

a more honourable occupation, have since learned a useful lesson. Many have shaken off the dust of their feet upon the city, and retired to the healthful rural pursuits, once forsaken in disgust, happy in the fact that they have escaped from the turmoil, the anxious uncertainty and selfishness of the trading world, to find agreeable recreation and repose, on the broad generous bosoms of their own farms. They find that there is no envy in the soil they till, no malice, no ingratitude in the honest oxen and horses they use—nature's cornucopia is generously and freely poured in their laps, without stint or grudge, and they find that whoever is diligent, honest, and efficient in his dealings with the soil, is very rarely cheated in return. Whatever the sons of our good mother earth may be, as far as honesty is concerned, we invariably find she is neither knave nor bankrupt. She does not fraudulently stop payment, nor has she any respect of persons—no matter whose or what muscles they be, that bend over her bosom in well directed toil—no matter what the honest brow, that thick and sweats, in order that she may be put in harmonious action, with air, shower, and sunshine, but she acknowledges as a worthy son of her bounty, and fails not to crown him with her own green laurels, and to bestow upon him the choicest, the richest rewards of her inexhaustible treasures. I would now offer a few brief reasons as inducements, why young men should adopt, yes prefer this as a pursuit. First, it is a healthy employment—who so healthy, strong and muscular, as the farmer? Secondly, there is less chance of loss, and more certainty of good living, in this, than any other employment. Third, it is more independent, and this all will acknowledge. The farmer is his own master—he tills the soil, and the God of nature, who ordained that man should labour never repudiates, nor defrauds the worthy worker of the fruits of his toil. Nor is this all, the farmer can have his meals, and his evenings in comfort with his family—he has in a great measure the entire winter season to cultivate his social and intellectual faculties. If he only will, he can be well informed; he has the means and the time if he will but use them; and here I would just say, that our Township Council deserve the applause of every right minded man, in taking advantage of the government grant and supplying the community in which we live with valuable reading matter—it is to be hoped that every person will avail himself of such an opportunity—as we hope ere long to see these books in circulation. But to return, farming is a sphere in which there is less temptation to immorality, than that of most other pursuits. To be a successful farmer requires good sense, steadiness of purpose, energy, helpfulness, patience, and a love of nature and of home. Successful farmers, too, are men of invention, men of mechanical talent. The idea that the farmer has nothing to do with machinery, either in the line of invention, or in the exercise of skill in the use of tools, is in keeping with the clumsy contrivances for agricultural implements, and the tedious hand labor process of their use, as exemplified in old fashioned farming, say thirty or forty years ago,

as I have it by report. Then the old wooden plough was in vogue, which required a strong man to keep it in the ground, and make it tear its way through the soil, and it was, I am certain, labour for the team to draw it—then the oak tree answered for a harrow—then there were cultivators, no mowing machines, no reaping machines nor thrashing machines, no light harrows with joints to adapt them to undulating surfaces. These, the implements of modern farming, have resulted from the exercise of the mechanical faculties among farmers.

Men who were educated as practical mechanics, and those who have received at the Universities an education, in Mathematics, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy and Mechanics, have adopted Agriculture as a pursuit, and enriched it with their skill and learning, so that the implements of agriculture from an ox-cart to a pair of sheep shears, have a neatness, skill in construction, and adaptation to their uses, such as to challenge admiration, and invite the hand to their use as a matter of pleasure instead of fatiguing drudgery. These, sir, I think, ought to be matters of consideration for the young, and sufficiently inducing to determine them to become farmers, instead of hanging around the over-crowded professions, at the commercial and mercantile interests, barely eking out an inglorious subsistence, when, if they would employ as much brain work, and halt the idleness and anxiety in connexion with agriculture in our new and inviting country as they now employ to keep soul and body together in ill paid subordinate situations, they might rise to the dignity of men, and to the substantial platform of pecuniary independence, for, as before asserted, where can you find the man, or class of men, who follow other pursuits to be compared to the farmer in point of independence, freedom from anxiety and true happiness, I would say then, the young who have hitherto indulged a feeling of dislike to this noble and honourable pursuit, follow farming for a living, and if you are assiduous and diligent at your business, you will not have cause to regret your choice.

But, sir, perhaps I have occupied too much of your time by dwelling so long on the many inducements to engage in farming, which I feel confident none present, will for a moment question, I will then leave that for the present, and return to my subject, which I must say is rather an extended one—it is this: the best mode of farming; it is so extensive as to comprehend the future essays or subjects of discussion that may be brought before us, and at the same time may be condensed and summed up in a very brief compass. The best mode of farming might be simply defined as follows:—Raising the largest amount of crops from the ground, at the least expense, and with the least possible injury to the soil. I think no one will dispute this definition of my subject. Yet, in order to accomplish these ends, few though they be in number, the farmer will require a certain amount (might I not say, large amount) of knowledge in his possession. Who can estimate the powers of the soil to produce, or set limits to its production when the soil is brought to the highest state of productiveness.