PITTSBURGH GAZETTE

Agriculture.

Circular to the Vice President of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society.

GENTLEMEN:—When our State Agricultural Society was instituted, it was deemed essential to its purposes that one Vice President should be elected from every Congressional District, so that through their zeal and influence in every locality, united action might be had on every measure looking to its prosperity. That you zealously devote yourselves to the duties implied by your official position, no one can doubt, who marks the advancement already attained in theoretical and practical agriculture in Pennsylvania, or contemplating the numerous county societies that so recently have been established within its borders. These manifestations, gentlemen, are not only creditable to you and the State Society, but show such flattering results from your efforts, and such rough promise of increasing support as to the landed interest, as might excite in the most indifferent some degree of State pride and gratulation.

The progress, however, already made, is but the beginning of the grand scheme of agricultural improvement, contemplated by the founders of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society. We are only at yet on the threshold of that vast storehouse, the soil, whose hidden treasures challenge our utmost efforts; and having put our hands to the plow, it would be criminal, if not unpardonable, to pause or look back onward, and onward in all sincerity, must be our word and rule of action. Every advantage gained, as well as every obstacle overcome, should serve as incentives to the prosecution of the noble work that is to be accomplished.

First of all among the appliances necessary to the great undertaking, is agricultural education. Of indeed, it is not the very foundation stone, without which, no superstructure can be raised worthy our efforts, or commensurate to the agricultural position and prosperity of the State.

You are aware that a Farmers' High School has been chartered, which gave it a name, and that recently it has found a habitation. But, gentlemen, its means of support are not provided, except so far as ten thousand dollars, which the State Society is authorized to advance towards it. These will be inadequate, and further demands upon the treasury will be made, and of course will be responded to in a generous spirit.

In regarding our ways and means, I thought of the expediency of soliciting our fellow citizens to become Life Members of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society. If one thousand could be found throughout the State, to enrol themselves at ten dollars each, it would cover the first instalment to the Farmers' High School. Ten dollars is but a small pittance to be contributed to the wealth of thousands, that reside within the bounds of Pennsylvania, and surely their patriotism and public spirit can in no other form find a more fitting object for the display, than the advancement of the agriculture of the country—even their individual interests, if properly considered, are intimately, if not directly connected with the promoting of husbandry. So pervading is this interest, that neither high nor low, rich nor poor, can escape sympathizing with its general condition.

I would therefore, gentlemen, most respectfully and earnestly suggest the expediency of getting on foot in your several districts, as I have done in Philadelphia, subscriptions for Life Membership in your State Agricultural Society, to remit whatever may be subscribed to the Treasurer, with the names of the subscribers, so that the Secretary may record them, and transmit certificates to each. We who have spent time and money in the cause, may, with a good grace, call upon our friends to lend a helping hand, not for our sakes, but for the sake of the great farming interest of Pennsylvania.

Respectfully, JAMES GOWEN,
President of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society.

November 10, 1855.

☞ If Editors would copy the Circular, and refer to it commendingly, it would greatly promote the object.

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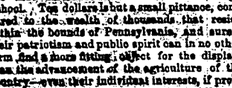

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