

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

DECEMBER.

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

AGRICULTURE AS A PURSUIT



AGRICULTURE was the first occupation of man. Many of the most distinguished men, in every age of the world, have been cultivators of the soil. They thought it no dishonour to obey the Divine injunction, and earn

their daily bread by the sweat of their brow. Some of the ancient nations esteemed agriculture as the most honourable of pursuits. Indeed, it is the foundation of all other pursuits. Were it not for the produce of the soil, there would be no commerce, no intercourse between nations, ships would rot at their docks, merchants would have to leave their counting rooms, and the whole human family would soon experience a day as dark as the one Lord Byron's

imagination saw.

Agriculture spreads the table from which we obtain nourishment, to strengthen these weak and decaying bodies. The manufacturer cannot flourish, without the aid of the farmer. Every new wheel which is set in motion depends upon the farmer for the raw material to manufacture into cloth. Where the cultivation of the soil is held in low estimation, we see no thriving cities, no centres of commerce or trade, no railroads or telegraphs, no civilized society; nothing but a low, degraded race of barbarians. No nation can be prosperous and wealthy, without the development of agricultural resources. The agricultural classes are the sovereigns of our country, and will control its political destinies in future ages.

How many young men we see, who act as though they thought it beneath their dignity to till the soil and earn their daily bread! They seem to think that everlasting disgrace would come upon them, if they should be seen hold of the plow or hoe! So they look with scorn upon the farmer's lot, and die in the poor-house.

How many people there are, who think that the ignorant ought to cultivate the soil, and the more learned follow other pursuits. It is a great mistake. Agriculture is a science; and ought to be studied just as much as any other science, if we wish to be successful farmers. A few more brains with the muscles, would improve the soil very much.

Some complain that it is unpleasant to cultivate the soil. I do not agree with that class of persons. I delight, with a good team and plow, on a beautiful spring morning, when the merry bird sings sweetly upon the sunny hill sides, and all nature seems alive with music, to go forth into the field, and turn the furrows over, and view Nature in her most beautiful aspect. The surrounding scenery points me upward to Nature's God, and fills my heart with gratitude and praise to the giver of every good and perfect gift. There is no class of people in the world who enjoy life so well as independent farmers. The man who owns the land which he cultivates, (perhaps it has cost him many years of hard labour, or it may be it is the old homestead, where his father lived before him, and his heart is bound to it by a thousand sacred ties,) is truly in a position to enjoy life's sweetest blessings.

EXAMPLE IN AGRICULTURE.

"If men are to be made intelligent," says Henry Ward Beecher, "give them specimens of intelligence." And he illustrates this influence of example as follows:

Let a man go into a village where the houses are all going to decay, where the fences are all tumbling down, and where no pains are taken with trees and flowers, and build a neat house, and enclose his grounds with a good fence, and tastefully decorate his yard with comely trees and beautiful flowers, and his example will be a blessing to the place. It will not be three years before there will be twenty neat houses, with good fences, and yards decorated with trees and flowers, as the result of his judicious outlay of means. The taste of the whole village will be educated and improved by the influence that he will exert through the instru-