pation of their ancestors. Many, if not most, of the great noblemen of England, nay the very members of the Royal family themselves, give no small portion of their time to the persevering study of this industry. The Queen, the Prince of Wales, compete for prizes at the annual exhibitions, and do not disdain personally to inspect and direct the operations on their landed properties. It would be well to remark that, in England, the exhibitions of agricultural products, implements, &c., are held yearly in different districts, in order that the best practices of the most improving farmers may be carried into various parts of the country.

And, lastly, whence arises the distinctive character of the Chinese, a people so ancient that its origin is lost in the darkness of ages gone by? Is it not from the wisdom of its laws, which, paying due homage to agriculture, have raised her to that position which she so justly merits; laws, which have enabled the soil to produce sufficient food for the wants of the population without exhausting its fertility, by obliging the cultivator to return to the earth, but, in another form, that which, in his harvests, he takes away from her. * * * * * *

Agriculture demands, in addition to bodily labour and those qualities of the mind indispensable to the successful prosecution of all human occupations, it demands, I say, more than any other career, the union and support of the deepest learning with the most varied knowledge.

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See, how many careers of diverse kinds are connected with the cultivation of the soil, when it is fairly and sensibly carried out, and then say, if the future open to our children, if we direct them to an intelligent study of agricultural science in its fulness, be not filled with the most beneficent and hopeful prospects.

I intended to speak, in this essay, of those allied industries which have changed the face of entire countries, which have caused the most ardent labour, the study of science in its deepest moods, and the most enduring stock of prosperity. It may be said, with profound truth, that the sister sciences are the richest crown, the last perfection of agriculture.

But, I must stop here. I think I have shown that agriculture is of divine origin, taught to man by the Creator himself at a time when man seemed fated to enjoy immortal happiness on this earth; that the labour which it demands is still a source of strength and enjoyment; that agriculture is the safeguard of the family and of the State alike, and that it offers a career, intellectual and scientific, noble and productive; a career, in fine worthy of pursuit by the most elevated, the most solid, the most thoughtful minds.

A NOVEL POTATO CONTEST.

A NOVEL contest, in the culture of the potato, has been going on the past summer among a few members of the Franklin, Mass., Farmer's Club, which may prove of interest to others outside the association. The contest was started by Monroe Morse, a successful cultivator of this crop, who challenged any or all the members of the Club to compete with him for the largest and best crop of potatoes grown upon a single square rod of ground, the competitor who should show the best yield being entitled to the product of all the other competing rods—size and smoothness both to be considered. Competitors were required to plant from the same lot of seed, a barrel of Early Rose, purchased in Boston, being provided by the challenger for that purpose. Rules for measuring the ground were adopted, and each planter was restricted from planting nearer to the outside lines than allowed by the rules, unless he chose to select a rod from a potato field, in which case the lines must extend only to the middle of the adjoining spaces between the rows. Ten members accepted the challenge, making the number of competitors eleven. The potatoes grown were placed on exhibition at the meeting of the Club, at the residence of Wm. E. Nason, October 4, and statements concerning the methods of culture placed on file with the Secretary. The reports show as wide a difference in the methods adopted as in the quantity and quality of the crops presented. Below we give the names of the competitors, with the number of pounds grown by each, commencing with the smallest yield:—

S. F. Sargent	38½	pounds.
A. C. Bullard	56	"
Wm. Mann	76	"
Wm. Adams	78	"
G. S. Hancock	91	"
Monroe Morse	93	"
James Hood	125¼	"
Alfred Clark	132	"
S. W. Squire	159	"
A. W. Cheever	183	"

V. R. Warren was a competitor, but by mistake his rod was dug and the potatoes consumed without weighing. The small yields obtained by Messrs. Sargent, Bullard, Mann, Hancock and Morse were due solely to the failure of the seed in germinating—more than half of Mr. Sargeant's failing to grow, and nearly half of those planted by Messrs. Bullard, Mann, Hancock, and Morse. To promote smoothness, Mr. Sargent laid dry straw in the bottom of the drills, planting the sets upon the top and then covering with soil. For the same purpose Mr. Bullard used forest leaves in the bottom of his drills. As the season was dry at the time of planting, and for some time afterwards, this proved a serious damage, although the quality of their product was unexcelled. Messrs. Hancock, Clark, Adams and Hood depended chiefly upon stable manure, while Messrs. Morse, Bullard, Sargent, Squire, Mann and Cheever used principally guano and other commercial fertilizers. Mr. Adams, we believe, applied considerable potash in the form of spent lye, and from this or other causes had a very inferior crop of scabby potatoes. Mr. Squire used Peruvian guano at the rate of 800 pounds per acre, and sulphate of potash 200 pounds per acre. Mr. Hancock applied a two-horse cart load of stable manure to the rod, ploughed in, and nine pounds guano sprinkled in the hills. Mr. Cheever ploughed in a light coat of manure, and applied guano and sulphate of potash, at the rate of 1000 pounds of the former and 400 of the latter per acre. Mr. Morse used 800 pounds of guano and 200 pounds of potash per acre. Mr. Clark applied stable manure freely and watered the ground occasionally after the potatoes were growing, with a solution of hog manure and poultry droppings. Mr. Hood used a spoonful of Bradley's superphosphate in the hill. Messrs. Hancock, Hood and Adams had each about fifty hills, while Mr. Clark had 125 hills. Mr. Squire planted in five double rows or drills, the seed being just twelve inches apart each way with room for horse cultivation between. Mr. Morse practiced horse cultivation exclusively, never using a hand hoe at all, either in covering or tending the crop, while Messrs. Clark, Hood and Cheever cultivated by hand exclusively. Mr. Squire cut his seed in halves, planting one piece in a place, Mr. Mann used pieces with two eyes, while most of the others were cut to single eyes. Mr. Hood cut his seed two weeks before planting, and found it much dried, but only one hill failed. The lots were planted from May 7th to June 8th, and were dug at three different periods, several competitors being in each case present and taking a hand in the measuring of the land and weighing the crop.

By mutual agreement the competitors were required to act also as judges, and, after inspecting the several yields, they unanimously decided that the 183-pound lot, though not quite equal in quality to two or three of the smaller lots, was nevertheless, on account of both quality and quantity, entitled to the first place on the list. The 1013 pounds of potatoes grown on ten square rods by ten competitors, was, therefore, awarded to A. W. Cheever, who, in response to the announcement stated that, although at the earnest solicitation of his friend Mr. Morse, the challenger, he had joined in the competi-