

This space for fluctuation God may be supposed to have assigned to that department of nature with which man's sustenance is bound up, in order that in the results we may read the evidence of His hand, and may acknowledge our dependence upon Him, and may feel that it is He who "gives us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

In this circumstance of fluctuation and change to which the productions of the soil are liable, another wise provision is apparent—namely, that it affords scope for the exercise of many of man's best qualities both of mind and body. He is thus enabled and permitted to bring his power to bear even upon nature herself; not only animate but inanimate creation is placed to a certain extent under his dominion: he can make his science and energy tell even upon those processes which are hidden beneath the soil; he becomes a fellow-worker with nature—by the application of his faculties, by his industry and skill, increasing her capabilities, and doubling her returns.

In casting our eyes over the earth, and noting its climates, its productions and inhabitants, this rule seems to hold good—that where, through favorable circumstances of soil and climate, nature does the most in the supply of human wants, *there* man does the least, and the races of men are observed to be the lowest in intellectual development and civilization. But where nature does not yield her productions so spontaneously, and where the soil has to be carefully wrought, and difficulties of climate have to be watched and contended against, *there* not only do the powers of man, both mental and physical, seem to attain their highest standard, but *there* also does nature herself yield the most abundantly, pouring into man's bosom the riches of her prodigality, appearing only to wait till they are unlocked by human industry and skill. In this is furnished both the stimulant to his toil and its gratifying issue—the charm of industry and its recompense.

In the pursuits of the agriculturist there is this peculiarity,