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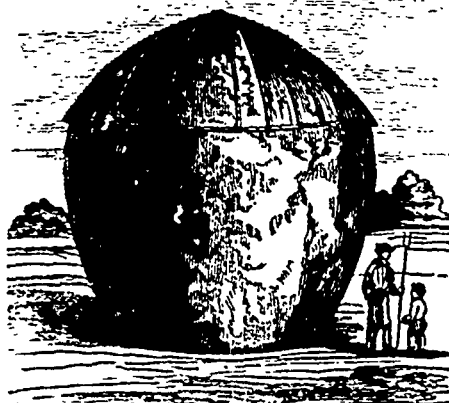
The Field.

Hay Curing and Stacking.

EVERY agriculturist should endeavour to provide for his live stock an abundant supply of good hay; indeed, no one can have any great pretensions to farming ability who does not make this a prominent item in his yearly calculations. Of course the amount of the supply will depend on the extent of land devoted to grass-growing purposes: while the quality will, in a great measure, be contingent on timely and judicious management. In almost every manual pursuit, the incorrect method of going about it is more readily fallen into than the right one; while, at the same time, the latter is invariably the easier and more profitable course in the long run. This remark is particularly applicable to the management of the hay harvest. Hay curing is a science, and requires, for its successful accomplishment, some well-timed and skillful manipulation.

Generally speaking, hay, with us, is not cut sufficiently early, and hence, a large proportion of the natural juices of the crop (the sugar and the starch), is allowed to escape, and in its place, the dry, innutritious fibre of the matured stalk is all that remains. When this is the case, the fodder is unpalatable to cattle, and its more important feeding elements are

lost. Grass should be cut when it begins to blossom, as it then contains the fullest development of nutritive qualities. It is well to mow it when there is no dew upon it, and it should be spread out at once. The best practice is to gather it into cocks every



night, and spread it out each morning as soon as the dew is off, until it is perfectly dry and ready to secure. The cocks should be small at first, and increase in size each evening, till it is in a condition to be stored. This is the shortest and easiest method of haymaking, as practiced among advanced English

agriculturists; and by its adoption all the nutritive and aromatic qualities of the hay are conserved. In the modern system of conducting haymaking, an immense amount of labour and time are saved by the use of the mowing and tedding machines, and the horse-rake; but as they are expensive, the adoption of all of these can be safely warranted only on our larger farms.

When hay is sufficiently dry, it should be removed from the field to winter quarters without delay. Most farmers have barns or sheds specially for the purpose of storing it; while others secure it in stacks. Better farming would produce larger crops of hay, so that the yield would be, in most cases, beyond the storage capacity of the buildings. Hay would, we believe, be oftener stacked, if our farmers understood the proper way of building ricks or stacks. As often made, they are tumble-down, rickety affairs, and so imperfectly roofed as to expose the hay to the weather. Hence many sell off their hay in the summer time, when it is a drug in the market, and thus avoid the risk of its being spoiled. Now there is really no difficulty in making secure hay-ricks. Only a few simple rules, and a moderate amount of care and attention are required to be observed; and by the aid of a few hints, and the accompanying illustrations, we trust to be able to show those of our readers, who may require to store a part of their hay-crop out of doors, how to build a stack in a workmanlike manner

