

remarks, I will announce at once as the subject which will engage our attention at present for a few minutes: "Agriculture in Adams county-its past and present condition, and future prospects.'

There are doubtless those present who can, sections of the county this was, I know, even then, very different. Diversity of industry and skill produced then, as it produces still, a diversity of results. But I speak of the general condition of agriculture. The original settlers undoubtedly found the virgin soil vary. ing very much in native fertility. A small portion of the south-eastern part of the county, was of course theu, as it is now, limestone soil, and rich in all the ingredients necessary for the luxuriant growth of wheat and other crops. This variety of soil is less liable to exhaustion under bad management than most others, and hence even where badly treated, which was not, however, always the case, it suffered less than those soils containing a smaller quantity of nutrient principles. Another region of the county, lying along the foot of the South Mountain, seems to have possessed in larger amounts than ordinary, the material of vegetable growth. With the exception, however, of those just adverted to, and perhaps a few other small districts, the original settlers must have found the soil of our county of a character easily exhausted, and therefore requiring no small degree of skill and care in its management. A virgin soil, however, of even common quality and under ordinary cultivation will yield fair returns, sufficient at least, to tempt the cupidity of the cultivator, and lead him to carry his exhausting process further than even his own true interests would warrant. Thus the goose that lays daily for a streams, it is evident that each repetition of time a golden egg, and under proper management night continue long to do so, is recklessly sacrificed to arrive at once at the supposed rich deposit within. Very much like the conduct of the infatuated man whom this fable er proved inclement the cattle returned in the holds up to us as an example of impatient, im- evening with greatly increased appetites.provident folly, was that of many of the first This was regarded advantageous, as they settlers of this county. We wish not, however, to speak disparagingly of those who have long since gone the way of all flesh. It was an excellent maxim which enjoined, when speak ing of the dead. that we should say of them, sanit nisi bonun"-nothing but good -- that is, if we can say nothing good of them we should hold our peace-we should say nothing at all. .But you will perceive that I am not speaking of the moral qualities of those that are gone In this respect, notwithstanding our much greater advantages, I fear we must admit with shame that many of them were greatly our superiors-peace be to their ashes, and honored be their gaves-still we assert they sometimes farmed badly. They skimmed and used the ream and left for our nourishment the thin blue milk. It was doubtless soon discovered that most of our land when first stables at night-making a question of loss cleared would grow a very fair crop of and gain of the matter; we suppose the anwheat; and if one crop why not two, and if swer would be that they lost more than they two why not three ? If the third crop of wheat gained. In like manner was their loss in the should prove the soil to be tired of that particular grain, then a similar succession of crops of rye might be tried, and when tried to some extent succeeded. Although this may not have been the universal practice, to raise crops of -winter-grain-in-so rapid\_and\_close\_successionas I have just indicated, yet excessive cropping was in a very great number of instances resorted to, and tended to the rapid exhaustion of a soil naturally not very fertile. Other circumstances which contributed to the same result, wore the following. There was but a very imperfect knowledge at the time 1 am speaking of, of the fertilizing, or, at best, pre-Serving properties of clover and other artificial grass. Bonsequently these grasses were too little cultivated. When they were sown they were frequently depastured before the roots had taken sufficient hold of the soil to withstand the upheaving power of the winter frosts, or if they were let alone to grow up luxariantly the following summer, they were then grazed off so barely that the soil derived little or no advantage-from their brief existence. 1 con. ceive the manner in which grass crops tend to the fertility of the soil, is, in the first place,

