been made of tender grass will be far better than it would be were it allowed to become fully ripe before it is cut.

Many argue that "hay will go farther" if it is allowed to become fully ripe before it is cut. This cannot be successfully refuted. But if it will go farther, or last longer next winter, that same hay, if it had been cut when it was in full bloom, would have afforded more *nourishment* to stock than they can possibly derive from it. In other words, a ton of hay that has been made of grass fully ripe will not be consumed as soon as if it had been cut when it was greener, or when in full bloom. It is a very erroneous principle that has long been inculcated and zealously defended, that grass should be cut for hay at a period when "it will go the farthest" in feeding stock. If the idea is chiefly to have hay last a long time, or go a good way, then let it stand until the leaves are dry, and most of the stems changed to woody fibre.

Most of our fathers have instructed us that a ton of *old* hay—if two or three years old the better still—is worth more, as it will go much farther than a ton of good hay. This is all correct in one sense; and in another it is very incorrect.

Here is the point that settles the entire misunderstanding between us all on the subject under consideration.—There is a period in the stage of the growth of grass, and of all plants, when for certain different purposes, those plants may be said to be at their *acme*, or highest state of perfection for a given purpose.

In gathering herbs for medicinal purposes, every one will acknowledge that when those herbs or flowers are in full bloom they will afford the greatest amount of *aroma*, or medicinal properties, and much greater than they will if allowed to stand until they are dead ripe.

Now it is precisely so with grass and hay. When your grass is in full bloom it will afford the greatest amount of nourishment to stock; but as soon as, or even before the blossoms begin to fall off, the nourishment begins to diminish, as much of the substance which would have nourished stock had the grass been cut sooner, is changed to woody fibre; and although it will last longer and go farther, the stock that consume it will be nourished *less* and grow poorer.

Every farmer who will give this subject proper thought, will appreciate the force of this reasoning, and understand the importance of cutting grass before it is dead ripe if he would secure the greatest amount of nourishment for his stock. When grass is in full bloom, the most of the saccharine matter—the starch and gum in it—is in a fluid, semi-fluid, or dough state, and may be very easily digested; and if it is cut and the water dried out of it, it will then digest very readily. But allow the grass to stand until it is dry, or partially dry, a large proportion of that nourishment is gone or changed, so that it will not be available as nourishment to stock of any kind.

There is another consideration connected with haying which is seldom thought of until it is too late, which is

Assorting New Hay.—In almost every meadow, or at least in many old meadows, the hay will be of various qualities, not only so far as the quality of the grass is concerned, but in the manner in which the hay has been made.

My own practice always has been on this point to endeavour to have the poorer and coarser quality of hay put by itself, where it can be got at in the coldest weather in the winter, or at any time, and have it cut up with straw-cutter, and mingled with straw and a little meal. Of course such a preparation of poor hay does not make it *good*, nor make it more nourishing; but it renders it more palatable, and prepares it to be more easily and more effectually digested than if it were fed whole.

The best quality of hay should always be placed where it can be fed to lambs and calves and other young animals at any time, or at all times during the foddering season; and I always aimed to have a ton or more of my best hay put where it would be at hand the next spring to be fed to teams and milch cows. This is a very important consideration, as teams and milch cows in the spring need the best of hay at that season of the year. But in case