

patriot encircle the brow of this "Mother," as lovable as she is noble and useful, than by giving her, her true and well earned title "the nursery of the human race."

It is not the Canadians alone who are indebted to agriculture for the preservation of their power as a people. No one who studies history can fail to be struck by this fact; namely, the decline, and the almost entire disappearance of those numerous nations, which, in the zenith of their prosperity, have filled the world with the fame of their name, of their conquests and of their glory. All these nations, before they distinguished themselves as warriors, had become prosperous by the development of the art of cultivation. And what was the principal, if not the only rock on which they made shipwreck, one after the other, but the gradual abandonment and the subsequent ruin of their agriculture? A ruin too quickly consummated, and in most cases followed by an immoderate search after conquest, by robbery, by crime and all manner of forbidden enjoyments. What but this is the lesson we learn from the history of the Babylonians, of the Egyptians, of the Greeks and of the Romans? And the Hebrews, the favoured people, ruled over, in their happier days, by God himself, what were their epochs of grandeur and of happiness, but those in which, when obedient to the divine law they occupied themselves in the cultivation of the land? What were their seasons of misfortune and degradation, but those which followed their prosperity and pride, when the Hebrew granaries were full to overflowing, when the cellars would not hold the wine, when the nation was gorged with riches? It was at such seasons as these that, deaf to the voice of God and unwilling to work, the nation gave itself up to forbidden pleasures, and seeking wealth from unjust, tho' easy conquests, drew upon its guilty head the deserved chastisement of the divine wrath.

If we would know the source whence springs the strength of certain modern nations; how it happens that, in spite of the most disastrous troubles, more than one country has emerged from its trials more united and more vigorous than ever; we shall find the secret in the progress and the perfection of their agriculture.

How could France have ever escaped from the iron yoke of the stern German, had not the marvellous riches of her industrious husbandmen enabled her to pay the enormous ransom demanded—a ransom which the whole world deemed her incapable of discharging.

And the country of the industrious Flemings, that little plot of sand torn from the sea, how could it have preserved itself free from the spoliations of its greedy neighbours, were it not for the frugality, the activity and the intelligence of its agricultural population, at once the densest and the most laborious of Europe? England too, our new Mother-country, how could she, a small island covered in great part with mountains, heaths and sands, have drawn upon herself the praises of her Roman invaders, had she not already, even at that far removed time, distinguished herself by the, comparatively, advanced state of her agriculture.

Proud as these English are of their flag, on which the Sun never sets, they owe the retention of their numerous conquests, in all parts of the world, more to the arts of peace, than to the arts of war. Do they pay no homage to agriculture? Need I say that no where is that pursuit more highly honoured than in the British Isles? There, are grown the greatest average crops known in the whole world. It is to the English that are due those wonderful improvements in the races of the domestic animals, which have gained for their producers not only reputation, but prices well-nigh fabulous. Drainage, steam-cultivation, in fact, all the greatest inventions in the science of agriculture, have their origin in England;

and it is there, that the cultivation of the soil is held, and will, probably, always be held, in the highest and most reverential esteem.

If there is a gentleman in the world who attaches a high value to the rank he holds, and who never forgets the dignity of that rank, it is the English gentleman. To follow-trade, or commerce, would be alien to the ideas in which he is brought up. Few careers are open to him; arms, the priesthood, diplomacy, the bar and—agriculture! What a lesson should this be to those amongst us, too many are they, alas, who despise the gentle art, and blush for their origin, and for the occupation 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 the 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.

Let us now, for a moment, glance at agriculture from that point of view which regards the intellectual attainments necessary to its development in perfection.

Agriculture demands, in addition to bodily labour and those qualities of the mind indispensable to the successful prosecution of all human occupation, it demands, I say, more than any other career, the union and support of the deepest learning with the most varied knowledge. I cannot better conclude this part of my essay, than by showing the truth of this assertion, and its interest in the present condition of our country.

In truth, the Cultivator who wishes to search to the bottom of the questions which belong to his art, and which influence directly its results, can never hope to arrive at his end however long his life may be, so vast and varied are they. *Mathematics* await him on the threshold—they are the introduction to his future studies. *Physics* explain to us, first *mechanics*, by which we learn to understand the use and construction of the different machines and tools employed on the farm in these modern days; then, come *pneumatics* which, treating of the air, and of the laws which govern its movements, explain to us the action of the Barometer, of the different pumps, the Syphon, the Windmill, Ventilation, &c.; *hydrostatics*, the law of fluids, which offer to Agriculture the aid of the Hydraulic Ram, of Water-powers and the Brahma press, besides showing the support necessary to sustain in their places the banks of our water courses; *electricity*, that astounding agent, which was formerly only known to husbandmen by its disastrous effects, but which scientific men now study with close attention in its connection with the growth of plants, with their decomposition, &c.; *magnetism*, that other power, nearly allied to *light*, *heat* and *electricity*, which has, for some time, been the foundation of a new and strange system of cultivation; *heat*, a force, that though imponderable, has a constant and marvellous effect, and which leads us into a labyrinth of studies connected with *steam* and