

rendering agricultural pursuits vastly more remunerative than before.

Estimates carefully made from close observation go to show that ninety per cent. of those who engage in mercantile business die insolvent, while more than that proportion of farmers die, either free from debt or with property more than sufficient to liquidate them. The majority indeed do not acquire vast fortunes, but seem to occupy the enviable position coveted by Solomon when he said, "Give me neither poverty nor riches," and in that he displayed his great wisdom, as either extreme leaves its possessor a sure prey to disquietude.

If more of our young people were educated with a view to making thinking, practical, and scientific farmers, and fewer to the professions, it would tend greatly to enhance their usefulness and happiness, and the prosperity of our beloved country. Success in different callings depends on so many contingencies that a failure to attain a comfortable living is a thing of common occurrence, while it is rare for a farmer of sobriety and industry to fail of a competency, or at least of a good living.

But weightier inducements than the greater certainty of a good living enjoyed by a farmer exist in the happy state of independence realized by him, not relying on the patronage or good will of his fellows, for prosperity in business he has no occasion for disguise, and can afford to be frank and outspoken in his sentiments and feelings, thus developing a greater manliness and nobility of character. The intelligent tiller of the soil is brought into contact with the phenomena of the three great kingdoms with which we all have to do. He has a fine opportunity to observe and study the secret processes of nature, whereby she produces by subtle forces, in the most perfect obedience to fixed laws, all the results going on to perfection, whether apple-making or corn-producing.


It is true, a farmer may be so dull as to see no beauty in these things, any more than the blind man does in a gallery of fine paintings, and is therefore no more charmed and delighted by what he sees and does, than a deaf man would be in a concert room of the most exquisite performers. But these are the exceptions not the rule, and in the majority of cases an intimacy with nature exerts its legitimate influence in elevating and beautifying the character. The theatre of the farmer's labor is remote

from scenes of temptation that might lure him from the paths of virtue. He pursues his daily toil amid all the refining influences of his home, with his wife and little ones near him, perhaps sharing his labors, at least lightening them by their cheering smiles and words of love and sympathy.—His daily walk is removed from the haunts of profanity, licentiousness and bacchanalian evil, where the soul is contaminated by familiarity with the gross and dark side of human nature amid the calm repose, the benign peace and purity of nature, he is drawn into harmony and communion with the great and beneficent Father of all.

Agricultural pursuits also tend to cultivate a feeling of dependence upon an overruling Providence. When the farmer has prepared his soil and sown his seeds, he can do little more. He must wait for a higher power to waken into life the seedgerms. It is not human skill that makes the radicle descend and the plume rise; that causes the sap to flow, the roots to push out their fibres into the soil in search of food; the buds to expand, the branches to extend, and flowers and fruit follow each other in succession. Human power does not bring down the needful rains and dews, neither does it give or temper the light and heat of the sun.

When the stated order of things is interrupted—when the showers and dews are withholden, and the thirsty earth is parched with drouth, or when the rain descends in torrents, or the sun hides his face, and blighting winds and untimely frosts descend—how utterly helpless is man.—And when all circumstances combine to favor the farmer's operations, how can he help seeing the hand of Providence—a hand co-working with and blessing him continually.—*Rural American.*

#### FARMING ON A LARGE OR SMALL SCALE.

N my opinion, it does not make any difference whether persons farm on a large or small scale, so long as they be industrious, intelligent, skilful, and economical. No matter whether your farm is large or small, you must have an adequate amount of capital for every acre of land in your possession. The capital that a person should have on entering a farm, is not an easy matter to fix. It has been estimated, in Europe, by Sinclair, that a farmer should have five or six pounds for every acre, and that no man