

suppose. Give up this notion; it has almost ruined you, and will ruin you totally if you hug it a little longer. How do we do at the North? How do they do at the West? The spade and plough are not instruments of torture: their rough handles have the same drug secreted in them which was concealed in the racket of the Persian physician, and which with exercise exhaled its essence and restored the health of the monarch. Its influence also extends to the intellectual and moral man. Suppose you had made an experiment in one of your spacious and fertile counties thirty years ago, led your sons to the field, and trained them to the labours which consolidate and invigorate the frame. These labours, at the same time, foster a taste for harmless, cheap, and natural enjoyments. How would your fields have looked? What would have been their products under such improved systems as you and your sons might have introduced? I fancy I see the little neighbourhoods which would have been formed, many a field now waste smiling with verdure, books and schools multiplied, manufactories built on the streams, good roads stretching hither and thither, happiness secured by intelligence, virtue, and prosperity. Your eyes are restless, your brows are clouded. There is nothing more likely to remove such symptoms than the sight of our land well tilled by our own hands, the sounds of peace and joy in our habitations; and what idle man ever knew them?

It has been bitterly complained of in Virginia that useful labour is despised; and no doubt the statesmen who would gain true honour should take Cincinnatus for their model. A most intelligent and independent step has been taken by one of the literary institutions of the state, the results of which must be useful. Manual labour has been connected with study at Hampden Sidney College; and although the opposition to it was at first very general and powerful, a remarkable change in the opinion of the wise and good has already commenced; and no one who looks at the state of things can doubt that this is one of the most wise and promising steps which could have been taken to repair the wastes of generations, and to remould the habits and condition of the people.

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