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Perhaps nothing more clearly distinguishes the man of civil life, from the savage, than the superior knowledge that the former possesses over the latter of the science of agriculture. It is that man in a comparative state of barbarism cultivates the soil, and tends his flocks and herds, from all which he strives to obtain a scanty subsistence; but it is only in a highly civilized country, and with a scientific knowledge of agriculture, that he succeeds in rendering the desert a fruitful field, and in changing a sterile, sterile country into one capable of supporting a dense and increasing population.

Of all the means by which man earns his subsistence, perhaps that by agriculture deserve the largest share of experience, of judicious and unprejudiced reflection, as well as of united opinion, in order to arrive at that degree of perfection of which it is susceptible; and even the experience of ages, though aided by comparatively recent yet important discoveries in science, has not fully developed the resources of vegetable nature, nor succeeded in teaching him how to call forth and employ his energies to his best advantage,—and the differences in religious creeds may at the present time be so great as are those in the opinions relative to the operations of vegetative nature, and how these are most efficiently called into activity.

It is the duty, therefore, of every agriculturist to be careful in his conduct, to guard against prejudice or bigotry, in the exercise of his profession,—and to bear in mind that the operations of nature are so variously diversified, and in a manner so hidden from our direct observation, that opinions the most discordant may, by the magic of her arts, be found to be in unison,—and that many of those on which opinions now may be unanimous, may yet be found to be at variance with facts. As a single illustration, let us take the effect on the many and conflicting opinions on the best mode of using lime in agriculture, and also on its mode of action on vegetable life, and on the causes of the many seeming anomalies that its use in agriculture presents, and we may better be able to extend the agricultural creed to its requisite limits.

While opinions on many points, connected with agriculture, are so various and opposite, even amongst the most enlightened agriculturists, whose experiments have been conducted with the most care and subjected to the most rigorous scrutiny, there are still opinions that, like axioms, cannot fail while nature upholds the present course. The intimate connection that is known to exist between animal and vegetable life, so far as they are mutually conducive to the support of each other,—the chemical analysis of the soil, by which the necessity for a due combination of their component parts is apparent and indispensable, towards the due support of vegetable life,—the like analysis of putrescent manures, by which the most efficient modes of rendering them conducive to the promotion of vegetation, are, amongst innumerable others, instances of the triumphs of science, and of the necessity of calling it to aid in agriculture. Agricultural chemistry opens to us a new and unbounded view of the operations of vegetable nature.

By means of it he learns the habitudes of vegetation. Instructed by it, he discovers the component parts of vegetable pro-

ductions,—finds that a portion of lime and of iron enter into the composition of wheat,—and that in order to secure a full crop of this, the staff of life, it is indispensable that his soil be furnished with a due proportion of these seemingly unnecessary ingredients, in the composition of wheat.

While a scientific knowledge of agriculture is so necessary towards the support of man, as well as of all the lower animals dependent on him, one would suppose that this knowledge, by universal consent, would have been eagerly sought for and sedulously diffused. But how far, at this hour, is it otherwise? To begin with Europe. The Russian peasant forms a part of the live stock of the lands on which he resides, and is by his master, the landowner, disposed of as he sees fit. The Pole, in a country noted for fertility, and capable of being made the granary of Europe, drags out a miserable existence on black coarse bread, and like miserable fare,—the fertile soils of Spain and Italy, where the olive and grape abound, are, from the wretched ignorance of their cultivators, doomed to comparative sterility;—while Great Britain, with a climate and soil far inferior, sustains, by her superior agricultural skill, a density of population, and a happy, enlightened peasantry, in every respect superior to those in nature's more favoured climes.

But this superiority springs from an enlightened and scientific system of agriculture, acquired simply by unions amongst agriculturists for the avowed purpose of discovering and adopting the most scientific modes of agriculture: and without such unions amongst ourselves, no man can hope to attain to that perfection of which we are susceptible.

To enable us, in some degree, to appreciate the benefits of a judicious and improved system of agriculture, let us only look at the state of agriculture in Great Britain some seventy or eighty years ago. Some lands were then let for about 2s. 6d. an acre, and from which all the skill and toil of the cultivator could hardly obtain much, if any, more than about 16 bushels of grey light oats. Manuring, by means of lime and compost, was lately applied to these lands,—improved ploughs and ploughing were introduced,—in short, a scientific and improved system of agriculture took place of a system, if such it might be called, in which, too much at present like ourselves, nothing worthy of the name of a system existed. In lieu of unaided and individual effort, societies directed by men of scientific and practical abilities were every where established,—and these lands, from which hardly 16 bushels of their oats could be forced, and for which the pittance of 2s. 6d. an acre of annual rent was deemed an ample equivalent, are now capable of producing nearly twice as many bushels of excellent wheat, and of paying easily an annual rent of £3.

But I need hardly add, that the system by which these great changes were effected was not elicited from cold apathy and careless indifference, nor perfected by a rigid adherence to the modes and customs of our forefathers:—No; the agriculturists of Great Britain felt, like ourselves, the need of improvement; they formed societies for this purpose, and enlisted science and skill on their side; they had prejudices and difficulties to encounter from which we are wholly exempt; on the one hand, the old and narrow, but beaten path of their forefathers presented itself, in which, or rather from which, they had never strayed,—on the other hand, a new