

"Some things I know, and others I should like to know, I know that this life is too short to learn everything that a farmer should know by actual experiment; therefore it is necessary to profit by the experience of others by reading. I would therefore recommend that every farmer who can, should take and read the Country Gentleman or Cultivator, and as many other agricultural papers as he pleases. I think it pays well. Knowledge and industry are what elevate the farmer, or one man above another. I know that horses and cattle like early cut hay better than that which is cut late. They will fatten on it by giving them what they will eat, while they will barely subsist on that which gets dead ripe before it is cut. Cows which go to pasture early in the spring, will make yellow butter, and so they will in winter, if fed on early cut hay, if it be well cured. It is more work to make hay of early cut grass, than that which stands and dries up before being cut. It is an old adage, "to make hay while the sun shines." I think hay dried in the shade, is more fragrant and better than if dried in the sun. But in haying time, we are in haste to dry it as soon as possible, and get it into the barn out of the way of the rain. In preserving herbs the women cut them in bloom, and dry them in the shade, and I think they are right."

In corroboration of the above opinion, we have to state that one of the largest and best farmers in the neighborhood cuts his hay always in flower, and by using about a bushel of salt to two tons of hay, is able to secure it much more speedily and safely than he could without salting.

The Robins Vindicated.

The question of the relation of the Robin to horticulture was discussed at the January meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. It was the opinion of many fruit growers that the robin is a perfect nuisance to the horticulturist, and that the law preventing their destruction should be repealed. There were some, however, who gallantly took the part of the sweet birds, and at their suggestion a committee was appointed to ascertain their habits, and especially the kind of food eaten by them during each month of the year. The chairman of the committee, J. W. P. Jenks of Middleboro, has made his report for the first three months of the year, and it is entirely favorable to the robins. It is proved that the robins subsist chiefly on the worst enemies of the fruit trees, the curculios. Mr. Jenks found beetles, grasshoppers, spiders and curculios in the crops of the robins he dissected, but nine-tenths of the contents of the crop were curculios. He has frequently taken a hundred from a single crop, and in one instance 162. He has not found the first particle of vegetable matter in the crop of a single bird. This settles the question in favor of the robins, and he who kills one of these birds gives permission to live and to destroy our fruit to some thousands of curculios and other enemies of the horticulturist. Let the robins live, and let the man or boy who cruelly or thoughtlessly kills one make atonement by eating wormy fruit for the season.—*Springfield Republican*.

Improved Stable Floors.

Some years ago my stable was laid with a plank floor. My horse, a late purchase, (I keep but one) became lame. An experienced horse-