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THE TIOGA COUNTY AGITATOR

Devoted to the Extension of the Area of Freedom and the Spread of Wealthy Reform.

WHILE THERE SHALL BE A WRONG UNRIGHTED, AND UNTIL "MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN" SHALL CEASE, AGITATION MUST CONTINUE.

VOL. IV. WELLSBORO, TIOGA COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 5, 1857. NO. XV.

Table with 4 columns: Rates of Advertising, 1 Square, 2 Squares, 3 Squares, 4 Squares. Includes rates for 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months.

The Overlooking Cup. A company of Southern ladies were one day assembled in a friend's parlor, when the conversation chanced to turn on earthly affliction.

ADDRESS. Delivered before the Tioga County Agricultural Society, Oct. 2d, 1856. BY DR. C. K. THOMPSON.

Correspondence. Wellsboro, Oct. 27th 1857. The undersigned members of the Executive Committee of the Tioga County Agricultural Fair, respectfully request of you a copy of the address delivered by you at the Agricultural Fair on the 22d inst. for publication.

MR. PRESIDENT AND BROTHER FARMERS: I wish to say a few words by way of explanation before proceeding with my discourse. It was rather late when I received my invitation to deliver it. My time has been broken up by an unusual amount of medical business, and between this and doing my farm work I have had but little time to give to its production.

It is with no slight degree of embarrassment that I appear before you to deliver this address. This embarrassment arises in part from my not being accustomed to speak in public. I never addressed a public assembly of any size, and you must all admit that I am placed in quite a conspicuous position to deliver a "midnight speech."

My friends: Am I too severe or unjust in these remarks? Look about you and see. Take a tour through any township in this county, for instance, or through all of them, and see how great a proportion of the farmers can be classed among the educated and really intelligent portion of community. Take note also how many of them are deficient in the very rudiments of education—who cannot read and write, and I think you will return with a full conviction that my remarks are not untrue or unjustly severe.

Now farmers, what is the remedy for these great and manifold evils? You all know; every one must answer—Education, Knowledge. Not education in the common restricted acceptance of the term, which means an acquaintance merely with those studies which are prescribed in schools and colleges.

My friends the great fault the great deficiency with you, the great impediment in the way of your improvement and comparative perfection lies in the several departments of your profession is ignorance. The great stumbling block in the way of agricultural improvement and the advancement of agricultural science is ignorance on the part of those who practice agriculture.

Money, gentility, fashion or extravagance cannot sustain life. Blot out agriculture as an employment and you blot out the human race. Again, it is equal if not superior to any of the learned professions from the amount of science it contains, or rather should contain. It presents a greater number and variety of subjects for scientific investigation than any other profession.

Men who have gone through the prescribed course at college and still have no general information, no knowledge of the world, and no practical knowledge of anything outside the college door. These are not the men we want for farmers. This is not the kind of education I shall recommend for farmers.

The human mind is a storehouse for the reception of ideas, charges, of knowledge. A college course expands the mind—enlarges the storehouse but does not fill it. The education for which I am contending and which I urge upon you is a mental storehouse full of knowledge, whether that house be great or small. A little barn well filled is better than a big one empty.

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they do not see or even ask the cause of this state of things, and when their passions subside they settle down again into a state of contented ignorance. With too many farmers is a yearly round of ignorant unprofitable (and draggery) and with another class more intelligent perhaps it is too often an annual round of operations for which they can give no intelligent reason, nor any reason only that they have always done so, and their fathers and grandfathers have done so before them.

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take hold and lift. Some of you may not lift much at first, but the more you lift the more you can lift. The exercise will make you stouter. A little knowledge makes room for more, and the use of that supplies more. Thus, by means of a little labor (continued labor) in the right direction, we can accomplish much.

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(But I am sorry to say neither are distributed and read in this vicinity to the extent that they should be. However the number I am encouraged to think is yearly increasing.)—Scientific men are becoming farmers in different sections. These men will help to roll on the car of improvement and advance our science. But most of them have no practical knowledge of farm labor and of course they will do some things amiss. What we want most is not to have scientific men who have been brought up and spent a good part of their manhood in some other profession become farmers; but to have practical farmers become scientific men.

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what we must learn to do and we must direct our experiments to this end, keeping a record of the cost as we proceed. In this manner we can test the value of different breeds. A man brings a monstrous pumpkin to the Fair and gets a dollar for it and perhaps that same pumpkin is the only one he raised, and perhaps he raised that at an expense of time and labor which exceeds the dollar he gets for it. Or perhaps this is the only decent pumpkin he raised among an acre of little ones. We want statistics of crops and statistics of everything which we do upon the farm. Your experiments are good as far as they go, but if you would keep a better account of them you would learn vastly more from them.

