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The Field.

Moreton Farm, near Rochester, N.Y.

The Editor of the *Country Gentleman*, in a recent issue of that excellent journal, gives notes of a visit to the above farm, owned and occupied by Joseph Harris, formerly editor of the *Genesee Farmer*, and latterly so well known to the farmers of this continent as the writer of "Walks and Talks," in the *American Agriculturist*. Mr. Harris is an Englishman in the prime of life, who after obtaining the thorough groundwork of a scientific and practical education in agriculture, and assisting in the celebrated experiments of Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert, at Rothamstead, England, emigrated to the State of New York, where he has for some time stood in the forefront as a practical farmer and an able agricultural writer. His farm consists of 285 acres. It was in a wretched condition when he took possession of it about ten years ago, and he has not even yet brought it up as a whole, to that standard of productiveness and state of order at which he aims. Nevertheless, a great revolution has been made in it. Underdraining has been made the starting-point of progress, as indeed it must be in every case of real and permanent success. About seven miles of drains have been constructed, and the descent being quite moderate, large tiles have been found necessary. The mains vary from four-inch pipe to five-inch, double five-inch, and in some cases ten inches in diameter, and though thus large, discharge nearly full in wet weather, demonstrating very decisively their utility. The result of this underdraining has been in the highest degree satisfactory. In one place, on low land, the visitor saw a luxuriant crop of oats and peas growing together, and a similar crop last year yielded 86½ bushels to the acre. In another place, a remarkably thick and heavy field of clover was seen, the result of drainage and thick seeding. The land was very stony when it came into Mr. Harris's hands, but the stones have been picked off and built into neat walls as farm fences, and the rough ground converted into smooth and mellow surfaces, easy to till and pleasant to look at.

Mr. Harris is determined not to grow weeds, and so wages incessant warfare against them. His notion is that if part of them can be destroyed as in ordinary practice, they can all be got rid of by more thorough treatment. He will not suffer any to line the fences, or lurk in corners, and as for their contesting the field with useful plants, that is out of the question. What persistent measures are taken to get rid of weeds may be inferred from the following statement. "A fifteen acre corn-field which we examined, had been harrowed four times over the whole surface, when the corn was small, with a smoothing harrow, and the man who had the field in charge was then

running the one-horse cultivator the fifth time between the rows. Such thorough work leaves little room for vegetable intruders."

A fine Northern Spy orchard of 220 trees, about twelve years old, is noted as an object of special interest. It is kept grazed short by a flock of Cotswold sheep, and receives a regular top-dressing of manure. The fruit is in fair quantity and of superior quality, the codling-moth being kept down by the sheep eating the small fallen apples. The sheep never injure the bark of the apple trees.

The item of chief profit on this farm is the swine. Mr. Harris prefers Essex pigs to all others, even the Berkshires, as giving the best side pork, and being of a peculiarly quiet and contented disposition. He has at present about 150 of these animals. The sales are mainly for breeding purposes, and so high is the reputation of the Moreton stock, that orders come in quite as fast as they can be filled. Last year the sales amounted to \$4,000. Mr. Harris is the author of a valuable treatise "On the Pig," published by O. Judd & Co., of New York, and is not only a good theorist, but a successful breeder.

On the whole, this may be taken as an encouraging instance of what can be done with a poor farm under judicious management. Mr. Harris was not a capitalist who could afford to bury a great pile of money out of sight. He was in moderate, if not straitened circumstances, when he began the task he has so well accomplished thus far. "In the sweat of his face," i. e. by the combined effort of brain and muscle, he has won and eaten his bread. We chronicle his career as a farmer with pleasure, point to his example with pride, wish him largely-increased prosperity, and hope many more will follow in his footsteps.

Haymaking.

An "old Scotch Laird" gives the following excellent and seasonable advice upon the above important subject. It is in perfect accord with the directions laid down in a recent issue of this journal:—

"That hay should be mowed when the blossom drops from the plant, and while the milkiness is in the seed, is a generally received maxim; but the successful winning of hay is concerned mainly with the time that elapses between the mowing and the final storing of the crop for preservation in the rick. Where rye-grass is grown for seed the case is different, as the seed or pick must be well filled, even though some of them should be shed in the act of mowing for the seed at this stage holds very slightly by the gloom. Clover, like rye-grass, is also best harvested immediately after blossoming, and it bears very little stirring. It would suffice to turn the swath once in preparation for cocking. We do not accord with the said writer as to forecasting the weather, though the fluctuations or range of the annual rainfall are known, and may be guessed approximately; that knowledge offers no key as to the time of occurrence of rain in our fickle climate. We enjoy no immunity from rains at any special time, and the early part of July is not unfrequently characterized by wet weather.

By certain appliances some farmers succeed in harvesting corn and hay crops independent of weather.

Mr. Neilson, of Halcrood, states that he carries his hay before it is in condition, in order to escape untoward weather. He places a wooden trough the whole length, and in the centre of the rick, which he provides with slides to let on and cut off the passage of air. Each rick is also built with a vertical channel that communicates with the longitudinal trough formed by a sack filled with straw and gradually drawn up in the progress of building. He then applies currents of cold air to the whole, by means of a fan driven by a one-horse engine, and the hay becomes perfectly cured. He claims in behalf of this scheme a saving of three-fourths the expenditure of manual labor.

It is half a century since we have known of this plan having been acted on; and in the dripping climate where it was tried, it was a partial success; but however practicable it may be, the scheme was never accepted but by the original experimenter. The great thing in curing hay is "cocking," and not leaving it spread out till all the substance has evaporated and the hay rendered almost worthless. If mowed dry in the morning, and then tedded, if in a windy and sunny day, it may be cocked before night. If properly cocked, an ordinary rain will not injure it, at least but very little. Clover, as well as all descriptions of hay, should show a green color, and emit a honey odor, which may be secured by following the above directions. These rules are carefully followed by growers who sell their hay, as they always command the top price; but in districts that we could name, thousands of pounds were lost in past years, by the damage sustained by rain, the last days of June having been showery, and the downfall in July being no less than 4½ inches.

After calamities, it has been well said, it is the best time to apply remedies, for then they are best attended; and much may be done by the exercise of skill, promptitude and watchfulness in counteracting the effects of untoward weather. The common practice in some counties of carrying it to the rick with waggons, is the weakest point in haymaking during catching weather. Cocking, or "coiling" as it is styled, is the only way by which hay can be made in leaky districts, for by this method as much can be done in one day, as may be done in four by hauling to the rick. Aeration is indispensable, but the less sun and rain the better, for it can be won withering in the small pyramidal heap without detriment from sun or rain. In the comparatively green state, it is not easily spoiled by wet, as it is somewhat impervious to rain, but after it once becomes hay it is soon damaged. This fact should ever receive attention, for repeated broadcasting and successive drenchings, after a day or two, are its ruin. If rain should follow the tedding process, it ought to be dried atop before doing anything more with it. If rain is imminent, it is safer in the swath, but in reliable weather, the hay-making machine should shortly follow the mower. A day lost in a tract of uncertain weather may involve the loss of half the value of the crop, so it is of paramount importance to use every means to abridge the period of exposure. Much must depend upon experience and observation in the whole processes indicated, for such is the diversity of the condition of a crop, both as to dampness from recent rains, as well as to the amount of the internal sap or juice of the plant, that it cannot be expressed in terms that can be understood in its progressive stages of seasoning. It should be also noted that prudent husbandmen never take down too much of the crop at once, unless where there is a great command of workers, for with a large breadth the hazard is intensified, and careful and skilful precautions never fail to reward the pains in the long run.