The Globe.

HUNTINGDON, PA.

WHAT I KNOW OF FARMING.

BY HORACE GREELEY.

XXXI. THE FARMER'S CALLING. If any one fancies that he ever heard me flattering farmers as a class, or saying anything, which implied that they were more virtuous, upright, unselfish, or deserving, than any other people, I am sure he must have misunderstood or that he now misrecollects me. 1 do not even join in the cant, which speaks of farmers as supporting everybody else-of farming as the only indispensable vocation. You may say if you will that mankind could not subsist if there were no tillers of the soil; but the same is true of housebuilders, and of some other classes. A uable citizen: so is a good merchant, doctor, or lawyer. It is not essential to the true nobility and genuine worth of the farmer's calling that any other

should be assailed or disparaged. Still, if one of my three sons had been spared to attain manhood, I should nity, whose favor is to them the breath have advised him to try to make him- of life. "She will find that that won't self a good farmer; and this without any romantic or poetic notions of Agriculture as a pursuit. I know well from personal though youthful experistranger, who seemed the focus of ence, that the farmer's life is one of labor, anxiety and care that hail, and flood, and hurricane, and untimely saying she gave expression to a feelfrosts, over which he can exert no ing which pervades and governs many control, will often destroy in an hour the net results of months of persistent, whether the social intolerance of adwell-directed toil; that disease will sometimes sweep away his animals, in spite of the most judicious treatment, the most thoughtful providence, on his part; and that insects, blight and letters gravely informing me that my rust, will often blast his well-grounded hopes of a generous barvest, when they seem on the very point of realization. I know that he is necessarily exposed more than most other men, to the caprices and inclemencies of weather and climate; and that, if he begins responsible life without other means their prejudices. Very often, in other than those he finds in his own clear days, I was favored with letters from head and strong arms, with those of indignant subscribers, who, dissenting his helpmeet, he must expect to strug- from my views on some question, took gle through years of poverty, frug. this method of informing me that they ality, and resolute persistent, industry before he can reasonably hope to at superfluons trouble, which could only tain a position of independence, com have meant dictation or insult, since fort, and comparative leisure. I know that much of his work is rugged, and ing their subscriptions, and their TRIBthese among other reasons:

in this. Of one hundred men who evidently not for one moment suspecembark in trade, a careful observer ted. That such persons have little or reports that ninety-five fail; and, while no capacity to insult, is very true I think this proportion too large, I am | and yet, a man is somewhat degraded sure that a large majority do, and in his own estimation by learning that must fail, because competition is so ea- his vocation is held in such low esteem ger and traffic se enormously overdone. by others. The true farmer is proud-If ten men endeavor to support their ly awarethat it is quite other wise with families by merchandise in a town- his pursuit—that no one exprets him for but three, it is certain that a ma- party, or defer to any prejudice, as jority must fail, no matter how frugal condition precedent to the sale of his Wood and Willow-Ware. their living. But you may double the products. Hence, I feel, that it is number of farmers in an agricultural easier and more natural in his purcounty I ever traversed, without ne- suit, than in any other for a man to cessarily dooming one to failure, or work for a living, and aspire to suceven abridging his gains. If half the cess and consideration, without sacritraders and professional men in this ficing self-respect, compromising incountry were to betake themselves to tegrity, or ceasing to be essentiall and farming to-morrow, they would not thoroughly a gentleman. render that pursuit one whit less profitable, while they would largely increase the comfort and wealth of the entire community: and, while a good merchant, lawyer, or doctor, may be starved out of any township, simply because the work he could do well is already confided to others, I never yot heard of a temperate, industrious, intelligent frugal and energetic farmer

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II. I regard farming as that vocation which conduces most directly and palpably to a reverence for Honestv and Truth. The young lawyer is often constrained, or at least tempted, by his necessities, to do the dirty professional work of a rascal intent on cheating his neighbor out of his righteous dues. The young doctor may be likewise incited to resort to a quackery he despises in order to secure ina farmer, must realize that his success depends upon his absolute verity and integrity. He deals directly with Nature which never was and never will be cheated. He has no temptation to sow beach sand for plaster, dockseed for clover, or stoop to any trick or juggle whatever. "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap," while it is true, in the long run, of all men, is instantly and palpably true as water and the shall he also reap."

to him. When he, having grown his crop, shall attempt to sell it-in other words, when, he ceases to be a farmer and becomes a trader-he may possibly be attempted into one of the many devious ways of rascality; but, so long as he is acting simply as a farmer, he can hardly be lured from the broad. straight highway of integrity and

righteousness. III. The farmer's calling seems to me that most conducive to thorough manliness of character. Nobody expects him to cringe, or smirk, or curry favor, in order to sell his produce No merchant refuses to buy it because his politics are detested or his religia Mormon, a Rebel, a Millerite, or a regularly. Communist, yet his Grain or his Pork will sell for exactly what it is worthnot a fraction less or more than the price commanded by the kindred product of like quality and intrinsic value of his neighbor, whose opinions on all points are faultlessly orthodox and lasses thoroughly good farmer is a useful valmerchant, the lawyer, the doctor, especially if young and still struggling dubiously for a position, are continu ally tempted to sacrifice or suppress their profoundest convictions in de ference to the vehement and often irrational prepossessions of the commugo down here," was the comment of an old woman on a Mississinni steam.

boat, when told that the plain, deaf general interest, was Miss Martineau. the celebrated Unitarian; and in so if not most communities. I doubt verse opinions is more vehement anywhere else than throughout the larger portion of our own country. I have repeatedly been stung by the receipt of course and views on a current topic were adverse to public opinion: the writers evidently assuming, as a matmatter of course, that I was a mere jumping-jack, who only needed to know what other people thought to insure my instant and abject conformity to should no longer take my journal-a

some of it absolutely repulsive; I know | UNE would stop coming, whenever they that he will seem, even with unbroken should have received what we owed good fortune, to be making money them; and it would in no case stop much more slowly than his neighbor till then. That a journalist was in the merchant, the broker, or eloquent any sonse a public teacher—that he or pound. Cheapor for the same quallawyer, who fills the general eye while necessarialy had convictions, and was ity than elsewhere. he prospers, and, when he fails, sinks likely to suppress them, because they out of sight and is soon forgotten; and were not shared by others-in short, yet, I should have advised my sons to that his calling was other and higher choose farming as their vocation, for than that of a waiter at a restaurant, expected to furnish whatever was I. There is no other business in called for, so long as the pay was which success is so nearly certain as forthooming-these ex-subscribers had ship which affords adequate business to awallow any creed, support any

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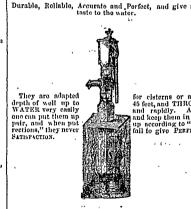
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