

AGRICULTURAL.

From the Complete Farmer.

HAY MAKING.

It is a matter of much importance to the husbandman that he should take time by the foretop during the season for making hay. He must drive his business instead of being driven by it. Indolence, or improper management in hay-time, will soon give a sorry complexion to a farmer's affairs. A day or two lost or misemployed while the sun shines, and your grass suffers for lack of the scythe and the rake, or your grain is going back into the ground, while the sickle is resting on a peg behind the door, and its owner is asleep or gone a journey, may be the means of introducing Mr Deputy Sheriff on your premises, who may do more harm than a crop of thistles or a host of Hessian flies.

It is best, generally speaking, to cut your heaviest grass first, and if it be lodged, or in danger of lodging, or the lower leaves and bottom of the stalks are beginning to turn yellow, although the grass is hardly headed, and appears not to have obtained more than two-thirds of its growth, you had better begin it. But when you have help enough, and your grass stands up well, you will do best to wait till the blossom is fully formed, and is beginning to turn brown.

Clover is the most critical grass and requires the most attention. 'In all cases,' says John Sinclair, 'clover ought to be mown before the seed is formed' that the full juice and nourishment of the plants may be retained in the hay. By the adoption of this system the hay is cut in a better season, it can be more easily secured, and is much more valuable. Nor is the strength of the plant lodged in the seed, which is often lost.

After being cut, the clover should remain in the swath till it is dried about two-thirds of its thickness. It is then not *tedded* or *strewed*, but turned over, either by the hands, or the heads of hay rakes. If turned over in the morning of a dry day, it may be cocked in the evening. The hay is as little shaken or scattered about afterwards as possible; and if the weather is good, after remaining two or three days in the cock, it may be carted into the stack.

It is asserted by the 'Farmer's Guide,' that grass will not thrive well that is not mown close; and the loss in the crop where this is not done is very considerable, as one inch at the bottom weighs more than several at the top.

The fore part of the season for making hay is, we believe, usually attended with less rain than the latter part. The days, too, are longer, and the dews less copious. Farmers will, therefore, find additional motives from these circumstances, to industry and exertion in early hay-time. Besides, if haying is protracted till harvest commences, the business of one season presses on that of another, and some crops will be nearly or quite spoiled in consequence of not being gathered in due time.—

* It may not be amiss, however, to state in this place, that agriculturists do not altogether agree upon this point. In 'Memoirs of the New York Board of Agriculture,' vol. ii. p. 30, it is asserted that 'all grasses are more nutritious if cut until the seed is fully grown. It should not be entirely ripened, however.' The Farmer's Assistant tells us that, 'the best time for cutting herd's grass, [timothy] where but one crop is wanted in the season, is when the seeds of the grass are fully formed, but before they have become fully ripe; but as farmers cannot all cut their hay in a day or two, it is necessary that they should begin before this time, that they may not end too long after it. The same time is also proper for cutting clover; or rather when a part of the heads begin to turn brown. For meadow or birdgrass may be cut much later, without being hurt by long standing.'

The forehanded and industrious farmer thus possesses great advantages over one whom indolence or poverty induces to procrastinate the indispensable labors of his vocation.

It has been often recommended by writers on agriculture to cart hay, particularly clover, before the stalks are dry, and either to put it up with alternate layers of straw, or to salt it at the rate of from half to one bushel of salt to the ton.

'Salt hay in this country has usually been hurt by lying too long in the swaths. The method in which I have treated it for several years, is, to cock it the next day after it is cut, and carry it in, without delaying more than one day, and put a layer of some kind of dry straw between load and load of it in the mow, to prevent its taking damage by over-heating. The salt contracts so much of its moisture and saltiness that the cattle will eat it very freely; and the hay is far better than that made in the common way.'

The making of herbage plants, such as clover, lucerne, sainfoin burnet, &c., into hay, is a process somewhat different from that of making hay from natural grasses. As soon as the swath is thoroughly dry above it is gently turned over (not *tedded* or *scatter d*) without breaking it. Sometimes this is done by the hand, or by a small fork; and some farmers are so anxious to prevent the swath from being broken, that they will not permit the use of the rake shaft. Another writer observes, that the practice of the best English, Flemish, and French farmers, is to expose the hay as little as possible to the sun. It is carried in dry, but preserves its green color; and we see hay one or two years old in their markets, of so bright a green color that we could scarcely conceive it to be cured. Yet they are in the practice of preserving it for years, and value it more for its age. If such a course be best in climates so cold and cloudy, how much more important would it be under our scorching summer suns.

