

when it is housed before it has lost its sweet aroma. The following appropriate paragraph is from the *New England Farmer* for July:—

Learn to swing the scythe with an easy, uniform motion, and keep yourself as much as possible in an erect position. Do not attempt to cut too much at one stroke, or to drive the scythe through the grass by main strength. Mowing does not require so great an outlay of strength as many seem to suppose. With the right stroke, and a keen scythe, mowing is pleasant work, especially when the dew falls in pearly drops before every stroke. "Make hay while the sun shines,"—but you must get it cut early to make, by the time the sun shines bright and clear, and then it will be ready to "set on cocks," before the dew of evening gathers upon it. Keep it stirring and tossing in the bright sunshine, through the middle hours of the day. Hay-making is busy work. There is no time for idling. Hay should be put into the barn warm from the field, and well stowed in the mow, and it will come out fresh and fragrant.

GRAIN REAPING.—Late though the season be, by the end of this month or beginning of next the grain fields will be whitening for the harvest. Generally speaking, we are apt here to fall into the same mistake as we are in reference to the Hay, viz., to allow the grain to be over-ripe before it is reaped, which renders it very liable to be injured by winds and rain. *Wheat* should be reaped a little before it is ripe. The uppermost grain ripens before the others in the same ear, and the whole ear is ripe before the straw; if you wait, therefore, till the straw is ripe, the ears will be too ripe, and the uppermost grains will be lost. *Oats* should be reaped when under-ripe. Being well protected by the awn this grain is not easily shrivelled up like *Wheat* and *Barley*, and it fills and ripens in the stock. *Barley* should not be reaped until it bends down its head entirely and presents a light colour. No grain shrivels up more, if it is under-ripe when cut, and no grain bears over-ripeness with less loss; for the grain holds on after the awns have been blown off.

Barley and *Oats* are generally mowed with a scythe with a hoop or cradle. One man can do as much as four with the sickle in this way; and, where laborers are scarce, a great deal of time and labor may be saved. In some of the best farming districts, however, both in England and Scotland, some of the greatest farmers have pronounced this a slovenly and wasteful method, and prefer binding into sheaves, to save the grain from being shed by the raking and tossing about, and for the convenience of having the Corn laid on end in sheaves for protection in rainy weather. The *Wheat* crop is very generally cut in Britain, and in many parts of Nova Scotia, with the reaping hook or sickle; and this method is certainly to be preferred with this crop. It would be of great advantage were the short, broad scythe employed in Flanders, and in many parts of Scotland, introduced into this country.

WHEAT MIDGE OR WEEVIL.—We have received, through the kindness of our friend, Principal Dawson, a very interesting and important treatise on this subject. It is entitled an "Essay on the Insects and Diseases injurious to the Wheat Crops, by H. Y. Hind, Esq., Professor of Chemistry at Trinity College, Toronto." It would seem that the Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics for Upper Canada offered a prize of £10 for the best essay on this subject, and that to this, a very elaborate and scientific description of the whole subject, was adjudged the first prize. We shall very likely refer to this work in a subsequent number. In the mean time we give below a summary of the results arrived at after a series of experiments on this matter by Principal Dawson, and to which honourable reference is made in the above essay:—

The facts above stated may be summed up as follows:

1. The insect deposits its eggs on the grain about the time when it is in flower, and usually in the evening.
2. The larva when hatched attaches itself to the young grain and prevents its growth.
3. When full grown it becomes stiff and torpid, and if left long enough falls to the ground.
4. It buries itself in the ground and thus passes the winter.
5. In July, it emerges from the ground as a perfect insect, in which state, if the weather be favourable, it seeks the growing wheat for the purpose of depositing the germs of a new brood.

Lastly, though there are many partial remedies, the only sure one is to cut early and destroy all the grubs found after threshing the grain. To ensure safety, this should be kept up as regularly as the washing of seed wheat to avoid smut.

SALTING OF BUTTER.—"The firkins are seasoned by frequent washing, and exposure to the air, or by scrubbing the firkin with salt and water boiled. It is then dried, and salt strewed on the surface, before the butter is put in. In the ordinary process of salting, after separating the buttermilk as completely as possible, salt in the proportion of about one ounce to a pound of butter is worked in thoroughly, so as to become incorporated with the mass; for if not equally mixed in every part, the butter will acquire two colours, or become 'pyety' or pinstowed.' The salt should be of the purest kind, well dried and broken down, but not completely pulverized. Bad salt will soon cause it to become rancid. The following preparation is recommended as better than salt alone."

"Two parts best salt, and one part each sugar and saltpetre, well mixed; one ounce to each pound of butter. Incorporate it thoroughly with the mass, and cless up for use."

"It will be necessary to keep butter thus prepared for two or three weeks after it is cured, before using; as otherwise it will not taste well; but if properly cured according to the above prescription, it will continue perfectly sweet for three years or more."

"After strewing salt on the bottom of the firkin, the butter may be pecked in, thoroughly moulding each layer into that beneath it. When the cask is full, more salt should be strewed on the surface, and the head put on. If the butter has been well freed from milk, and the salt moulded into it quite dry, it will not shrink from the cask. This is always regarded as one criterion of the goodness of the butter."

AGRICULTURE.

From the *(Picture) Times Magazine*.

Among the various methods of improving the condition of Agriculture, suggested by the most enlightened modern agricultural writers, probably none is destined to perform so conspicuous and important a part as that denominated agricultural education. The public mind is now being turned, we should hope, in favour of this movement, and there are now in these Provinces, in the United States, and in various parts of Europe, gentlemen to be found possessing the very highest order of intellect, who are strongly impressed with the necessity of establishing a higher grade of Educational Institutions than are generally to be met with, for the education of farmer's sons, or those young men who have a desire to become thoroughly acquainted with the science as well as the practice of agriculture.

So far as the masses of mankind are concerned, the only opportunity that will be presented to them, for the education of their children, is the common school. These institutions, under efficient management, and with a liberal support from those whom they are intended to benefit, will exert a powerful influence on the future destinies of the country. To make them effectual in bringing about the good so much to be desired in a country so agricultural as this, it will be necessary that the teachers be thoroughly taught the principal rudiments of agricultural education. If the design of this institution, the Normal School at Truro, be fully carried out in practice, it will ultimately have a very salutary influence in elevating the character of common school education in this province.

As important as are the interests of common schools, and that of combining with those institutions, branches of studies, that from their nature would have a peculiar tendency in inspiring the agricultural youth of our land with a taste and proper reverence for agricultural pursuits; still, a higher order of agricultural instruction is quite as necessary to finish the education of a gentleman farmer, if we may be permitted to use the term—as Colleges and Universities are required to finish the education of young men, who aspire to the practice of the learned professions, Commerce, Engineering, or any other of the higher branches of learning. The period has at last arrived in the history of Nova Scotia, when the agriculturists as a body, feel that they have been neglected by those who ruled the destinies of this province in years past. All who reflect upon the subject, also find that this state of things must continue to exist to a considerable extent, so long as the education of their sons is confined as has been heretofore the case within the walls of common schools. We have at the present period a very large and respectable class of farmers in Nova Scotia, who are independent in their circumstances, and who are impressed with the necessity of liberally educating their sons and daughters, so that they may when they grow up, in point of education and refinement, be entitled to rank with the first families in our land. The farmer is the most useful, the most independent, and certainly should be the most liberally educated man in our country. All other interests are dependent on him. The farmers are the class and the only class that are capable of sustaining the human family, and also in maintaining our commercial and national credit. As trifling as our exports may appear, still without them we would be-