

A saving of grain is made by early harvesting, from the fact that waste from shelling is avoided. This loss is often large in fully ripe wheat, and it is a loss no caution can avert with ripe grain. The loss from rust, also, will in most cases be thus prevented. This disease generally makes its appearance at about that stage of growth recommended for cutting the grain, and whenever it does appear, its injuries can at once be checked by harvesting.

Early harvesting allows more time for the work, so that the business of securing the crop is not crowded into a few days, in which it must be accomplished, or serious loss result from over ripening and shelling, and if the weather is bad, from growing in the ear.

In early harvesting, of course, greater attention must be given to the curing of the crop. It is advisable to allow it to lay for half a day or so in the swath before binding, and then small bundles should be made. It should be shocked up before dew falls, and will need to remain in the field for a longer time than if cut fully ripe. Should no rain occur, (which can hardly be expected,) the common practice of setting up the sheaves in a double row, with the heads resting against each other, is simple and sufficient. Against heavy showers, however, this gives but little protection, nor is covering shocks formed in the same manner, with two sheaves laid on horizontally, the heads touching each other, a much better plan. The safest mode is to set up half a dozen sheaves in a round compact form, and cover them with two others broken in the middle, and laid down in the form of a cross, with the ends spread out, which affords a reliable cap for the shelter of the grain beneath from the usual storms of the season.

Of harvesting implements we shall not at present speak. The subject will no doubt be sufficiently agitated by those interested—the makers and users of these important inventions—*American Agriculturist*.

---

## THE PRESENT CONDITION OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE.

---

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

I could not avoid noticing at Chester last summer the bulk and weight of your agricultural implements as compared with those which are exhibited at an American show. For instance, a potato-digger, which was said to be one of your best, weighed some eight hundred pounds, whilst our own will not much exceed eighty, and I scarcely think much better work can be desired than is ordinarily accomplished by the light tools we use. One of the most effective is that called "Pitkin's digger." From a central rib curved fingers spread at either side, the spaces between them allowing the dirt to pass through, while the potatoes are thrown out, and roll together on the surface of the soil, midway between the rows. The central rib and its lateral fingers are made up on a curve, like a two way or double-breasted plough, so that a furrow is turned, and the lower layers of soil, those in which the tubers are imbedded, are brought to the top, and the surface completely buried.

Your horse-hoe, the one employed for hoeing wheat and other cereals, is not even known to the farmers of America. We do not, in the first place, sow our grain in rows so straight as to admit of the employment of a horse hoe; and furthermore, our farmers would think themselves unwarranted in an expenditure of labor, at one dollar per day for a week or two, in clearing a crop of wheat. They are not yet good enough farmers to see that their interest lies in doing just as you do, and they never will see it until they feel the same pressure of