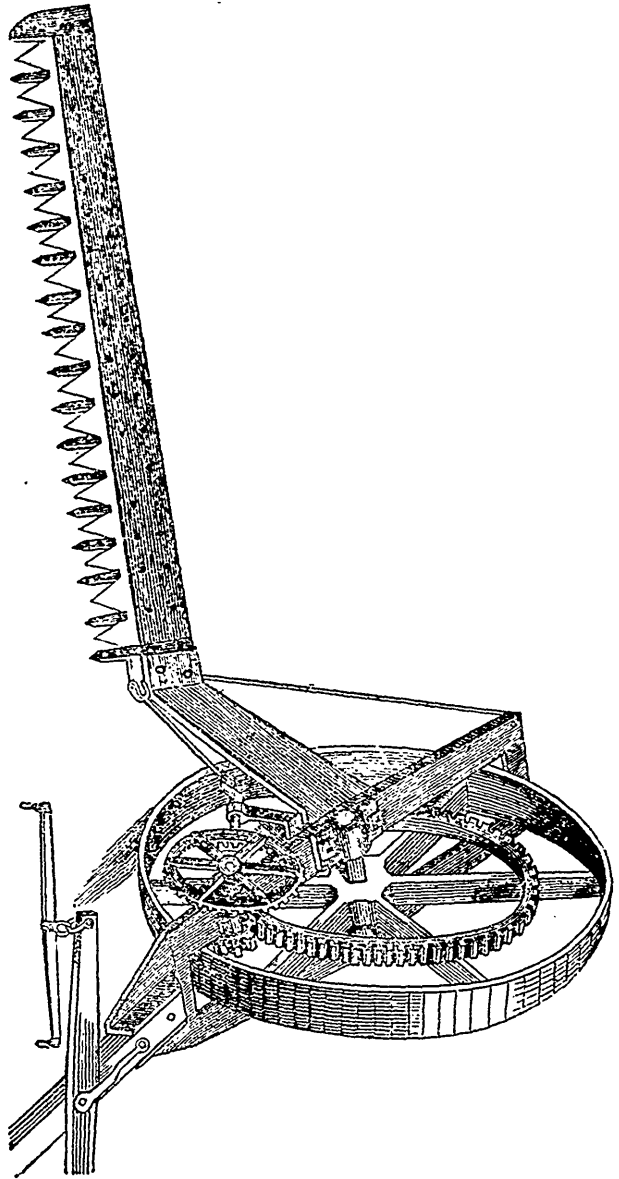


MOWING MACHINE.

There are but few kinds of farm labor more severe than mowing. The heat of the weather, at the season when this operation is usually performed, is very great; its intensity being increased by reflection from the mown grass. The air is rendered sultry and exhausting by the heated vapour with which it is loaded while the hay is being cured. In many places it is the custom to use drinks in the hay field which are not adapted to cool the system, or to invigorate and sustain the physical energies under such trying efforts. If in addition to these circumstances—the nature of the operation itself be considered, stretching every muscle, and twisting every joint in a man's anatomy—it will not be denied that the invention of a machine to take the place of the mower and do the work faster and better, is a great desideratum. We fancy the great American orator and statesman Daniel Webster, was of the same opinion when he complained to his father of his scythe hanging so badly. His father's repeated efforts to hang it to please him, proving unsuccessful, he handed it to Daniel in despair, telling him to "hang it to suit himself." The youthful haymaker straightway took his scythe and hung it upon the nearest tree! Whether he thought that mowing hay was not the employment best suited to him, or that the scythe was not the implement best adapted to perform it with, we are not informed. Probably he took both views of the question. One of his countrymen has at last invented a mowing machine, which, with the improvements it has received and will hereafter receive, is destined, we think, to take the place of the crooked scythe, on all large and smooth meadows.

The annexed cut represents one which we saw in operation last fall, at the Buffalo Fair. The ground on which it was tried was quite rough and the grass (clover of a second growth) badly trodden down. Yet this machine, drawn by a span of horses, cut the grass very close, and nearly as



well as it could have been done with a scythe. On a smooth bottom, with the grass standing, we were assured by those who had seen it work, that no mower could do it better. We have not heard whether any of these machines have been introduced into Canada, but we hope to see a specimen at the Kingston Fair, and if possible, such an exhibition of its capabilities as to attract the attention of our farmers. The following description is a cotemporary:—

"It will be perceived the

— in reaping