badly constructed. They were not unfrequently situated on the side of a slope, with a channel natural or artificial carrying off the liquid drainings of the manure heap into the nearest brook that "bubbled bye," to be borne to and gredient of the manure. Men did not perhaps. believe this because they did not see it—the actual process of dispersion going on, and there are still men who can believe little or nothing which is not cognizable by their senses. But even the largest possible amount of the deteriorated stuff which was annually spread upon the fields under the name of manure was not collected. On the contrary, a practice existed. and it is not yet entirely extinct in our country (I sincerely wish it were)-I mean the practice of letting the stock of the farm, scarcely excepting the horses themselves, run at large a portion of every day during the housing season. The cattle were some tied in the stables at night, others were shut up in the barn yard, and after they had finished their morning's meal of such fodder as the farm would furnish, they were all turned out to water, to take a walk for the benefit of their health, and to go if they pleased to see their ueighbors, and, which of course was very important, keep up friendly (sometimes unfriendly) relations with them. If the day was pleasant the walk was generally prolonged, and the cattle emptied themselves of their nightly feeding upon the highways before their return.--But as the fodder consumed at night and in the morning came from the fields and meadows, at the expense of their nutrient principles, and was deposited upon the roads and in the this operation left said fields and meadows minus the quantity thus deposited. Here was evidently an exhausting process constantly go. ing on during the winter months. If the weathcould eat so much the more. It was indeed true, and so is it true that your fire will burn the more fiercely, if in a winter's day you throw open your doors, and if your object be to consume fuel without any regard to the warming of your apartments, it would undoubtedly be the best plan. So in like manner when the spring arrived and the trees began to put forth their leaves, the cattle were "turned out to the woods," as it was called. This was in reality turning them out to commit depredations upon neighbors, to break fences and excite quarrels, for no person can suppose that cuttle at that season of the year can find anything eatable in the woods to compensate for the requisite wear and tear in procuring it.-But however little they succeeded in finding, they at least lost what they had devoured in the frequent insufficiency of fences. There being no sufficient barrier to the cattle, those legitimately within, when they had satisfied themselves or eaten all they could get, feeling themselves as free from all responsibility and restraint as ever did "Young America" in hismost thoughtless jolity, they leave the nomiual field at pleasure and with them carry from the already impoverished soil, to return no more, the contents of their stomachs, be it little or be it much. On the other hand the same fences which permit the lawful inmates to escape, also admit the ingress of marauders who carry to their homes on their return, or more probably leave by the wayside, another portion of that which hardly admitted of division. By these and similar processes, favored perhaps in many instances by a false idea of the inexhaustible nature of the soil, our lands, many of them at least, were reduced to a state of extreme exhaustion. The scanty crops of wheat vielded by the impoverished fields, scarcely, in many instances, repaid the cost of cultivation, and sometimes hardly returned- the seed. Frequently the young plants which, owing to their iceble growth in the autumn, they yield to it what they took from the at-mosphere (so much clear gain) as well as what they derived from the soil iself and second roots, were almost wholly thrown out by the internation of the members, but only in the change of its

