

The Harvest Moon.

Husbandmen in ancient times looked upon the "unusual behavior" of the Harvest Moon, as due to a Divine dispensation in their favor, for the purpose of affording them abundant light to enable them to complete the labors of the harvest. At other times the moon rises nearly at sunset, and at about the same time for several evenings in succession. The astronomers dispose of the belief of the an-

gent farmers, that it was a dispensation for their special benefit, by showing that so long as the motions of the earth and the moon are as at present, the latter cannot help rising in such a manner as to produce the harvest of the moon. The influence of the moon in various worldly affairs has been a matter of common belief from very early times, and there are still those who sow seed, cut timber, kill pigs, etc., at a certain time of the moon. The rural population of England have several fancies regarding the harvest moon; among others, that is in the

[illegible]

and placed under the pillow. If the dreams of a ring, marriage will follow; if of willow, her lover will be treacherous, and there is a proper interpretation for whatever may be the subject of the dream. Should a goose be dreamed of the unfortunate dreamer will marry more than once. Though the farmer in former times was grateful for the harvest moon, as it prolonged his working day, the farmer of to-day does not need her light for this purpose. Thanks to modern inventions, the days of the harvest are abundantly long for their lessened

There are few if any operations on the farm where so much time is misapplied as in the destruction of weeds.

Many farmers spend twice as much time trying to keep the weeds down as is necessary, and yet do not more than half accomplish the work. This is because they let the weeds, get too large before the work is commenced; once master of the weeds, the work of keeping them down is very easy; but if by a few days delay, the weeds are permitted to get well rooted, the work of exterminating them is not only very difficult, but very laborious, and even when accomplished leaves the crop in a crippled condition. There should be but one rule to adopt with

The idea which some have that the cultivation of crops is for the sole purpose of keeping the weeds down, leads some to make very great mistakes; cultivation is often delayed to permit all of the weed seeds to germinate that once hoeing may keep them down then it is believed that the crop will

take care of itself; this is a mistake, for that is fatal to the production of a very large crop; and yet once hoeing, which will usually require as much time as it would to go over the ground three or four times, when cultivation is commenced as soon as the weeds appear.

As frequent cultivation is very necessary to secure a vigorous growth of almost any crop, if the labor of cultivation was more, the benefit to the crop would more than cover it; but with proper implements, the labour of frequent cultivation is less.

because as long as the ground is comparatively clear of weeds, except those that have just appeared above the surface, there is but little need of using the hand hoe; but a wheel hoe, or a cultivator may be used and run over the land so rapidly that the cost of labour will be but very little; while if the cultivation be delayed until the weeds get large, the work cannot be done with a wheel hoe, and a hand hoe must be resorted to.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

Mr. James Howard, a famous English breeder of horses, has arrived at some important conclusions in the art of breeding. He believes that the external structure, configuration and outward characteristics, including peculiarities of locomotion, are mainly derived from the sire, while the structure of the various internal organs, the temper, habits, and constitution, come from the dam. The purer the blood of the parent, the more certainly there is of its qualities being transmitted to the offspring.

This is particularly true, if the greater purity of race or breed is on the side of the sire. A pure-blooded male that has descended from a stock of uniform color, fixes that same color upon his colt. A sire may influence progeny subsequent to that of which he is a parent; that is, his influence is stamped upon the dam. The transmission of diseases of the vital organs is more certain from the female, while disorders of the external parts, joints, etc., must surely come from the side of the sire. We know of many ex-

deprive—if they are exceptions—to the above points, and give them more as food for thought for horse-breeders and others, than as rules of action.

THE FARMER only \$1 per year

