

Europe that a cow could be kept well through the year on an acre of land, and this land by nature is in no respect better than our own. If the soil is fed with a fair percentage of what is taken from it you would be astonished by the luxuriance of the harvest. The value of a region in this age is its capacity to produce some article of commerce that the world will have and pay for; and it was the plan of the Creator not to concentrate but to diffuse the necessities and luxuries of life over the whole earth. This stimulates human energy, creates mutual dependence, and the necessity of social intercourse for the acquisition of knowledge. Improved means of communication has brought the extremes of the earth together, and placed you dairymen in a position to take immediate advantage of any fluctuations that may affect the market in whatever quarter they may arise, and nature has no production, art has created nothing that you cannot command with the avails of your dairies.

There may be among this Association those who, reasoning from early impressions and the teachings of their forefathers, are inclined to doubt such results from such causes, but, gentlemen, although I have great respect for our ancestors, for the men who toiled and struggled to make this country what it is—a land literally flowing with milk and honey; brave and sturdy men, whose labors have contributed to the greatness and power of our common country; yet for all this we must recollect that this is an age of progress, and if our fathers acted up to the light and knowledge of their age, things are moving onwards, light and knowledge are always increasing, and the reflection will be upon ourselves if we do not act up to the increased light and knowledge of our own day. We are all learners in that laboratory of human knowledge by which we are surrounded, and sad indeed is the plight of that man, who being filled to repletion, can find no room for any of those germs of knowledge which the broad, liberal

and cultivated mind receives as the earth receives the seed of the sower, and brings forth fifty or one hundred fold increase.

I have spoken of the grasses in connection with the cow. How little do we realize what an important part grass assumes in the economy of nature. We all, without exception, derive a great pleasure in contemplating the beauty of grass; it affects alike the prince and peasant, and cheers and exhilarates all classes and conditions of men. Destroy the rich meadows and pastures of the farm, remove the little grass plot from the yard of the citizen, and how much of the profit of the farm and the enjoyment of domestic life would be lessened. How very forcibly the prophet Isaiah expressed the extremity of desolation when he saith "The grass faileth, there is no green thing."

The vast importance of the grasses to the whole family of man, should make a study of their habits, organization and adaptation to the various uses to which we may apply them, one of primary interest. The expression of the Apostle that all flesh is grass, is no mere poetic fancy, but a sober unvarnished fact. Every portion of our material frame owes its origin either directly or indirectly to the grasses of the field. They gather and combine the scattered elements of inorganic matter in those proportions best calculated to build up all the tissues which are essential for the manifestations of animal life. They extract hydrogen and oxygen from the rains and dews, carbon and nitrogen from the soil and atmosphere, which mingled together by a subtle and mysterious chemistry which man cannot imitate. These combinations are laid at his feet in a form exactly fitted for his purposes. How precious then that promise of the Almighty, "I will send grass into the field for the cattle that thou mayest eat and be full."

They spring up spontaneously on the plain, the mountain and the valley, their leaves and culm furnish food for cattle, while the superior species furnish food for man.