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*From the Nova Scotia Magazine.*SIMPLE AND EASY METHOD OF  
MAKING HAY.*(From Essays relating to Agriculture and  
Rural Affairs.)*

And he gave it for his opinion, that whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow upon a spot of ground, where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together.

SWIFT.

INSTEAD of allowing the hay, says he, to lie, as usual, in most places, for some days in the swathe after it is cut, and afterwards alternately putting it up into cocks and spreading it out, and tedding it in the sun, which tends greatly to bleach the hay, exhales its natural juices, and subjects it very much to the danger of getting rain, and thus runs a great risk of being made good for little, I made it a general rule, if possible, never to cut hay but when the grass is dry; and then make the gatherers follow close upon the cutters, putting it up immediately into small cocks about three feet high each, when new put up, and of as small a diameter as they can be made to stand with; always giving each of them a slight kind of thatching, by drawing a few handfuls of the hay from the bottom of the cock all around, and laying it lightly upon the top, with one of the ends hanging downward. This is

done with the utmost ease and expedition; and when it is once in that state, I consider my hay, as in a great measure out of danger; for, unless a violent wind should arise immediately after the cocks are put up, so as to overturn them, nothing else can hurt the hay; as I have often experienced, that no rain, however violent, ever penetrates into these cocks but for a very little way. And, if they are dry put up, they never sit together so closely as to heat; altho' they acquire, in a day or two, such a degree of firmness, as to be in no danger of being overturned by wind after that time, unless it blows a hurricane.

In these cocks, I allow the hay to remain, until, upon inspection, I judge that it will keep in pretty large tramp cocks, (which is usually in one or two weeks, according as the weather is more or less favourable) when two men, each with a long pronged pitchfork, lift up one of these small cocks between them with the greatest ease, and carry them, one after another, to the place where the tramp cock is to be built. And, in this manner, they proceed over the field till the whole is finished. If the hay is to be carried to any considerable distance, this part of the labour may be greatly abridged, by causing the carriers to take two long sticks of a sufficient strength, and having laid them down by the small cocks, pa-

rallel to one another, at the distance of one and a half or two feet asunder, let them lift three or four cocks, one after another, and place them carefully above the sticks, and then all together, as if upon a hand barrow, to the place where the large rick is to be built.

The advantages that attend this method of making hay are, that it greatly abridges the labour; as it does not require above the one half of the work that is necessary in the old method of turning and tedding it; that it allows the hay to continue almost as green as when it is cut, and preserves its natural juices in the greatest perfection; for, unless it be the little that is exposed to the sun and air on the surface of the cocks, which is no more bleached than every straw of hay saved in the ordinary way, the whole is dried in the most slow and equal manner that could be desired: And, lastly, that it is thus in a great measure secured from almost the possibility of being damaged by rain. This last circumstance deserves to be much more attended to by the farmers than it usually is at present; as I have seen few who are sufficiently aware of the loss that the quality of their hay sustains by receiving a slight shower after it is cut, and before it is gathered; the generality of farmers seeming to be very well satisfied, if they get in their hay without being absolutely rotted;