

ry direction across the main furrows that would be of use to prevent the possibility of injury to the plant from the surface water, are the cheapest means that can be practiced to obviate that evil.

The cleaning of the crop can only be accomplished in this country by sowing in rows, and horse hoeing, as it is not probable that either of these modes will be brought into use to any extent, unless a few enterprising individuals set the example, we shall for the present pass over this branch of improvement and give our views on the proper mode of sowing broad cast, and the quantity of seed necessary to be sown.

Nineteen Canadian farmers out of twenty sow their seed out of the mouth of a bag swung across the shoulder, and only use the right hand in distributing the seed;—a better plan is to have a neat and convenient hopper, which would hold about three pecks, and which should be supported about the neck with a strap. By this method the seedman may use his left as well as his right hand, so that on the four yard ridges as above, two casts will be given, by which means the seed will be distributed evenly over the ground, and any desired quantity may be sown per acre;—whereas by the old one cast method, but little more than five pecks can be sowed per acre.

The quantity of seed to be sowed per acre should be in a great measure governed by the state and quality of the land upon which it is to be sowed, soils naturally rich, or such as are highly improved by cultivation and manure, will require much less seed, than those in an unfertile state; on the contrary, the lighter and the less cultivated the soil the greater will be the quantity of seed which it requires. The reason is obvious; plants tiller more in rich and strong, than in unfertile soils, and therefore occupy respectively a greater space. They are also less liable to be killed on good soils in the winter months, and every plant generally comes to maturity, the straw also becomes more luxuriant, and consequently requires a greater circulation of air to preserve it in health and vigour: whereas the plants on light soils will but weakly and partially tiller, therefore a greater quantity of seed must be sown.

One bushel per acre is quite an abundance of seed on newly cleared ground; but when the soil becomes comparatively exhausted, two bushels per acre will not be found any too much. This may be ascertained by actual experiment, which is the surest and best means of arriving at correct conclusions. If seed were sown thick, the crop would ripen at least a week earlier and thereby lessen the probability of mildew.

THE COMING HARVEST.

BEFORE this number arrive at the dwelling of our subscribers, the gathering of the crops will be commenced. The proper performance of this department of business, is of such importance to the well-being of the farmer, that we trust no one will accuse us of presumption, if we should happen to be prolix in our remarks.

The commencement of the wheat and barley harvest will be rather later this season than usual,—probably the fifth of August will have elapsed before much is done in harvesting these crops. Before the commencement of harvest, we presume the farmer had executed all other necessary work, and had prepared himself for the due performance of this: by having his tools in complete condition, his

barns repaired and thoroughly swept out, and his stack yard, if he required one, put in complete order, so that no draw backs would occasion loss of time, or derangement in the order of the multifarious branches of harvest labour. Rainy days, the labourers may profitably employ themselves in grinding their scythes; repairing their tools if they require it; and the straightening and selecting straw for thatch, as well as the making of straw or hay ropes for fastening the thatch, so that every unnecessary delay may be avoided. To insure strict order and perfect good temper among all hands, the farmer himself should participate in the work, and should interest himself in providing the necessary comforts of good wholesome food, palatable and nourishing drinks, for his labourers.—Not being friendly to *Alcoholic drinks*, for to stimulate men to cut each other's legs, destroy tools, and waste and destroy the crops;—we on the other extreme cannot subscribe ourselves friendly to the *fashion* which is gaining ground to some extent by allowing or providing only *pure cold water* to harvest labourers.

We have used two harvests in succession a very cheap and nourishing drink, being a mixture of weak coffee with a sufficient quantity of sweet milk to make it palatable without the aid of sugar. Since oatmeal mills have become common, a very palatable, cheap and wholesome drink may be made by stirring a small quantity of the meal into the water. In addition to a constant and good supply of wholesome drinks being provided for the men while at labour, a lunch at half past ten in the morning and at half past two in the afternoon, will have the effect of giving them a stiff back, and stimulate them to work with renewed exertion. These in our humble opinion are comforts which will give the labourer both *nerve* and *spring* when the word "come boys," is sounded in his ears by the owner of the harvest.

