

TERMS.—ONE DOLLAR a year, in advance. One Dollar and Fifty Cents if not paid within three months, and if delayed until after the expiration of the year Two Dollars will be exacted.

Poetry.

The Dream of Life.

All men are dreamers from the hour When Reason first exerts its power; Unmindful of its bitter sting, To some deceiving hope we cling— That Hope's a Dream!

The brazen trumpet's clangour gives The joy on which the warrior lives: And at his injured country's call, He leaves his home, his friends, his all— For Glory's Dream!

The lover hangs on some bright eye, And dreams of bliss in every sigh; But brightest eyes are deep in guile, And he who trusts their fickle smile— Trusts in a dream!

The Poet, Nature's darling child, By Fame's all-dazzling star beguiled; Sings Love's alternate hope and fear, Paints visions which his heart holds dear— And thus he dreams!

And there are those who build their joys On proud Ambition's gilded toys, Who fain would climb the craggy height, Where power displays its splendid light— But dreaming fall!

Whilst others 'midst the giddy throng Of pleasure's victims, sweep along; Till feelings damp'd and satiate hearts, Too worn to feel when bliss departs— Prove all a dream!

The Soldier's Wife.

Go, gaze within that stilly room, How holy seems the air; For there, upon her bended knee, The young wife kneels in prayer. First thought of her overflowing heart, Her husband—for a way; And ere one blessing for herself, For him I hear her pray.

Oh holy Father! Thou whose eye Can pierce each fond disguise; I come to Thee, to Thee I pray; Oh let my prayer arise. Guard—holy Father, guard! And where'er he stray, Oh, hold him fast by Thy strong hand; For him—for him I pray.

My Father, if I sin in this; If he an idol be; I pray Thee spare him from the wrath; I've sinned—then chasten me. Oh let Thy spirit gently move, And lead from error's way, And if he die—oh let him come To Thee—for this I pray.

A year ago, and that young bride Before the altar stood, And vowed obedience, honor, love, To him who long had wooed. Our country's waving stripes and stars Did beckon him away, And strong in heart, she bade adieu; For him she yet could pray.

That husband, in his country's cause, Battles in lands afar— Go seek him in the pressing van; Foremost rank of war. Oh Soldier! thou art doubly armed, Tracking war's bloody ways— A shield is held—the shield of prayer; The wife still loves and prays.

Mrs. PARTINGTON.—The old lady writes us from Boston that everything she drops is caught right up by the Post; and that they are so public that she is afraid if she remains much longer in the city she shall have nothing private left. She desires to seek retirement in the country. She wants a small house with suitable outbuildings; such as a pigery, a cowery, and a horseery, with an open, where she can keep hens, geese, and other fowls, and lay her own eggs, and hatch her own chickens, goslings, and turkeys; also a drinkery convenient for the animals. The house to be on a gentle incline, with a long recess between two rows of trees, leading up to the front door; surrounded by nice scrubbery, and a clear and sparkling brook lathering about the premises.

If any gentleman has such a place, she thinks she could make an arrangement with him, by purchase or otherwise that would be satisfactory to both.—New Haven Palladium.

We have a note from Mrs. Partington, complaining somewhat querulously that the editor of the Palladium has imbibed some antipathy against her, or he would not have published anything about what was intended as a private letter. She has no disposition to display herself before the republic.—It is true she is desirous of leaving the city and enjoying the pleasures of a rural life. The description of her desired residence in the Palladium she avers is quite defective. She desires that her house should have a casement in front, or at least, a portico over the door, and an observatory, leading out of the parlor, to keep her plants in. In addition to the pigery, &c., she also wishes a dogery, and by all means a catery, as she is very fond of the saline track. The recess leading to the front door, should by no means be straight, as the much preferred serpentine walk, especially when embellished with suggestions of a path, or other picturesque trees. The good lady hints to us in a postscript, that when she goes a place 'just suited to her mind,' she intends to serve up a cold oblation, and here, all the editors subscribe to it.

THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.

EVERY DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IS NOT A DIFFERENCE OF PRINCIPLE.

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WHOLE NO. 68.

ADDRESS OF THE LATE SILAS WRIGHT, To the N. Y. State Agricultural Society.