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"Will you please, Mrs. Gray?" said the kind voice of a lady who knew well her story, "tell the ladies what you call trouble?" "I will if you desire it," she replied "for I have seen it. My parent possessed a competence, and my girlhood was surrounded by all the comforts of life. I seldom knew an ungratified wish, and was always gay and light hearted. I married at nineteen one I loved more than all the world besides. Our home was retired, but the sunlight never fell on a lover's one, or on a happier household. Years rolled on peacefully. Five children sat around our table, and a little curly head still nestled in my bosom. One night about sun-down one of those fierce black storms came on, which are so common in our Southern climate. For many hours the rain poured down incessantly. Morning dawned, still the elements raved. The whole Savannah seemed afloat. The little stream near our dwelling became a raging torrent. Before we were aware of it our house was surrounded by water. I managed with my babe to reach a little elevated spot, on which a few wide spreading trees were standing, whose dense foliage afforded some protection, while my husband and sons strove to save what they could of our property. At last a fearful surge swept away my husband, and he never rose again. Ladies—no one loved a husband more—but that was no trouble."

"Presently my sons saw their danger, and the struggle for life became the only consideration. They were brave, loving boys as ever blessed a mother's heart; and I watched their efforts to escape with such agony as only mothers can feel. They were so far off I could not speak to them, but I could see them closing nearer and nearer to each other, as their little island grew smaller. "The sudden raged around the huge trees; dead branches, upturned trunks, wrecks of houses, drowning cattle, masses of rubbish all went floating past us. My boys waved their hands to me, then pointed upward. I knew it was a farewell signal, and, you mothers cannot imagine my anguish. I saw them all perish, and yet—that was not trouble."

"My baby was all I had left on earth. I labored night and day to support him and myself, and sought to train him in the right way; but as he grew older, evil companions won him away from me. He ceased to care for his mother's counsels; he would sneer at her entreaties and agonizing prayers. He left my humble roof that he might be unrestrained in the pursuit of evil; and at last, when heated by wine, one night he took the life of a fellow-being, and ended his own upon the scaffold. My Heavenly Father had filled my cup of sorrow before, but now it ran over. That was trouble; ladies, such as I hope His mercy will spare you from ever experiencing."

There was no dry eye among her listeners, and the warmest sympathy was expressed for the bereaved mother, whose sad history had taught them a useful lesson.

TIME FOR MATRIMONY.—Among the ancient Germans, than whom a finer race never existed, it was death for a woman to marry before she was twenty years old. In this country, very few ladies are fit, either physically or mentally, to become mothers, before they reach the age of twenty one, twenty two, or one or two years still older. The unsound condition and constitution of the parent, is usually transmitted, with increased intensity, to the offspring. By the laws of Lycurgus, the most special attention was paid to the physical education of women; and no delicate or sickly women were, on any account, allowed to marry. Dr. Johnson, in his work on the Economy of Health, says that matrimony should not be contracted before the first year of the fourth septennial, on the part of the lady, nor before the last year of the same in the case of the gentleman; in other words the female should be at least twenty one years of age, and the male twenty eight years. The doctor says that there should be a difference of seven years between the sexes, at whatever period of life the connection is contracted. There is a difference of seven years, not in the actual duration of life, in the two sexes, but in the stamina of the constitution, the symmetry of the form, and the lineaments of the face. In respect to early marriage, so far as it concerns the softer sex, for every year at which marriage is entered upon before the age of twenty one there will be, on an average, three years of premature decay, more or less apparent, of the corporeal fabric.

A divine informed a sailor that the Devil was chained up. "How long is the rope?" "Oh, was the dignified reply, "it extends over the whole world." "Does it," rejoined Jack, "if so the laborer might as well be loose."

LIFE.—The mere lapse of years is not life. To eat, drink, and sleep; to be exposed to darkness and light; to pace around in the mill of habit, and to turn the mill of wealth; to make reason our book-keeper, and turn thought into an implement of trade, this is not life! In all this, but a poor fraction of the unconsciousness of humanity is a wakened, and the sanctities still slumber which make it worth while to be. Knowledge, truth, love, beauty, goodness, faith—alone can give vitality to the mechanism of existence. The laugh of mirth which vibrates through the heart; the tear which freshens the dry wastes within; the music that brings childhood back; the prayer that calls the future near; the depth which startles us with mystery; the hardship which forces us to struggle; the anxiety that equips us to trust—are the true nourishment that ends in being.

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