Various opinions respecting the best period to cut grain has been advanced, but, the *indications of ripeness* are few and may be embraced in the following:—When the straw exhibits a bright yellow colour from the bottom of the stem nearly to the ear; or when the ear begins to curve or bend gently, the grain may be cut. But, as the whole crop seldom ripens equally, if by selecting the greenest heads, the kernels can be separated from the chaff when rubbed through the hands, it is a sure sign that the grain is out of its milky state, and may be harvested with safety. The sample is superior to the eye of the miller when cut before it is quite ripe—and the loss sustained by the farmer in shrinking may be made up to him from the fact that he will sustain no damage from shedding, and the straw will be much more valuable for winter food for cattle.

The cradle, and sickle, are the only implements used for cutting wheat, rye, and oats.—A crop of wheat that would average 35 or 40 bushels per acre would pay the expence of reaping, and the best implements that we have used for this purpose is the very celebrated *Pennsylvania* sickle. A farmer that has a large crop of wheat to harvest had better pay two dollars for one of the above mentioned sickles than two and six pence for one of European manufacture.—We have used for days together the common English sharpening hook, and would prefer it to any common sickle, if kept in order; they cut perfectly easily, but the greatest objection that we have to them is, that they are unwieldy in their appearances and require as much sharpen-

ing as a scythe. The very high prices of labour and the low prices of bread stuffs, compel the Canadian farmer to adopt the most ready method of cutting and housing his crops. The cradle is by far the most efficient implement in use for cutting standing grain, and even by careful management a laid crop may be mown and laid in swarth with astonishing accuracy with them.—Two acres may be reckoned a fair day's work for a cradler, although we have known two men to enter a ten acre field at six o'clock in the morning and lay the whole field completely and properly prostrate by seven o'clock in the evening. Three persons will rake, and bind and "keep up," as the saying is, to two smart cradlers, without making the sheaves larger than can be conveniently bound with a single band. No double bands should be allowed, unless strict regard be paid to the proper size of the sheaf.—Grain should not be cut and bound when it is wet, as the heads in the centre of the sheaves are subject to sprout by which means the sample will be injured and the straw materially damaged. Wheat, oats, and barley should be mown or otherwise cut low, so that the ground may be raked with a suitable implement drawn by a single horse, or even a large hand rake drawn by a man will be found to answer the purpose. These rakings should be collected and thrashed by themselves. We have known a bushel and a half per acre gathered in this way. A man will rake ten acres per day. Oats after being cut, should lay in the swarth for a few days, and may be drawn into barns or stacks directly after being bound.

Barley harvest at the best is a precarious business, but the cheapest and most economical plan is to mow into swarths with a common grass scythe—in two days after being mown it may be gathered into bunches with a wooden or iron implement which resembles a very large fork, the prongs of which should be about four feet long, set into a handle, two feet long, which should be pushed forward directly under the centre of the swarth and when filled would contain about two common forkfuls of stuff, which should be laid in rows to accommodate the pitchers. One man will gather as above, as fast as two pitchers can fork for the loader.

Stacking is a business little understood by the mass of Canadian Agriculturists, and we must acknowledge that there is but little occasion for much stacking, as wood of every description is very cheap, and large and commodious barns may be built at a very trifling cost.—There are cases however, that more or less stacking must be performed, and therefore we would consider ourselves inexcusable were we to pass over the subject without notice. Some prefer long to round stacks, but the latter are the most convenient and safe—and if built a moderate size, they may be completed in a single day, with a sufficient force. Instead of the stack being built on the ground as is usual for hay, it should be erected upon "staddles," or pillars of a conical form, which should be about two feet in height from the level of the ground—if cedar, oak, or other durable wood be used, and set a sufficient depth in the ground, and the pieces of wood extending from each, and also those that extend across to the centre staddle, are pinned together in a proper manner, by that means a platform will be erected that will stand for a number of years without any repairs, which will prove a safe guard to the grain from rats, mice, and other vermin, and also lessen the probability of injury to the straw and grain