

THE AGRICULTURIST

AND CANADIAN JOURNAL.

Devoted to Agriculture, Literature, Education, Useful Improvements, Science, and General News.

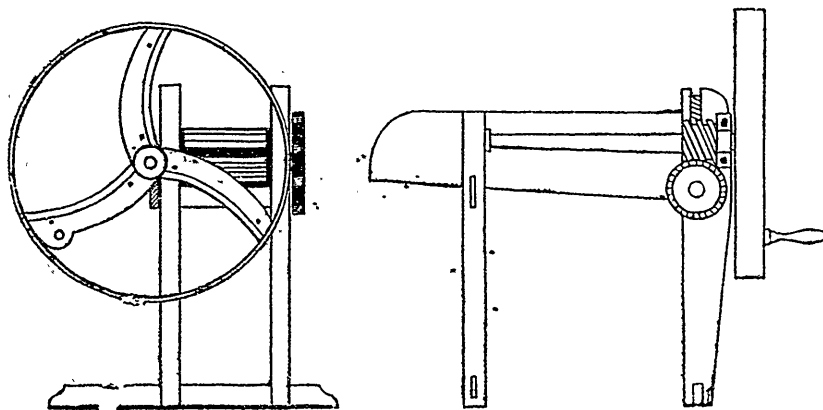
Wm. McDougall, Principal Editor. }
W. G. Edmundson, Publisher. }

{ W. G. Edmundson, } PROPRIETORS.
{ Wm. McDougall. }

VOL. I.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 1, 1848.

NO. 2.



STRAW CUTTER.

If there is any implement of Agriculture which, more than another, has attracted the attention of improvers and experimenters, it is the machine for cutting fodder. Knives have been made of all imaginable shapes, and hung in all possible ways. Every article of cutlery that has issued from a Sheffield manufactory seems to have been imitated in their construction. They have been attached to the arms of wheels at right angles to the axle, and to the circumference parallel to it. To levers and to frames, sometimes working perpendicularly, and at others *slantendicularly*, cutting downwards and cutting upwards, on rollers spirally and on rollers longitudinally. Sometimes the machine has undergone such fundamental changes, that it would take a man who has spent his life in the study of comparative anatomy, or rather machinery, to put it together if it should happen to fall to pieces.

We saw one the other day on the side-walk in this city, that would make a high spirited horse burst his belly-band to look at it. The *tout ensemble* was striking and picturesque.—It looked as if it might have been a frame at first constructed with the appropriate and usual features of such an article, but had unfortunately been left out in rough weather, and got blown over the barn in a whirlwind. We defy any one of ordinary attainments to tell the top from the bottom, for it is like a cat, throw it up as you please, it will be sure to come down on its feet. We understand it is the invention of an acquaintance of ours, who once very nearly found out the Perpetual Motion. He has at any rate found out the queerest cutting box of modern times. But to the engraving above. This represents one improved by a young Canadian, and manufactured at the foundry of Mr. Good, of this city. We went to see it operate a few days ago, and were certainly highly pleased with the manner it did its work. There are two points of excellence in this machine of great importance. There are

three knives as may be seen in the cut, fixed to the spokes or arms of the wheel in such a manner as to cut the straw with the least possible waste of power. In shape they resemble the first ten inches of the points of cradle scythes, but stronger. The feeding apparatus is as simple as can be made, and yet it is effectual. Two rollers, between which the straw passes, are worked by an endless screw on the shaft of the large wheel. The only fault we could detect in the machine by a hurried inspection, was the great weight of metal in the principal wheel. In other respects, it is well made, not liable to get out of repair, and will we think answer a good purpose.

FARMING AND READING.—Do you take and read an Agricultural paper? Strange that a farmer, or planter, should think of doing without one. The merchant surrounds himself with his shipping lists, price currents, and all the means that can communicate information and ensure success; the lawyer's shelves are loaded with law journals, law reports, law commentaries, and law precedents, for he is sensible that without understanding what others have done, he cannot hope for triumph at the bar; so with the other professions, they must and do read, if they hope for eminence or usefulness. All are anxious to understand their own business, the farmer excepted and too many of these are content to follow on in the beaten path, never reading, scarcely thinking, and showing no anxiety to know what science is doing for them, and what discoveries and improvements are making to accelerate their progress. No man needs extensive, varied knowledge, more than the farmer; none can turn it to more profitable account.—The whole growth of a plant from the germination of the seed to the ripening of the fruit, is purely a chemical process, and one that may be understood and known. The farmer is admirably situated to study and to interrogate nature. Let him read, observe, compare, reflect, and practice accordingly.—Never act without system, no. do a thing because others have done it.—*Cult. Almanac.*

Remember the truism—that what is worth doing at all, is worth doing well.