most part, by bad management, the means of the further exhaustion, instead of the renovation, of our land. The clover grown by its application was not returned with its additional acquired stores of nutriment to the soil. On buried in the depths of the ocean. Then, as the contrary it was fed off for the most part to is still too much the custom, manure heaps the bare surface and much of it borne and dewith me, survey in retrospect the condition of our art in this our native or adopted county twenty-five or thirty years ago. In different were large amount of the most valuable in-successive crop of clover thus carried off the successive crop of clover thus c land, took with it not merely what it had acquired from the atmosphere, but also a large amount of nutriment taken from the soil itself. The quantity of this latter was of course the | off closely the clover is turned down with the greater in proportion to the luxuriousness of of the crop. In a few years the farmer was astonished to find that what he had taken as the most valuable fertilizer had in reality turned out in his hands to be the most mischievous exhauster of the soil. The use of plaster was of course abandoned by many with as much haste and with as little reason as it had been taken up. Many too, still living, fancy they have grown wise by past experience, and prefict a similar result from the modern use of lime and guano. By equally bad management their predictions might perhaps be in some measure fulfilled, but certainly they will not be necessarily so. After the disappointment with gypsum, espair seemed for a while to brood over the agricultural community. Ryo was substituted for wheat, and buckwheat in some measure for corn. This beautiful region required, in more favored districts, and far and wide, the unenviable sobriquet of "the buckwheat county." Matters had surely reached a terrible crisis, but how to mend them was what no one knew. I well remember, and doubtless many of you also do, the dreary aspect which our county very generally won. The fields were indeed white but not "unto harvest." Many of them were clad in poverty grass-the last despairing effort of exnausted fertility. Discouraged by repeated failures to improve their land, and dreading approaching poverty, many sold their farms at very low prices and sought a more fertile soil in the distant west-prefering all the hardships and discomforts of pioneer life to the fruitless toil of cultivating a soil which they considered doomed to perpetual sterilíty. But it is said, and I suppose said truly becoming fewer. that "when the world is at its worst it will mend." It at least so happened with the agricultural affairs of our county. At any rate we hope they have passed the crisis and are rapidly convalescent. It is from this crisis we date the origin of the PRESENT condition of griculture amongst us. But to what agent, it may be asked, or to what circumstance or combination of circumstances is the charge owing ! Were I to reply directly to this question and name any one agent to which the improved condition of our agriculture is mainly indebted. I would say LIME is par excellence that agent. This substance had been employed many centuries ago to the improvement of the soil. The incient Romans undoubtedly used it for that purpose. Cato, in the oldest agricultural treatise extant, describes minutely the best method then known of preparing it, and Pliny attests the use of it by the cultivators of his country and in his day, as a dressing for the soil in which fruit trees were planted. In every land it has also been employed as an ameliorator for the soil.-The precise time when lime was first introduced into this country as a manure ral very valuable fertilizers have been introand by whom introduced I have not been duced amongst us. The principal one of these is the "guano." This manure has already able to ascertain.' I remember to have seen it lie in heaps in some fields in the southeastern part of the county as early as the done something toward rendering our soil proyear 1822 or 1823. It was not, however, till lific, and may yet do much more. Its price, long after this period that its use became ge until the late rise in grain, has been too high to admit of its use with profit. If the present neral. The first experiments in its employment were rather unsatisfactory. The quan-prices of grain, however, should be sustained, itants-until so late a day that the election of we may purchase, with advantage, this valuaity applied was generally much too large for the condition of the soil. Having heard of ble article. The deposits of guano will doubi- not take place until the 30th of March. 1855, its beneficial effects in England and in some less be in time exacusted, but from its analy- nor its meeting until the 2d of July, 1855 .parts of this country, without probably knowing sis, artificial fertilizers mey be prepared of S that, for a year after the territory was conthe usual dose, the inexperienced falsely nearly equal value. Nay, every farmer has in | stituted by the act of Congress and the officers reasoned, or rather did not reason at all, but his possession the material for such fertilizers, to be appointed by the federal Executive had jumped at the illegitimate conclusion that if if he will but knowingly apply them. I would been commissioned, it was without a complete a little is good more will be better. They notice, finally, in speaking of our agricultural government, without any legislative authority,

with the fork or other implement, according to the particular views of the cultivator .--When it is plowed or forked for the last time, cloverseed is immediately sowed thickly upon the freshly stirred ground. In ordinary seasons this readily vegetates, and becomes hy winter sufficiently advanced to withstand in a When the

Based upon this theory, the act of Congress lefined for each territory the outlines of republican government, distributing public authoriy among lawfully-created agents-executive, udicial and legislative-to be appointed either by the general government or by the territory.

be considered as the people of each territory-

of the same above the age of twenty-one years,

being un actual resident thereof, and possess-

ing the qualifications hereafter described.

should be entitled to vote at the first election,

and be eligible to any office within the territo-

ternal organization, and thus to anticipate or to force the determination of that question in this inchoate State.

