

Fix loosened bolts, or bolts not loose ;
Give those a share of mild abuse,
Who, idly stand, with mouth agape,
As though a fly-trap they would make.
And now the horses are 'put to' ;
The men are in their places too.
Out leaps the lash ; round go the wheels,
A mild excitement each one feels,
As down the sheaves go one by one,
And the great day is well begun.
Together grain and straw both go
Down in the front, while out doth flow,
Behind, the straw ; the grain below.

Meanwhile in the women's domain
Expectancy and bustle reign.
The matron, anxious of her cheer ;
The maidens' hearts 'twixt hope and fear
If John and Joe, their rustic beaux,
Be in the crowd of men, or no.
Thus 'round a door bright eyes peep forth,
Brim full of mischief and of mirth ;
Until a well-known hat of straw
Comes into view ; then, by the law,
That bids the gentler sex be sought,
Vanish the eyes, and there is naught
To tell the amorous John and Joe
That which they long so much to know,