

and have to yield to lawyers and doctors, from the inferiority of their education, not of their moral and mental worth.

It is a truth too, beyond all doubt, and as gratifying as it is true, that the number of wealthy and independent farmers has greatly increased within the last quarter of a century.

I can only speak particularly of my own country, where it is a blessed sight to travel among the farmers and see how in a short time things have changed their appearances for the better—how the log cabin has yielded to the beautiful stone, or brick, or wooden mansion, the barn of poles to the stately edifice of boards and timber, the front yard of dirt and filth to the neat lane and shrubbery; and how the whole country has assumed or is rapidly assuming that appearance of neatness, beauty, high cultivation, and comfort, which all American farmers, with honesty, industry and economy, can soon attain to. I dare say other parts of the state are equally changed for the better, and equally sustain the great cause of cultivation and improvement. Add to all this, many men of wealth and taste and science, have devoted their time, and a portion of their wealth, within a few years past, to the importation and rearing of the first order of stock, and while it is hoped they are increasing their ample fortunes, they are becoming the true benefactors of the country, and take an active and prominent part in sustaining the cause of home industry and agriculture.

It is needless to mention their names. One such man makes himself sufficiently conspicuous by the good he does and the gratitude and respect he commands.

The result of this increase of wealth and intelligence among the farmers, is, that they become more patriotic, more social and more communicative. They are not like other professions, they have no professional secrets—on the contrary, they take pleasure in communicating whatever will interest, or please, or be useful to their neighbors—if they have a better breed of pigs, cattle or horses, they do not strive to monopolize it, and if they have discovered any thing new in the cultivation of the earth, they disclose it to their neighbors with pleasure and pride. This makes them desire to congregate together, exhibit what they have to show, and communicate what they have to teach and enjoy, at least once a year, the "jubilee" of the farmer. In a country like this, where there are so few holidays of any sort, how reasonable and proper this is, especially since the days of rum drinking are gone by, and they collect and part like temperate and rational men.

Society must arrive at a certain pitch as to knowledge, wealth and comfort, before this can take place. Nor does it detract in the least from the merits of the "pioneer" of the wilderness. Their means were too stinted and their occupations too severe to do any thing but to provide the immediate necessities for themselves and their families.

It is also a truth not to be lost sight of, that we have now a fund of experience, partly growing out of the existence of the old societies, partly from the natural course of events, to direct us in the management of these societies, which we did not formerly possess. One great evil we met with in those days, was the mode in which premiums were distributed. It seemed on some occasions like a mere scramble for money, instead of reputation; the consequence was that we saw little of that disinterested spirit which should characterize alike the disappointed and the successful candidate; and heart burnings and bitter rivalships frequently grew out of it, which misrepresented and impugned the motives of the judges and operated unfortunately.

More or less of this will perhaps now exist, but if good judgment and great precaution are used, most of it can now be avoided, the more easily from the superior intelligence which now prevails. Another way to avoid it is to gratify as many competitors as possible, and for this reason make the premiums more extensive and general, and give them more weight in character than in money.

With all these advantages arising from this increased wealth and progress in knowledge, if the great body of our hard-working farmers will lend their aid in time and money, (and but very little from each is needed), the society is sure to succeed, a noble impulse will be given to the cause of agriculture, and the beneficial operation of the

law be felt in all branches of the community. Wealthy and public spirited citizens will be found among our rich merchants and professional men of age and leisure, who will take pleasure and pride in seconding the efforts of the farmers; and thus an institution will be handsomely sustained, calculated to add greatly to the wealth, power and reputation of the State of New-York.

One great advantage, if no other, will grow out of these annual meetings. It will convene together in one great social body, all the leading and efficient friends of agriculture in the state. These meetings will be composed of a high order of men, of congenial feelings and occupations.

Their views will be similar, their objects will accord, their meetings will be social and friendly, they will meet in good cheer, act in concert, and part with the kindest feelings. Can any thing but unmixed good come out of such an association? Party spirit and sectarianism will be banished, and no interest will claim attention but such as a gentleman and a Christian can conscientiously support. Such meetings will serve to bind together our republic, and would be useful, even did they not give a new impulse and an additional character to the most useful, necessary and healthy of all occupations. The scene before me of hundreds of happy, intelligent, independent farmers, collected from all parts of the state, not to engage in political strife and quarrel about office, but met together for their country's good, consulting how best to promote the farming interest, with no jarring interest, and no heart burnings of any sort, but good will and benevolence smiling in every countenance, is one of unalloyed pleasure and satisfaction.