With such views, associations were organized in some of the States, and their purposes winter sufficiently advanced to withstand in a The legislative functions were intrusted to a were proclaimed through the press in language great measure the effects of the frost. I council and a house of representatives duly extremely irritating and offensive to those of would remark by the way that lime greatly interview of the second bors. Those designs and acts had the necessary consequence to awaken envolions of inprosperity, happiness and good government.-tense indignation in States near to the Terri-Acting in the same spirit, Congress also defintory of Kansas, and especially in the adjoining ed the persons who were in the first instance to State of Missouri, whose comestic peace was thus the most directly endangered; but they enacting that every free white male inhabitant are far from justifying the filegal and repres hensible counter-movements which ensued Under these inauspicious circumstances the primary elections for members of the legislas ive assembly were held in most, it not all. of the precincts at the time and the places, and by the persons designated and appointed by the governor according to law. Angry accusations that illegal votes had been polled abounded on all sides, and importations were made both of fraud and violence. But the Governor, in the exercise of the power and the discharge of the duty conferred and imposed by law on him alone, officially received and considered the returns ; declared a large majority of the members of the Council and the House of Representatives "duly elected i" withheld certificates from others because of alleged illegality of votes; appointed a new election to supply the place of the persons not certified ; and thus at length, in all the forma of statute, and with his own official authentication, complete legality was given to the first legislative assembly of the Territory. Those decisions of the returning officers and of the Governor are final, except that, by the parliamentary usage of the country applied to the organic law, it may be conceded that each house of the assembly must have been competent to determine, in the last resort, the qualifications and the election of its members. "The subject was, by its nature, one appenaining exclusively to the jurisdiction of the local authurities of the Territory. Whatever inegularities may have occurred in the elections, it seems too late now to raise that guestion." At all events, it is a question as to which, neither now, nor at any previous time, has the least possible legal authority been possessed by the President of the United States. For all present purposes the legislative body, thus constituted and elected, was the legitimate assembly of the Territory. Accordingly, the Governor, by proclamation. convened the assembly thus elected to meet at a place called Pawnee city; the two houses met and were duly organized in the ordinary parliamentary form; each sent to, and received from, the Governor the official communications usual on such occasions; an elaborate message opening the session was communicated by the Governor; and the general business of the legislation was entered upon by the legislative ssembly. But, after a few days, the assembly resolved to adjourn to another place in the Territory .---A law was accordingly passed, against the consent of the Governor, but in das form otherwise, to remove the seat of government temporarily to the "Shawnee Manual Labor School." (or Mission.) and thither the assembly, proceeded. After this, receiving a bill for the establishment of a ferry at the townof Kickspon the Governor refused to sign it, and, by special message, assigned for reason of refusal, not anything objectionable in the bill itself, nor any pretence of the illegality or incompetence of the assembly as such, but only the fact that the assembly had by its act transferred the seat of government temporarily from Pawnee city to Shawnee Mission. For the same reason he continued to refuse to sign other bills, until in the course of a few days, he, by official message; communicated to the assembly the fact that he had received notification of the termination of his functions as Governor, and that the duties of the office were legally devolved on the Secretary of the Territory ; thus to the last recognizing the body as a duly elected and constituted legislative assembly. It will be perceived that, if any constitutional defect attached to the legislative acts of the assembly, it is not pretended to consist in it.

is in blossom the following summer a few cattle may be turned in, which eat the blossom but tread down the stalk. Without being fed plow and the ground prepared for wheat.-A little stable manure, if it can be procured should be applied and turned under before or at the time of seeding. A repetition of this process, we know from practical experience, will greatly improve the most exhausted soil.