[Read by the Hon. A. DIX, Sept. 16, 1847.]

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the State Agricultural Society:—Had it been my purpose to entertain you with an eulogium upon the great interests confided to your care, the agriculture of the State, I should find myself forestalled by the exhibition which surrounds us, and which has pronounced that eulogy to the eye, much more forcibly, impressively, eloquently, than I could command language to pronounce it to the ear of this assembly.

Had I mistakenly proposed to address to you a discourse upon agricultural production, this exhibition would have driven me from my purpose, by the conviction that I am a backward and scarcely initiated scholar, standing in the presence of masters, with the least instructed and experienced of whom, it would be my duty to change places.

The agriculture of our State, far as it yet is from maturity and perfection, has already become an art, a science, a profession, in which he who would instruct, must be first himself instructed far beyond the advancement of him who now addresses you.

The pervading character of this great and vital interest, however, its intimate connection with the wants, comfort, and interest of every man in every calling of life; and its controlling relations to the commerce, manufactures, substantial independence, and general health and prosperity of our whole people, present abundant subjects for contemplation upon occasions like this, without attempting to explore the depths, or to define the principle of a science so profound, and, to the uninitiated, so difficult as that of agriculture.

Agricultural production is the substratum of the whole superstructure; the great element which spreads the soil and impels the car of commerce, and moves the hands and turns the machinery of manufacture. The earth is the common mother of all, in whatever employment engaged, and the fruits gathered from its bosom are alike the nutriment and support of all. The productions of its surface and the treasure of its mines are the material upon which the labor of the agriculturist, the merchant, and the manufacturer, are alike bestowed, and are the prize for which all toil.

The active stimulus which urges all forward, excites industry, awakens ingenuity and brings out invention, is the prospect of the hope of a market for the productions of their labor. The farmer produces to sell; the merchant produces to sell; and the manufacturer produces to sell. Self-consumption of their respective goods, although an indispensable necessity of life, is a mere incident in the mind impelled to acquisition. To gain that which is not produced or acquired, by the sale of that which is possessed, is the great struggle of the laboring man.

Agricultural production is the first in order, the strongest in necessity, and the highest in usefulness, in this whole system of acquisition. The other branches stand upon it, are sustained by it, and without it could not exist. Still it has been almost uniformly, as the history of our State and country will show, the most neglected. Apprenticeship, education, a specific course of systematic instruction, have been, time out of mind, considered an indispensable prerequisite to a creditable or successful engagement in commercial or mechanical pursuits; while to know how to wield the axe, to hold the plow, and to swing the scythe has been deemed sufficient to entitle the possessor of that knowledge to the first place and the highest wages in agricultural employment.

A simple principle of production and of trade, always practically applied to manufactures and commerce, that the best and cheapest article will command the market, and prove the most profitable to the producer and the seller, is but beginning to receive its application to agriculture. The merchant, who from a more extensive acquaintance with his occupation, a more attentive observation of the markets, better adapted means, and a more careful application of sound judgment, untiring energy and prudent industry, can buy the best and sell the cheapest, has always been seen to be the earliest and surest to accomplish the great object of his class, an independence for himself. So the mechanic, who, from a more thorough instruction in the principles and handicraft of his trade, or a more intense application of mind and judgment with labor, can improve the article he fabricates, or the machinery and modes of their manufacture, and can produce the best and sell the cheapest, has always been seen to reach the same advantage over his competitors, with equal readiness and certainty; and that these results should follow these means and efforts, has been considered natural and unavoidable.

Still the agriculturist has been content to follow in the beaten track, to pursue the course his fathers have ever pursued, and to depend upon the earth, the seasons, good fortune, and providence for a crop, indulging the hope the high prices may compensate for diminished quantity or inferior quality. It has scarcely occurred to him that the study of the principles of his profession had anything to do with his success, as a farmer, or that what he had demanded from his soil should be considered in connection with what he is to do for them; and what he is about to ask them to perform. He has almost overlooked the vital fact, that his lands, like his patient teams, require to be fed to enable them to perform well, and especially has he neglected to consider that there is a like connection between the quantity and quality of food they are to receive and the services to be required from them. Ready, almost always, to the extent of their ability, to make advances for the purchase of more lands, how few our farmers, in the comparison, are willing to make the necessary outlays for the probable improvement of what land they have!

