

try, and who are endeavouring to investigate the history of the rise and progress of the unparalleled power and greatness of England; but I know nothing more striking than that which I now see around me. That country must be blessed and happy for many years which has the good fortune to possess nobles and statesmen who consider it their greatest pride and their highest pleasure to occupy their leisure for the improvement of agriculture and for the happiness of the cultivators of the soil (*loud cheers*); not, as in some other lands, confining themselves to gaudy palaces and the pursuits of dissipation, but mixing—both publicly and privately—with the active business of life. The manner in which the retired soldier in this country turns his sword into a plough-share is an example of the highest admiration; and the honours which he has won from the soil are not, in reality, less glorious or less valuable to his country than those he has won in the fields of war (*cheers*). It has often struck me—when I have read of the ceremony which the Emperor performed as the first act of his reign—that of turning over the first sod with a golden plough-share, that it is an act worthy of the monarch of one of the largest empires of the world, and is beautifully symbolical of the great truth that the promotion of agriculture ought to be the first care and solicitude of every good and wise government (*loud applause*). Is it not an encouraging spectacle to see a society like this setting such an example for the rest of the world to follow?—an example which, in Prussia, we, of the good old Saxon blood, are trying to follow (*cheers*). We delight, in times of peace, in our homes and our domestic fire-sides; and we know no men whose energetic minds and bodies are more calculated to maintain peace than the agriculturists.

The speech of Lord Palmerston is so excellent that we must give insertion to a part of it:—

The toast which I wish to propose is—"Prosperity to agriculture, manufactures, and commerce"—the three great supporters of the prosperity and power of this mighty empire. These three branches are inseparably dependent upon each other, and entwined together. In the infancy of the State, agriculture was first established; that gave employment to commerce, and commerce to manufactures. Agriculture has risen from its plain and primitive condition till it has assumed the proud and pre-eminent position it now occupies in this great country (*cheers*). There is, indeed, no country in the world, I might venture to affirm, in which these three great sources of national prosperity stand forward in such bold and pre-eminent relief. Our commerce sends our merchant ships to the most distant parts of the ocean; our commerce is wafted on every wave that washes the remotest shores of the habitable globe; our manufactures supply the wants and wishes of the greater part of the human race; and our commerce, with our manufactures, has accumulated the wealth which furnishes the means of development to our agriculture, without which the resources of the soil could not be fully developed, whilst it brings to the people of this country the productions of the remotest corners of the world; our manufactures keep daily bringing increased numbers of people to consume the produce of our agriculture, thereby increasing the value of the land, and giving the crowning reward to the industry of the tillers of the soil (*cheers*). Commerce, indeed, stands distinguished both from agriculture and manufactures, because the functions of commerce are distributive, and not creative; agriculture and manufactures are both of them creative pursuits—they differ more in name and degree than in reality and principle. The manufacturer and the agri-

culturist have both enlisted in their service the laws and powers of nature, and both are dependent for their exertions on the skill and ingenuity of the mechanic (*cheers*). And I might venture to say that if one of those agriculturists who lived a century and a half ago could rise to-day from his grave, and witness the magnificent display of mechanical skill which is to be seen in the show-yards of this town, it would be difficult to persuade him that the great and expensive specimens of the results of human industry there brought together did not belong to the manufacturers of several large towns, instead of being implements of agriculture (*hear, hear*). Whenever it had been the misfortune of this country to be compelled, either for the defence of its interests, or in vindication of its honour, to draw the sword and engage in the calamities of war, the result has been to record in the pages of history the triumphs and glories of British arms (*cheers*). That result must ever be the consequence of the unconquerable energy and untiring perseverance, of the inexhaustible resources of the national character; but I trust the day is far distant indeed when it may be our unfortunate lot—for so I must consider it whatever the result may be—I trust the day may be far distant when it will be again our lot to be compelled, by the aggression of any foreign state, to add another chapter to the military and naval glories of Great Britain (*cheers*). Meanwhile let us employ our national energies in attaining the distinction, which is far superior in point of advantage, and by no means inferior in point of honour, that we may rise to still greater pre-eminence in the arts of peace; and among those arts of peace, what is there more deserving to be cultivated by a great and free people like one own, than an instructive and enlightened agriculture? An instructive and enlightened agriculture is the best foundation for a high, exalted, sterling, national character, and is the surest basis for a permanent national prosperity. To promote it has been the object for which this great national association has been formed; that is the object for the attainment of which it has laboured with most exemplary perseverance and astonishing success; and on that account I may venture to say there never was an association, found in a great empire which more deserved the good opinion and support of the rest of the country than this, and the self-satisfied feeling which must be shared by all who have the honour to belong to it.

These speeches give some idea how Agriculture is regarded by the most talented and best educated men of their respective nations.

At the late great Agricultural meeting of the Royal English Agricultural Society at Southampton, the following resolutions were adopted in reference to an Agricultural College:—

"That schools of agriculture are much wanted in this country, in which a knowledge of the sciences, now admitted to be essential to the successful pursuit of agriculture, may be learned in connection with the practical working of a farm on the most approved principles."

"That the plan for the establishment of an agricultural college near Cirencester, explained by the deputies attending this meeting, is calculated to effect this desirable object."

"That this meeting warmly recommends the agricultural community to give every support and encouragement to the establishment of this college, which they regard as the first step in the right direction for