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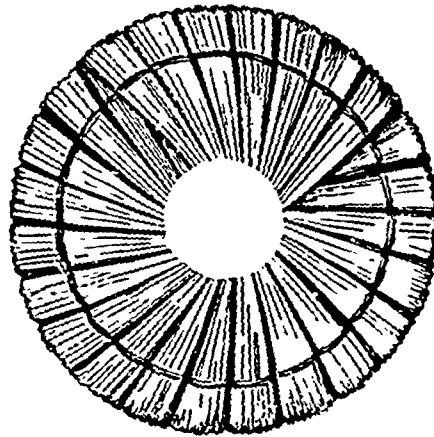
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The Field.

Grain Stacking.

"That farmer is a sloven," is an observation frequently called forth in Britain, by the spectacle of a farm homestead disgraced by the presence of badly-constructed, half-covered grain stacks. As the stack-yard in the old country, at the end of autumn, generally represents the greater portion of the labour of men and horses for a twelve month, the sweeping verdict, in the majority of cases, is pretty well merited. A man who acts on the "through-by-the-near-est" principle with the results can hardly be expected to be over careful and pains-taking with the means which lead to them. It is often amusing to observe the bungling attempts at deception, in respect to the stackyard, with which the slovenly farmer endeavours to deceive the public, and gain, if possible, a better character for his management than it deserves. If the steading is situated near a highway the following ruse is repeated—with a perseverance worthy a better object—year after year. A row of pretty well built stacks, finished off with a studied pretension to neatness and tidiness, occupies the side next to the public road, and a number of wretchedly-made stacks bring up the rear. Generally the good looking stacks are built pretty closely together, and are some-

what taller than their unkempt, tatterderailed companions behind them, which they are designed to conceal. The trick is invariably a failure, for the gaunt, illshapen heaps refuse to be hidden. In spite of every precaution, they most provokingly peep



through the front rank or "dress circle," and exhibit their shaggy sides, slovenly head-dress, and ungainly proportions, to every observer.

Careless farmers who are in the habit of rearing uncouth mis-shapen stacks, liable to be upset by a

puff of wind, or thoroughly drenched by a day's rain, should remember that the little extra labour necessary to produce a well-proportioned and secure stack, is more than repaid by the superiority of the fodder, resulting from its being protected from the weather. By the aid of some illustrations we hope to show that the proper construction of a grain-stack is an easy task, and within the compass of any person who has a pair of willing hands, and a moderate share of intelligence to guide them.

On most well-managed farms grain is stacked on a stand or frame work supported by pillars. This serves the threefold purpose of preserving the stack from the depredations of rats and mice, of protecting it from the moisture of the ground, and of admitting the air from below to circulate through its body, and to maintain it in sweet and sound condition. Various materials may be employed for its construction. In many districts in England, the frame and pillars are composed entirely of iron. In others the frame work is of wood, and the pillars are stone; while in some, frame and pillars are constructed wholly of timber. Of course the last-named method could be most easily adopted in this country. The process of stack-building, whether a stand is used or a site formed on the ground, is precisely the same. A couple of sheaves are set up against each other in the middle of the stack, and other two against their sides. Sheaves are then piled regularly round this nucleus with a grain-



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