These and kindred subjects, are beginning to occupy the attention of our farmers, and the debt they owe to this society for its efforts to awaken their attention to these important facts, and to supply useful and practical information in regard to them, is gradually receiving a just appreciation, as the assemblage which surrounds us, and the exhibition upon the ground most gratifyingly prove.

Many of our agriculturists are now vigorously commencing the study of their soils, the adaptation of their measures to the soil and the crop, the nature of the plants they cultivate, the food they require, and the best method of administering that food to produce health and vigor and fruit; and they are becoming convinced that to understand how to plow, and sow and reap, is not the whole education of a farmer; but that it is quite as important to know what land is prepared for the plow, and what seed it will bring to harvest worthy of the labors of the sower. Experience is steadily proving that by a due attention to these considerations, a better article, doubled in quantity, may be produced from the same acre of ground, with a small proportionate increase of labor and expense, and that the farmer who pursues this improved system of agriculture, can like the merchant and mechanic referred to, enter the market with a better production, at a cheaper price, than his less enterprising competitor.

This change in the agriculture of our State and country, opens to the mind reflections of the most cheering character. If carried to its legitimate result, it promises a compensation among our farmers, not to obtain the highest price for inferior productions, but to produce the most, the best, and the cheapest of the necessities of human life. It promises agricultural prosperity, with cheap and good bread, furnished to all who will eat within the rules prescribed to fullen man in the sacred volume of the divine law.

Steady resolution and persevering energy, are requisite to carry forward the improvements to that degree of perfection dictated alike by interest and by duty; and the stimulus of a steady and remunerating market will rouse that resolution and nerve that energy. Without this encouragement in prospect, few will persevere in making improvement, which require close and constant mental application, as well as severe physical labor. Agriculture will never be healthfully or profitably prosecuted by him whose controlling object is his own consumption. The hope of gain is the motive power to human industry, and is as necessary to the farmer as to the mechanic or manufacturer. All who labor are equally stimulated by the prospect of a market which is to remunerate them for their toil, and without this hope neither mental activity, nor physical energy will characterize their exertions. True it is that the farmers of our country as a class, calculate less closely the profits of their labor and capital, than men engaged in most other pursuits, and are content with lower rates of gain. The most of them own their farms, their stocks and farming implements, unencumbered by debt. Their business gives but an annual return. They live frugally, labor patiently and faithfully, and at the close of the year, its expenses are paid from its proceeds, the balance remaining being accounted the profit of the year. Although a moderate sum, it produces contentment, without a computation of the rate per cent upon the capital invested, or wages it will pay the proprietor and the members of his family. The result is an advance in the great object of human labor, and, if not rapid, it is safe and certain. It is a surplus beyond the expenses of living, to be added to the estate, and may be repeated in each revolving year.

If, however, this surplus is left upon the hands of the farmer, in his own productions, for which there is no market, his energies are paralyzed, his spirits sink, and he scarcely feels that the year has added to his gains. He sees little encouragement in toiling to cultivate beyond his wants, productions which will not sell; and the chances are, that his farm is neglected, his husbandry becomes bad, and his gains in fact cease.

To continue a progressive state of improvement in agriculture, then, and to give energy and prosperity to this great and vital branch of human industry, a healthful and stable market becomes indispensable, and no object should more carefully occupy the attention of the farmers of the United States.

Deeply impressed with the conviction of this truth, benevolent minds have cherished the idea that a domestic market, to be influenced only by our own national policy, would be so far preferable, in stability and certainty, to the open market of the commercial world, as to have persuaded themselves that a sufficient market for our agricultural products is thus attainable. It is not designed to discuss the soundness of the theory, where it can be reduced to practice; but only to inquire whether the state of this country, the condition of its society, and the tendency and inclination of its population, as to their industrial pursuits, are such, at the present time, or can be expected to be such for generations yet to come, as to render it possible to consume within the country the surplus of the productions of our agriculture. The theory of an exclusively domestic market for this great domestic interest, is certainly a very beautiful one, as a theory, and can scarcely fail to strike the mind favorably upon a first impression. Still, examination has produced differences of opinion between statesmen of equal intelligence and patriotism, as to its influence upon a country and its population. Any examination of this question will lead to a discussion properly considered political, if not partisan, and such discussions it is my settled purpose to avoid, as inappropriate to the place and occasion.

