

Loss is a very general rule and the routes above referred to are strewn with the relics of shattered hopes, ruined families, tarnished honour, crime and suicide, with but rarely an instance of success, from special ability, and I am justified in saying, combined with a special luck. Many men attain wealth and dazzle their poorer neighbours, who in a few short years find themselves candidates for charity or worse.

The history of Wall Street and Fifth Avenue, New York, contains the saddest scenes of our civilization, and the end is not yet. Truth is stranger than fiction.

No, if one wishes to lead a quiet and happy life let him shun commerce and its congeners.

There are three merchants to do the work of one, and so it is throughout the whole range of employments, excepting only one, the farmer, who supports them all as well as himself, and too often allows himself to be cuffed about by designing ones as well as politicians.

Having given you enough of platitudes I would conclude by instituting a comparison between the farmer and the others, and though you may think it a little roseate yet it is founded on a solid substratum, and with well directed intelligence would be an accomplished fact.

I will describe what a farmer should be, what he is, to a great extent, is his own fault. The farmer touches the basis of all other occupations, and may rise to the grandest of intellectual heights or sink to that of the lowest navvy. While joining hands with the manufacturer and merchant he should be a professional as regards mental culture, and his hands should be educated to every variety of labour, for such must pass under his attention in his varied employment. Our fathers had to till a rugged, reluctant soil by muscular force, and had but little time to think of anything but hard work, now, as a result of their labour and improved appliances, skill may replace the toil that can now be more perfectly performed by machines. I never pass an old grave yard but I, in spirit at least, raise my hat as a mark of respect to those sturdy, honest souls who have left to us the fruits of their labour. They had but little pleasure, and meagre board and lodging for their share, but they left smiling valleys, fields, and orchards, to successors not always sufficiently grateful. There are two kinds of farmers described, the book farmer