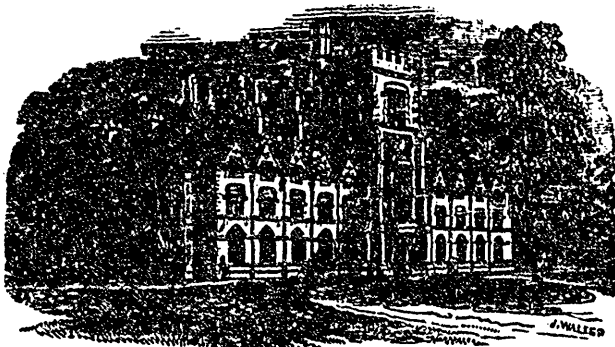


EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.



AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The Agricultural College of Pennsylvania has for its object, to associate a high degree of intelligence with the practice of Agriculture and the industrial arts, and to seek to make use of this intelligence in developing the agricultural and industrial resources of the country, and protecting its interests. It proposes to do this by several means.

1st. As a purely educational institution.

Its course of instruction is to include the entire range of the Natural Sciences: but will embrace most especially those that have a practical bearing upon the every day duties of life, in order to make the student familiar with the things immediately around him, and with the power of nature he employs, and with the material through the instrumentality of which, under the blessing of Providence, he lives and moves and has his being: and since agriculture, more than any other of the industrial arts, is important to man; and since for the complete elucidation of its principles more scientific knowledge is required than for all other industrial arts combined, it follows that this should receive by far the highest degree of attention. The course of instruction is thorough, so that it not only affords the student the facts of science, but it disciplines his mind to habits of thought, and enables him fully to comprehend the abstract principles involved in the practical operations of life. In doing this it is not deemed possible to educate every agriculturist, artisan, mechanic, and business man in the state, but to send out a few students educated in the college course, that they, by the influence of precept and example, may infuse new life and intelligence into the several communities they enter. A single individual who is thoroughly educated in the principles and the practice of an art, followed by a community, will often exert a more salutary influence upon the practice of this art, by the community, than would result from sending the whole community to a school of lower order than that which he attended. A single practical school of the highest order in Paris (the Ecole Polytechnique) during the last generation made France a nation celebrated alike for profound philosophers, great statesmen, able generals and military men, and civil en-

gineers. If one high school is established, subordinate schools affording the elementary education of the latter, will follow in due time.

2d. As a practical institution.

The Agricultural College of Pennsylvania has adopted the fundamental principle, that whatever is necessary for man to have done, it is honorable for man to do, and that the honor attaching to all labor, dependent upon the talent, the care, and the fidelity ex-

hibited in performing it. It is further considered essential as a part of a student's education that he be taught the practical application in the field and laboratory, of the principles he studies in the class-room; and manual labor is also necessary for the preservation of health, and the maintenance of habits of industry. An incidental, but not unimportant result of the operation of these principles is a reduction of the cost of tuition by the value of the labor, so that the college can take students at the present very low rates of admission.

All students without regard to pecuniary circumstances, are therefore obliged to perform manual labor as an essential part of the college education and discipline and training. In these respects consists a most essential difference between the idea associated with manual labor at this college, and that of all other attempts made heretofore to combine manual labor with study. Instead of the idea of poverty and want being associated with those who labor, that of laziness, worthlessness, and vagabondry, is associated with those who refuse to work efficiently; and the experience of the institution has already most assuredly shown that no young man, of whom there is any hope for future usefulness and efficiency in life at all, is insensible to the disgrace which thus attaches to lazy vagabonds who will work only as they are watched, and cheat their fellow students by refusing to do their share of the labor assigned them; and nothing is more conclusively settled than that those students who are the most studious and industrious in class, work the most efficiently and are the most trustworthy in the performance of their daily three hours' work.

3d. As an Experimental Institution.

The Agricultural College of Pennsylvania has an unbounded field for labor. The principles of Agricultural science, which shall ultimately constitute the subject of instruction in its class-rooms, are as yet only very imperfectly developed, and so great is the labor, expense, and time involved in making scientific agricultural experiments, that as yet little has been done in this direction. In this embarrassed condition of the finances of the college, it has not been possible to employ more scientific aid than was absolutely necessary to maintain a proper degree of efficiency