'But if the weather be unsettled, and if showers be frequent, it may be better to spread grass well as soon as it is mowed, stir it often, cock it the same day it is mowed; open it the next fair day, when the dew is off; let it sweat a little in the cock, and house it as soon as it is dry enough. It will bear to be laid greener on a scaffold than in a ground mow; and in a narrow mow greener than in a broad one; and that which is least of all made is put upon the scaffold.'

Sir John Sinclair is very explicit on the subject of 'making clover into hay.' 'The process,' he observes, 'is quite different from making hay from natural grasses.' Mr Lorrain gives us both sides of this question. He says, 'I did not like to abandon the practice of curing hay in the swath, having observed that it saved labor. The grasses are at all times very expeditiously turned in the swath. If continued rains occur, the swaths are not only quicker turned, but if the sun shines powerfully between the showers, the inside of them is not parched by its rays. By turning the swaths throughout long continued rain, as often as the under side of them is likely to be injured by fermentation, I have saved extensive fields of hay; while my neighbors, who gave no attention to this interesting subject, had their crops entirely ruined. If the grasses, however, be raked up into small winrows, they are as readily turned, and may be as effectually preserved as if they remained in the swaths, but in this case the labor is greater.'

The same writer, however, in the next paragraph, takes other ground. 'Curing hay,' he observes, 'in swath, to save the juices, seems to me not only practically wrong, but to be opposed to reason. The confined heat and moisture in the interior of the swath promote

fermentation, and must be more or less injurious to the nutritive matter contained in the grasses. It is exactly calculated to weaken the grasp of the leaves, and to separate them from the stalk. It also greatly weakens their general texture, and causes them to crumble into pieces when they become dry. While this is doing, the outside surface of the swath is scorched by the rays of the sun, and becomes but little better than straw, before the inside is moderately cured. In raking, cocking, haying and inning, the swaths are so far separated, that many of the leaves are lost before the hay gets into the mow; but few of them get into the rack.'

We have thus given both sides of the controverted question in agriculture, and our readers will take that which appears to them most tenable. We confess ourselves rather inclined to embrace the opinions of a correspondent, who says, 'if it be correct to "make hay while the sun shines," it may be well to make it as quickly as possible; but in this, as in many other processes, circumstances alter cases.'

COLONIAL.

CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

Extracts from a Letter addressed to the Editors of a New York paper, by a Correspondent in Canada.

[We copy the following pithy extracts, as they speak volumes as to the actual state of Lower Canada; and it is a singular fact that we are indebted to a high Tory paper for our copy.]

"MONTREAL, June 19, 1837.

" * * * A British House of Commons that will, at the bidding of a minister, vote away its own brightest privileges, merely because the application is only to be made in a colony, is forever unworthy of respect both abroad and at home, and the Canadians, believing the protection of a government and the obedience of a people to be co-relative obligations, will justly consider themselves absolved from all allegiance to the British crown. Never, again, I am confident, will they abase themselves by petitioning the adder ear of that British parliament. They will look for sympathy to a powerful nation on their immediate borders, and for protection to their own "right arms."

"The white population of your thirteen States could not, in 1775, have much exceeded two millions. Your Tory, or British party, was stronger than ours, for it vaunted that it could eat up the rebels if it only "got leave." You had half a million of slaves to keep in subjection, forming a majority in the Southern States, and one-fifth of the entire population of the whole. You had thousands of Indians, under English influence, hovering about ready and excited to butcher every defenceless family. There was a province in your rear filled with British troops, who commanded all the Northern waters. In front you had the broad Atlantic, and Britain's thousand ships ready to attack at any season of the year, and there lay your thirteen colonies, a mere ribbon of 1,400 miles in length, and your two million of inhabitants, almost within reach of their ships guns. Your far west was then the Susquehanna and the Alleghames. By what miracle did you succeed?

"How much brighter are the prospects of Canada! Massachusetts, which may be considered to have commenced war singly, had then but 340,000 inhabitants. Lower Canada has 600,000, and with the Upper Province may form a compact million. We have a few Tories, who like yours of old would be loud when protected by British guns, and get paid for it when troops removed, as they pay ships — with a coat of tar, and leather ornaments.