

ing about the smithy waiting for the attention of the smith to your wants. Get the lost bolts of last season replaced; get a clevis in lieu of the piece of chain that last year drew your plough, or the rope that fastened your double tree. In fine, fix up waggons, racks, ploughs, harrows, cultivators, horse-hoes, rollers, hand-hoes, horse-rakes, hand-rakes, scythes, cradles, reaping-machine, thrashing-machine, horsepower, &c. Make a special job of going through every implement. Each season has its especial duties for the farmer. There is a time for cultivation and a time of preparation; the two cannot be done together without confusion and loss of time. Now is the day of preparation. It may be a somewhat hackneyed proverb that "procrastination is the thief of time," but it stands as true to nature now as on the day when first uttered. The amount of time and labour saved by early preparation is inestimable. Then you have your cellars to clear out before the warm weather renders them an intolerable and stinking nuisance; your barn to get in order for the reception of grain and hay, and farmers will do well to plan early the arrangement of their barn room. Take time by the forelock and obtain your seeds early; select it carefully and store it in readiness for use when required. If you do not actually bring it home, know where you may obtain it. Many hours have been lost in the busy seeding time by farmers running to and fro for seed, and when found the chances are that it is bought because it is near at hand rather than for any superior qualities or adaptation to the requirements of your land.

Our space forbids us to enter into a more minute account of the several works of preparation which should occupy a farmer's time during this season of the year. For the same reason we must only mention that during this month we have generally a good share of the days most suitable to the maple sugar maker. One warning had almost slipped our memory. Be careful in the blustering month of March to keep all doors close shut; we have known the roof of a barn wrested from its support by one strong sudden gust of wind where the farmer had carelessly left, perhaps, half of his barn door unfastened. We would direct the attention of the reader to the great importance of putting his live

stock well through this month. It is common to speak of the weakening influences of the spring weather upon cattle, but this depression is more often due to want of proper food and care than to the elements as controlled by nature. There is a class of farmers who think that if during the cold weather their animals can obtain shelter upon the lee side of a stack or shed it will suffice them, and following out such inhuman views, when spring begins to break, the poor creatures no longer allowed even a shelter, are sent forth to the open fields fetlock deep in slush, to swell out again their sunken flanks with a food which mother nature holds covered till a more congenial season.

In March the days are yet short and farmers have plenty of time in the evenings to themselves. Employ some of it in mapping out your summer's work, arrange the system upon which you propose to work each field in the coming seasons, weigh carefully each new plan and adapt your operations to the advantage of each crop, and the enriching of your farms. The consequences of such careful forethought will, depend upon it, bring wealth and prosperity to the industrious husbandman. Weigh carefully these counsels, and you will at least be strengthened in the opinion that preparation and progress must go hand in hand.

SAVE THE MANURE.

Farmers are not aware how much is wasted on their farms, that with little care and trouble might be made into valuable manure. Everything that can be decomposed, either in process of time, with the assistance of the elements, or by the aid of chemical agents, should be saved for the compost heap. Select some place in the barn-yard, or adjacent lot where it will be convenient of access, and there gather your compost, adding from time to time such solvents as may be necessary. Here bring all the weeds, sods, briars, thistles, &c., that you are compelled to dig and cut up through the summer, and add to these from time to time whatever you have of waste material, muck from the swamp, decayed fruits, potato vines, leaves, the deposit from the sink, &c., and at the close of the year you will be surprised at the size of your heap, and be able to see for yourselves how much is really wasted on your farms that might be turned to valuable account.—*Rural American*.