1871-1872 Caspar Morris journal 1994

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head on every side stretched
plains like our prairies
apparently illimitable even
as we advanced still spreading
before us as well as behind it
and at either side, and all
covered with the ever repeated
& rectangular patches of wheat
oats, rye, clover, pulse potatoes
The wheat predominated in various
stages of advance from the green
ear to the stocked sheaves. The
labourers were busy cutting that
which is ripe. This done by blows
with a short scythe. so aimed
at the face of the crop that as
it is cut it falls against that
which is standing & is then gathered
into bundles & laid down to dry
While the reaper advances to
a further row of the scythe
Stes cut off very close to the
surface and includes much
green grass in the butt of the sheaf
so that when lying on the ground it
rises much higher than the rest
which lends the grain looking as we
passed like heaps of grass just
cut After passing over this plain
for miles we were suddenly
secluded in a tunnel of more
than a mile in length from which
we emerged into a country like
that we had passed, the valley of
the Rhine with Cologne lying before
us The Cathedral here is the great
object of interest and it is worthy
of all this