Apply these bright and brightening prospects to the almost boundless agricultural field of our country, with its varied and unbroken soil, its cheap lands and its simple titles,

and who can hope, if he would, to turn the inclinations of our people from this fair field of labor and of pleasure? Here, the toil which secures a certain independence, is sweetened by the constantly varying exhibitions of nature in her most lovely forms, and cheered by the most benign manifestations of the wonderful power and goodness of nature's God. Cultivated by the resolute hands and enlightened minds of freemen, owners of the soil, properly educated as farmers, under a wise and just administration of a system of liberal public instructions, should and will be, and aided by the researches of geology and chemistry, who can calculate the extent of the harvest to be gathered from this vast field of wisely directed human industry.

The present surplus of breadstuffs of this country, could not have been presented in a more distinct and interesting aspect than during the present year. A famine in Europe, as wide-spread as it has been devastating and terrible, has made its demands upon American supplies, not simply to the extent and ability of the suffering to purchase food, but in super-added appeals to American sympathy in favor of the destitute and starving. Every call upon our markets has been fully met, and the heart of Europe has been filled with warm and grateful responses to the benevolence of our country, and of our countrymen, and yet the avenues of commerce are filled with the productions of American agriculture. Surely the consumption of this country is not now equal to its agricultural productions.

If such is our surplus in the present limited and imperfect condition of our agriculture, can we hope that an exclusive domestic market is possible, to furnish a demand for its mature abundance? In this view of this great and growing interest, can we see a limit to the period, when the United States will present, in the commercial markets of the world, large surpluses of all the varieties of breadstuffs, of beef, pork, butter, cheese, cotton, tobacco and rice, beyond the consumption of our own country? And who, with the experience of the last few years before him, can doubt that the time is now at hand when the two great staples of wool and hemp will be added to the list of exports?

These considerations, and others of a kindred character, which time will not permit me to detail, seem to me, with unfeigned deference, to prove that the agriculture of the United States, for an indefinite period yet to come, must continue to yield annual supplies of our principal staples, far beyond any possible demand of the domestic market, and must therefore remain, as it now is, and ever has been, an exporting interest. As such, it must have a direct concern in the foreign trade and commerce of the country, and in all the regulations of our own and foreign governments which affect either, equal to its interest in a stable and adequate market.

If this conclusion is sound, then our farmers must surrender the idea of a domestic market to furnish the demand, and measure the value of their productions, and must prepare themselves to meet the competition of the commercial world, in the markets of the world, in the sale of the fruits of their labor. The marts of commerce must be their markets, and the demand and supply which meet in those marts, must govern their prices. The demand for home consumption as an element in the market, must directly and deeply interest them, and should be carefully cultivated and encouraged, while all the other elements acting with it, and constituting together the demand of the market, should be studied with equal care, and so far as may be in their power, and consistent with other and paramount duties, should be cherished with equal care.

Does any one believe, that for generations yet to come the agricultural operations of the country are to be circumscribed within narrower comparative limits than the present; or that the agricultural productions of the country are to bear a less ratio to our population and consumption than they now do? I cannot suppose that any citizen who has given his attention to the considerations which have been suggested, finds himself able to adopt either of these opinions. On the contrary, I think a fair examination must satisfy every mind that our agricultural surplus, for an indefinite future period, must increase much more rapidly than our population and demand for domestic consumption. This I believe would be true without the efforts of associations, such as this, to improve our agriculture. The condition of the country and inclination and preference of our population for agricultural pursuits, would render this result unavoidable; and if this be so, when the impetus given to agricultural productions by the improvements of the day—the individual and associated efforts constantly making to push forward these improvements with accelerated movement—the mass of educated mind turned to scientific researches in aid of agricultural labor—and the immense bodies of cheap, and fresh, and fertile lands, which invite the application of an improved agriculture, are added to the account, who can measure the extent or duration of our agricultural surplus, or doubt the soundness of the conclusion, that the export trade must exercise a great influence upon the market of the agricultural productions of the country for a long series of years yet to come?