ry, but that the qualifications of voters and The use of lime, we are happy to say, has become very common in most parts of our County. holding office at all subsequent elections should Through its influence, notwithstanding the be such as might be prescribed by the legislacarelessness and bungling manner with which tive assembly; provided, however, that the we see it too often applied, the soil has become right of suffrage a d of holding office should renovated beyond the most sanguine expectabe exercised only by citizens of the United States, and those who should have dec'ared on tion, entertained even by the most visionary when the experiment was first made. Fields, onth their intention to become such, and have taken an oath to support the constitution of the which, in the recollection of many of us, were almost as sterile as the sands of the Sahara, United States and the provisions of the act; now are clothed with the richest crops of eloand provided, further, that no officer, soldier, ver, or are capable of bearing heavy crops of seaman or marine, or other person in the army the finest wheat. In those sections of the or navy of the United States, or attach od to County, many of them, at least, where wheat troops in their survice, should be allowed to was annually bought a few years since, it is hold office in either territory by reason of benowannually sold in considerable quantity & f ing on service therein: Such of the public officers of the Territories excellent quality. Ours is no longer contemptuously called the buckwheat County. We can as, by the provisions of the act, were to be apcompete in the market, at least in the quality of pointed by the general government, including the our productions, with those counties who were governors, were appointed and commissioned accustomed to consider themselves as the in due season; the law having been enacted on Egypt of the State. Our farmers are yearly the 30th of May, 1854, and the commission of increasing in wealth and gathering around the governor of the Territory of Nebraska being dated on the 2d day of August, 1854, and of them the comforts and even luxuries of life.--the Territory of Kansas on the 29th day of Thed begin more assiduously to attend to the education of their children in liberal learning June, 1854. Among the duties imposed by the act on the and accomplishments, a circumstance that governors was that of directing and supermust in time produce a most favorable reflex ntending the political organization of the resinfluence. I need not qualify these expressions, by the painful acknowledgment that pective Territories. The governor of Kansas still some portions of the County are, with rewas required to cause a census or enumeration gard to improvement, nearly at the same point of the inhabitants and qualified voters of the

several counties and districts of the Territory they were twenty-five years ago. These for tunately are but few and we hope are annually to be taken by such persons and in such mode as he might designate and appoint ; to appoint and direct the time and places of holding the I fear I have already exhausted your patience, and will but glance at the third part of first elections, and the manner of conducting my subject-Our agricultural prospects. It them, both as to the persons to superintend is admitted by all that the soil is capable of such elections and the returns thereof; to deindefinite fertility-we scarcely know the lim. clare the number of members of the council its, although limits it undoubtodly has. The and house of representatives for each county or district; to declare what persons might appear late John Jacob Astor is reported to have said to he duly elected; and to appoint the time that the first thousand dollars he realized in and place of the first meeting of the legislative his early struggles for wealth, cost him more assembly. In substance, the same duties dethought and effort than the millions that followed. So, to improve the soil to its present volved on the governor of Nebraska. condition has perhaps required of the farmer

While by this act, the principle of constitution for each of the ferritories was one and the more patient toil, study, and self-denial, than will be requisite hereafter to carry it forward to the highest point of fertility. We have alsame, and the details of organic legislation regarding both were as nearly as could be identiready advanced sufficiently far to have secured [ cal, and while the territory of Nebraska was the means of advancing much farther at plea- tranquilly and successfully organized in the sure. Besides, science is yearly opening to us due course of law, and its first legislative asnew resources. if we will but qualify ourselves | sembly met on the 16th of January, 1855, the organization of Kansas was long delayed, and for understanding her instructions and lend has been attended with serious difficulties and to them an attentive and willing ear. If we embarrassments, partly the consequence of local will attend to the proper education of our chilmal-administration and partly of the unjustidren in the sciences bearing upon agriculture, we know not how rich may be the reward in fiable interference of the inhabitants of some of the States foreign by residence, interests store for them even in this once comparatively barren region. Within a few years past seveand rights to the territory.

The Governor of the Territory of Kansas, commissioned, as before stated, on the 29th of June, 1854, did not reach the designated seat of his government until the 7th of the ensuing October; and even then failed to make the first step in its legal organization-that of ordering the census or enumeration of its inhabthe members of the legislative assembly did

