

MR. CURRAN.

This celebrated advocate of the Irish bar went one day to hear the pleadings at the Old Baily; but was refused admittance by the gallery door-keeper, until he submitted to the scandalous imposition of paying two shillings for it. "Pay for admission to a court of justice!" says this eloquent barrister; "why, man, I am come from a country where they give money to such a simple man as me for going into a court!" "More fools they," was the reply.



REAPING.

THE provident husbandman will reap his corn three or four days before any two or three persons will agree on it being ripe. I have more than once had occasion to congratulate myself on having done so, when looking at the corn of those who were less fortunate, shed by an equinoctial gale. Bear in mind also that you will not have that loss of seed in reaping, stacking, carting, &c. that you would otherwise; and that by so doing you may not only escape the effects of the wind, which the farmer knows he may expect about this time, but also of the rain; as by being two or three days early in the field, it may probably enable you to have it out of danger's way, stacked or carried; whereas, by contrary management, if a week of wet or showery weather should come on, your corn may be tossing about without every wind, and beginning to sprout or malt by the time the weather becomes dry. This matter should be looked closely after in our moist and (at this season particularly) uncertain climate.

For the furtherance of this object, I would strongly recommend to gentlemen, and extensive tillage farmers, to manage so as to have their crops ripe a week or fortnight earlier than those of the cottiers or peasantry about them, by which means they will not only have the advantage most probably of good weather at reaping time, but they will also have the still further advantage of being able to command and procure a sufficiency of hands, which could not be so easily effected if their own crops came in at the same time; this can be easily accomplished by sowing some weeks earlier than they are accustomed to do; which will also give you the same advantage in Spring time. I have found a strict adherence to this practice most advantageous; and to those even moderately extensive in tillage it ought to be a strong argument, if there was no other, in favour of early sowing.

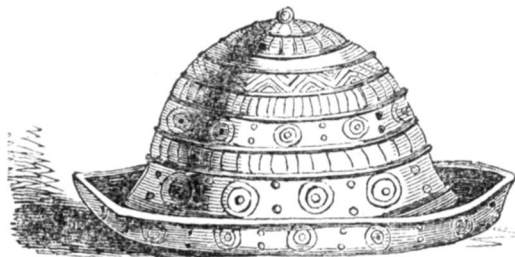
Mr. Coke, who is probably the first practical agriculturist in the world, cuts his wheat very early—even when the ear and stem are greenish, and the grain not hard. He says, the wheat thus early reaped, is always his best sample; and that he gets two shillings a quarter for it more than for wheat cut in a more mature state. He, perhaps, loses somewhat in the weight of measure, the skin being thinner, and the grain probably not quite so round; but he is more than compensated in having no loss by shedding, which is often great when the ear becomes fully ripe, and the weather windy. Now, if this plan is found advantageous in Norfolkshire (which is about the driest part of England) how much more advantageous should it be in our climate? At all events, when the great portion of the

crop is ripe, wait not a moment, especially in an exposed situation, as what is green may never ripen, and the ripe may be lost by delay.

The best time is probably when the straw below is so dry that no juice can be extracted; it matters not if the stalk below is green; every hour the crop remains uncut after this stage is attended with loss. When the ear of wheat also bends at the joining of the straw and ear, so that the latter droops or lies at an angle to the stalk, your crop is then decidedly ripe.

Barley ought also be cut before too ripe, as the straw will get brittle, and there will be much loss by the ears breaking off. Oats should be cut when two or three persons, experienced in such matters, cannot well agree whether it is fit or not; when one says yes, and another no, that is your precise moment; as, although a hardy crop, it is at a certain stage often seriously shook by high winds, particularly the early and better sorts; but by this management many risks may be avoided, to which a crop might otherwise be exposed.

Reap your corn close, in order to augment the dung-heap; and let it be sufficiently seasoned before carried to the barn-yard, lest it should heat or ferment, and become comparatively of little value. In England, Irish reapers are much in request with those who prefer close cutting. It is the poorest, and those most distressed at home, that go over for the purpose of earning during the harvest there, and the price of labour would often be much higher during that period, if it were not for their annual migration.—*Lambert's Rural Affairs of Ireland.*



ANCIENT IRISH CROWN.

Among the innumerable antiquities hitherto discovered in Ireland, there is nothing, perhaps, of greater interest, or which more curiously illustrates the antiquity of our monarchic institutions, than the Golden Crown represented above. In its style and workmanship it is perfectly eastern, and unlike every thing of the kind used in Europe within historic times. It was found ten feet under the ground at a place called *Barn an eli*, in the county of Tipperary, in the year 1692; and was purchased by Joseph Comerford, Esq., a gentleman descended from a younger brother of Comerford, in the county of Stafford, who attended King John in his expedition into Ireland. It is said still to be preserved by the family of that gentleman in the Castle of Anglure, in Champagne, to which he retired after the war of 1680. Its weight was only about five ounces. Similar crowns have been found in other parts of Ireland of somewhat greater weight, but none of them have been preserved.

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 Sold by all Booksellers in Ireland.
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 Birmingham by Drake; in Nottingham by Wright;
 in Edinburgh by Chambers, and R. Grant & Son; in Glasgow
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