Such is the conclusion to which my mind is forced, from an examination of this subject, in its domestic aspects simply; but there is another now presented of vast magnitude and growing interest, and demanding alike from the citizen and statesman of this republic the most careful consideration. All will understand me as referring to the changes and promises of changes in the policy of the principal commercial nations of the world, touching their trade in the productions of agriculture. By a single step, which was nothing less than commercial revolution, Great Britain practically made the change as to her trade, and subsequent

events have clothed with the appearance of almost super-human sagacity, the wisdom which thus prepared that country to meet the visitation of famine, which has so soon followed, without the additional evil of trampling down the systems of laws to minister to the all-controlling necessities of hunger. Changes similar in character, and measurably equal in extent, though in many cases temporary in duration, have been adopted by several other European governments, under circumstances which render it very doubtful how soon, if ever, a return will be made to the former policy of a close trade in the necessities of human life.

New markets of vast extent and incalculable value have thus been opened for our agricultural surplus, the durability and steadiness of which it is impossible yet to measure, however, that a great body of provocations to countervailing restrictive commercial regulations is now removed. In some instances permanently, and in others temporarily in form; and it would seem to be the wisdom, for the agriculture of this country, by furnishing these markets to the extent of the demand, with the best articles, at the fairest prices, to show to those countries, and their governments, that reciprocal commercial regulations, if they offer no other and higher attractions, present to their people a safeguard against starvation.

Such is the connection, now, between our agriculture and the export trade and foreign market; and these relations are to be extended and strengthened, rather than circumscribed and weakened, by our agricultural advances. The consumption of the country is far short of its production, and cannot become equal to it within any conceivable period. On the contrary, the excess of production is to increase with the increase of population and settlement, and the improvements in agriculture and agricultural education. These appear to me to be facts, arising from the conditions of the country, and the tastes and inclinations of our people, fixed beyond the power of change, and to which theories and principles of political economy must be conformed, to be made practically applicable to us.

I simply propose to inquire as to a fact, which must control the application of theories and principles of political economy touching this point, to our country and its agricultural population, without raising any question as to the wisdom of one or soundness of the other. Is the consumption of this country equal to its agricultural production, or can it become so within any calculable period of years? How is the fact? May I not inquire without offence, or transcending the limits I have prescribed for myself in this discussion? Can a fair examination scrupulously confined to this point, take a political bearing, or disturb a political feeling? It is certainly not my design to wound the feelings of any member of this society, or of any citizen of the country; and I have convinced myself that I may make this inquiry, and express the conclusion of my own mind as to the result, without doing either. If I shall prove to be in the error, it will be an error as to the fact inquired after, and not as to the soundness of principle in political economy dependant upon the fact for its application, because as to the soundness of the principle I attempt no discussion and offer no opinion. It will be an error as to the applicability of a theory to our country, and not as to the wisdom or policy of a theory, when it can be practically applied. I studiously refrain from any expression, as inappropriate here. With the indulgence of the society, I will inquire as to the fact.

Our country is very wide and very new. It embraces every variety of climate and soil most favorable to agricultural pursuits. It produces already almost every agricultural staple, and the most important are the ordinary productions of extensive sections of the country, and are now sent to the markets in great abundance.

Yet our agriculture is in its infancy almost everywhere—and its maturity nowhere. It is believed to be safe to assume that there is not one single agricultural county in the whole Union, filled up in an agricultural sense—not one such county which has not land to be brought into cultivation, and much more land, the cultivation of which is to be materially improved, before it can be considered as having reached the measure of its capacity for production. If this be true of the best cultivated agricultural county in the Union, how vast is the proportion of those counties which have entire townships, and of States which have not merely counties, but entire districts, yet wholly unpeopled, and un reclaimed from the wilderness state.

When to this broad area of the agricultural field of our country we add immense territories, organized and unorganized, which can compute the agricultural capacity of the United States, or fix a limit to the period when our surplus agricultural production will increase with increasing years and population? Compare the census of 1830 and 1840 with the map of the Union, and witness the increase of population in the new States, which are almost exclusively agricultural, and who can doubt the strong and resolute inclination of our people to this pursuit?

