

sive insect that sucks the honey, I am aware.—The latter may probably be the case, for a kind and bountiful Providence is very subtle in its methods of protection.

Hay should generally be secured in the month of August, but the greatest inconvenience among farmers in securing their hay is the want of sufficient help to secure it at the proper season. Clover will frequently show blossoms all the season, but when timothy is fit to cut it should all be secured in one week.

Some think that one dew will injure the hay materially, but I have found it a good system to turn over the wilted swarth at night to receive the dews on the green side, and this greatly facilitates the operation of curing the next day, and prevents any injury from the dew.

Few are aware of the great value of salt in curing hay when there is a necessity of putting it green into the mow. It is more than twenty-five years since I had occasion to put up a stack of hay very green, and fearing it would heat and rot, I used about a peck of salt to a ton and I found the following winter the hay was of a beautiful green colour, and in perfect order. I have frequently tried it since with the same good effect though in less quantity. The farmer in stowing his hay should always have the bucket of salt handy; if it is damp enough to heat, a very little salt will effectually prevent its heating and preserve the color and strength of the grass.

In speaking of the proper season for cutting grass it is worthy of remark that none of our natural grasses will bear cutting early, which has been too frequently proved on our natural meadows and intervals in this Province. If the Blue Joint is cut before it is full grown the same meadow will not be worth mowing the next year, and the same case will apply to most other natural grasses. Even thistles cut in blossom are effectually destroyed.

*On Manures.*—It is pleasing to see and hear an inquiry into the best method of preserving and securing manures, and the interest manifested by some on that subject is really gratifying at the present time. Several, I find, have come to the very just conclusion that the liquid manure from the stable and barn-yard is far more active and powerful when in a state of fermentation. Such discoveries, the result of small experiments, cannot fail to afford interesting and open a way to useful information. But while FLORA improves her monthly roses and geraniums with Guano and other active substances from a small tub, I hope to see a more general and extensive preparation by an abundant collection of absorbing substances such as may be considered well worthy the attention of

A FARMER.

#### LETTER XI.

It is of great importance to Farmers to have their implements of husbandry so constructed as to be effectual with little labor, and for this purpose they should generally be light.

A heavy axe, hoe, pitchfork or rake causes fatigue, and furnishes an excuse for rest and neglect in the labourers. The scythe should be good to cut, and well fitted to suit the mower, and there are no others equal to those imported from England. The spring-steel forks are excellent, and the farmer should never be without them. The modern hoes are cheap, light and well adapted to the purpose. The potatoe hooks for digging are also a great improvement; and iron ploughs are also abundant and durable. But the horse-rake,

although little known and used is a most important article for haymakers. I would not be without my horse-rake for the services of the best labourer in the Province during the haying season. Every man who has ten tons of hay to rake should have one; but unless they see one used for a sort time, some would be at a loss how to manage them. After, however, seeing the principle on which they act a careful man will know how to run one well in half an hour.

With our fields free from stumps and roots, our ploughs and harrows of the most improved construction, strong and convenient teams, the example of our forefathers, and the united skill and research of the moderns, shall we not look for an improvement in Agriculture?

Do we not see it wherever a careful experiment is made? Where is the careful farmer who has followed no other profession and failed in Agriculture? I hear some complain of bad seasons and others say for some reason or other, which they are at a loss to account for, Grain and grass do not turn out as they used to do; but upon examining their farms I find every symptom of bad management which has produced deterioration. Old worn out meadows annually mowed and pastured for twenty years or more, and plowed fields as long under tillage which they are afraid to plough more than four inches deep lest they turn up the cold clay or subsoil. On hearing the exclamation what shall I do? or, how can I help it? I answer, as your fields are all poor together your case is hard, but not hopeless, commence top-dressing your meadow, and first turn half of it out to pasture until you are prepared to do better by it. Plough your land one inch deeper every time until you have it at least nine inches deep. Try a piece of your old meadow by turning it well over in narrow ridges by ploughing about five or six inches deep, harrow and sow with English grass seeds and then roll it in. The ploughing may be done any time between August and December but the earlier the better. The Grass seed does well to sow on the snow or at any season of the year if it is not accompanied with oats or other grain that would overpower it. Do you yard your cattle in the high-way? If so you are losing more than half the benefit you might derive from them. If you must yard them at all give them a ploughed field and plough it often through the summer; by that method you may make at least the depth of a furrow excellent manure for top-dressing an adjoining meadow in the fall.

If you stable your cattle see that they have litter and a sufficiency of vegetable and fossil matter to absorb all the liquid.

By a proper attention to these particulars and a careful application of your manure thus saved, you may soon find that at least a part of your farm is becoming more productive and that your soil has more resources within itself than you were heretofore aware of, and which you may be able annually to develop to your encouragement and profit.

But this neglectful system of farming is not confined altogether to the old farms—most of the new settlers are pursuing the same method. They find that the newly cleared land produces an abundant crop, and they rush on in the forest to clear for their tillage, where the grain grows luxuriantly from the ashes of a good burn, as it is termed, and neglect their stubble grounds in such a manner that the more land they have cleared, the less their farm is frequently valued. The bushes, weeds and moss take possession; the cradle-hills annually rising continue to make the surface more uneven, and the