The county societies will send their delegations, and thus you will have combined in one body, on any anniversary of the society, an immense mass of intelligence, congregated from every section of the state, bringing into social and happy and profitable intercourse, those who would otherwise be strangers; and who by their proceedings will collect and embody an abundance of useful information, not only upon farming but upon other great interests of the state. One subject will pre-eminently claim their attention, for in travelling to this place it will be deeply impressed upon their minds. I mean that of "internal improvement." This should never be lost sight of, and depend upon it, if our legislators do, the people will not, and if you who have already had your railroads and canals will not help others, we will knock at the doors of your legislative halls till you shall hear us,—yes, and aid us too, especially when you are about to have from the public lands \$480,000 a year, and an enormous income from your canals and salt duties. As farmers have no professional secrets, as they delight to communicate all their discoveries and improvements, and exhibit the best specimens of their skill and their flocks, these meetings cannot be otherwise than useful, as well as most interesting and agreeable. As the occupation of the plough is of no party, as the times are those of temperance, as farmers are characterised by the love of order as well as zeal for the public welfare, being identified with the soil, as they justly realize their responsibilities, being the foundation on which rests the happiness and subsistence of all, there is no danger of any sort to be apprehended from these gatherings, but that they will come and pass off as the jubilees of the farmers always do, with the greatest order and decorum.

If husbandry is made respectable, as it ought to be, it will serve to check one of the greatest evils that bears now heavily upon the community—the rush of our young men into the learned professions, which are already filled to the overflowing, especially that of the law, which, under the present wretched course of legislation, of making litigation cheap, is starting this once honourable and most useful profession.

Yet it is thought to be the high road to office and honour, and ambitious fathers and weak mothers are for making their sons great lawyers and eminent judges. Intuited policy. The greater share of them never rise higher than respectable pettifoggers. Many of them get disheartened, sink into dissipation and wretchedness, the best—yes, the very best, lead lives of labour and anxiety, drag through a life of dyspepsia and "blue devils," and if they arrive at rank and office, they are made perfect slaves of, with half pay, and get more curses than blessings from their constituents.

The business of the farmer knows no such anxiety, is accompanied with no such risks, it is

quiet and peaceful. Make it intelligent, and you open to it the first and highest honours of your country; there are no prejudices against it as against that of the law; there is no limit to it, it is broad and extensive enough for all, a rich and broad domain, the vast possessions of the government lie open to us—it invites us to cultivation and improvement. If our rich men will plant themselves in the country, and educate their sons to the care and knowledge of the farm, they would see the land smiling around them, their children be honoured in their industry, the occupation of the plough be elevated and respected, their sons prove healthy, robust and strong men, and they and their descendants become, as the landholders are in England, the great men and strong props of the government. Hard and incessant toil is not essential in any farmer, nor any toil equal to the exhausting unhonoured labours of the lawyer and mechanic—a few hours a day devoted to the regulation and superintendence of the farm, affording a most wholesome and agreeable exercise to the body, is all that is requisite in the independent farmer—reading, writing, &c., will pleasantly and profitably occupy the rest of the day.

To my brother lawyers in particular, would I recommend this kind of life as the happiest and the best. They are capable of making good farmers, and when advanced in life they are fit for little else; the strife and rivalry of the law are neither suited to their own temper or taste. They are often, if not generally, first and foremost in every good work. Let them set the example in this. I regret not meeting more of them on this occasion. It is said to be dull times for them—three hundred are said to have cleared out from the city of New-York. I hoped to have met some of them here—the country and the plough will receive them with open arms, and give them plenty of honest business. There is room enough for them all. I offer my own experience as a slight and humble instance of what may be easily effected—I have had the pleasure of superintending a farm—I have succeeded to my entire satisfaction—my farm is growing up under my own eye, yearly developing new beauties and new sources of income and improvement, and if it does not make me a richer, it makes me a healthier, and I trust a better man. In fact dyspepsia and the blue devils immediately left me. I am conscious that the occupation is an honest one. I know it is a healthy and pleasant one; and as it interferes with no man, it is a peaceful one, and all nature tells me it is one that God will bless and prosper.

(From the Examiner.)

Dr. ROLPH'S LETTER.

TORONTO, November 27th, 1841.

SIR,—Having remained in this city for the express purpose of attending the meeting of the agriculturists of the Home District, to consider the propriety of petitioning the Imperial Parliament for a remission of the duties now levied on Canadian produce on its introduction into British ports, and heartily concurring with you, in your views, as to the best mode by which this boon may be obtained, I take the liberty of sending my views on the question, being unable to attend the adjourned meeting to be held on this interesting subject. It seems to me exceedingly desirable that the agriculturists of the Province should unite cordially together in obtaining that assistance and encouragement from the mother country which is loudly called for by the relative wants, as well as for the mutual advantages of Canada and Great Britain.

Perhaps there never was a period when any application could be made for the removal of the duty on Canadian produce, with more certainty of success than at the present time. It is now somewhat more than two years since, that the Agricultural Protection Society in England, anticipating the feeling which would spring up amongst the labouring classes in Great Britain on the subject of the Corn Laws, and wisely and patriotically resolving to join common interest with the Colonies on this matter, taking advantage of my presence in England at that time, honoured me by constituting me Corresponding Secretary for their institution, on behalf of the British American Colonies. In order to enlist the