Connect with these considerations of extent of country, diversity of soils, varieties of climate and partial or imperfect cultivation, the present agricultural prospects of this country. Witness the rapid advances of the last dozen years in the character of our cultivation, the quality and quantity of our productions from a given breadth of land, and the improvement in all the implements by which the labor of the farmer is assisted and applied. Mark the vast change in the current of educated mind in this country, in respect to its pursuit; the awakened attention to its high responsibility as a profession, to its safety from hazards, to its healthfulness to mind and body, and to its productiveness. Listen to the calls for information, for education, upon agricultural subjects, and to the demands that this education shall constitute a department in the

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great and all-pervading system of our common school education, a subject at this time receiving the especial attention and being pressed forward with the renewed energy of this society. Behold the numbers of professors being honored with the highest testimonials of learning conferred in this country, devoting their lives to chemical and geological researches calculated to evolve the laws of nature connected with agricultural production. Go into our colleges and institutions of learning, and count the number of young men toiling industriously for their diplomas, to qualify themselves to become practical and successful farmers, already convinced that equally with the clerical, the legal, and the medical professions, that of agriculture requires a thorough and systematic education, and its successful practice the exercise of an active mind devoted to diligent study.

The American farmer, then, while carefully studying, as he should not fail to do, the necessities, the wants and tastes of all classes of consumers of his productions in his own country, must not limit his researches for a market within those narrow limits. He must extend his observations along the avenues of commerce, as far as the commerce of his country extends, or can be extended, and instruct himself as to the wants and tastes of the consumers of agricultural productions in other countries. He must observe attentively the course of trade, and the causes calculated to exert a favorable or adverse influence upon it—watch closely the commercial policy of other countries, and guard vigilantly that of his own—accommodate his productions, as far as may be, to the probable demands upon the market, and understand how to prepare them for the particular market for which they are designed. Next to the production of the best article at the cheapest price, its presentation in the market in the best order and most inviting condition, is important to secure to the farmer a remunerating market.

So long as our agriculture shall continue to be an exporting interest, these considerations, as second only to the science of production itself, will demand the careful attention and study of our farmers, and in any well digested system of agricultural education, its connection with manufactures and the mechanic arts, with commerce, with the commercial policy of our own and other nations, and with the domestic and foreign markets, should hold a prominent place. A thorough and continued education in these collateral, but highly necessary branches of knowledge to the farmer, will prove extensively useful to the American citizen, beyond the application to the production and sale of the fruits of his labor. They will qualify him the more safely and intelligently to discharge the duties of a freeman, and if called by his fellow citizens to do so, the more beneficially to serve his State and country in legislative and other public trusts.

I hope I may offer another opinion in this connection, without giving offence, or passing upon the proprieties of the place and occasion. It is that this education in the just and true connection between the agricultural, the commercial, and the manufacturing interests of the country, equally and impartially disseminated among the classes of citizens attached to each of these great branches of labor, would effectually put an end to the jealousies so frequently excited; demonstrating to every mind, so educated, that so far from either being in any degree the natural antagonists of the other, they are all parts of one great and naturally harmonious system of industry, of which a fair encouragement of any part is a benefit to all; and that all invidious or partial encouragement to any part at the expense of any other part, will prove to be an injury to all. The education proposed will do all that can be done to make the true line between natural and healthful encouragement to either interest, and an undue attempt to advance any one at the expense of the united system, merely producing an unnatural and artificial relation and action, which cannot fail to work disease and injury.

The labors of this society, and of kindred associations, have done much to inform the minds of our farmers in these collateral branches of knowledge useful to them, and much remains to be done. The science of production claims the first place, and is a wide field, as yet so little cultivated as to afford but little time for collateral labors. To secure a stable and healthful market, and to learn how to retain and improve it; also open an extensive field for the mental labors and energies of the farmer. Between these objects the relation is intimate, and the dependence mutual. The production makes the market, and the market sustains the production. The prospect of a market stimulates to activity in the field of production, and the fruits of that activity urge the mind to make the prospect real. Success in both contributes to the health and vigor and prosperity of agriculture, and of that prosperity, commerce and manufactures cannot fail to partake.