

## READ!

Read continually, only reserving such time for relaxation, and the duties of life as your situation may require. Don't sit with your hands folded and mouth open, doing nothing; these are minutes which you are wasting—minutes make hours—hours make days and weeks, and all combined are swiftly flying toward eternity. Then read!—read everything and anything, except low and trashy subjects: there is no branch of art or science or of literature from which, properly perused you may not get some valuable information. The difference between the reader and the sluggard, who sits in the rocking chair asleep of an evening, is as great as the contrast between a fool and a sensible person; the former goes about the world, sees, hears, thinks and digests the results of his observations during his travels; he will presently give those reflections to the world in a new and interesting shape and thus make other readers. But the sluggard is a useless character and not worth the ink to describe him. Read an almanac if you cannot get a paper; and he must be poor indeed, as the bard singeth, who cannot afford a subscription to some journal in this age of the world. At all events leave no means untried to cultivate and improve the spare hours which you will have during the winter months. If you smoke, read!—if you are waiting somewhere on business, take out your paper and peruse its columns; you will soon find the advantages of the practice. We have a great reputation as a reading nation; a paragraph went the rounds of the press some time ago, which was intended for a joke, but it was in reality a compliment; it said, that if a traveller abroad went into a room where there was a number of Americans, he would be sure to see two-thirds of them reading newspapers. So he will. Go into the theatre, or the concert room, and you will find a large portion of the audience beguiling the tedious half hour previous to the commencement of the festivities, with a magazine or paper. This is to their moral advancement and benefit, always supposing the mental food to be of a wholesome nature; and the future of any people who are readers and thinkers is just as certain to be glorious as it is an established fact that water finds its level. Intellectuals find their level; they find them in one way or another—in the newspaper, through the magazine, or in the heavier essays which require patient toil and thought to eliminate and elaborate. Then read! continue to peruse every scrap of information within your reach: there is gold everywhere. California has not the only gold mines in the country; there are solid nuggets laid up on the shelves of the library which all the wealth of the Indies is powerless through itself to produce; there are stores of information of every kind under the sun within your reach, that cannot perish. Time shall overwhelm all things and render mines useless, gems of no value. The thief may in an hour destroy the labor of a lifetime in accumulating a fortune, but no power, short of a divine one, can wrest the riches of a well-stored mind from its possessor. Again we say—read!

## THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

A Letter to Gov. Coburn and the Legislature Elect.

GENTLEMEN,—It is matter of congratulation that amid the pressing war duties devolved upon Congress at its last session, time was found to mature and enact so many measures of public utility in the interest of peace. Among these is the act to provide for agricultural and scientific education in the several States of the Union. By this act, a grant of public lands, equal to thirty thousand acres for each member of Congress under the new apportionment, is made to each State which shall accept it with the annexed conditions, within two years from the date of the President's signature, July 2d, 1862. To secure the benefits of this appropriation, action must be taken by the Legislature. As the time for the meeting of this body approaches, it is perhaps well that the subject be brought to the attention of the people and their representatives.

## Value of the Appropriation.

Under the new apportionment we have seven members of Congress,—five Representatives and two Senators,—which give, as our portion of this munificent grant, two hundred and ten thousand acres. The nominal value of these lands is \$1,26 per acre, or \$262,500 in the aggregate. Supposing the whole to be worth but one dollar per acre, we have the sum of \$210,000, ten per cent. of which may be expended for building sites and experimental farms. The remainder is to be funded in the securest manner; the interest only to be used for the support of the college or colleges, which may be put in operation.

Allowing for any contingencies which may arise, if we may estimate the entire fund at \$209,000, and deduct ten per cent. for sites and farms, we have \$180,000 to be invested. Suppose this to yield an interest of five per cent., the minimum contemplated by the act, we shall have an annual income of \$9,000 with which to conduct the operations of the college.

## The Grand purpose.

The leading purpose for which this appropriation is made, is declared to be "to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts,"—"without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics." The clause providing that the course of instruction shall not be limited to agricultural and mechanical studies is a very wise one. Thus restricted, it would have failed to confer upon the community the full benefits of which it is capable. On the basis now provided,—in the pecuniary fund, and in the liberal course of study which may be adopted,—we may build up an institution of which the State may be proud, and in the benefits of which her poorest sons may rejoice.

## The Normal Element.

The branches to be taught in the agricultural college will include those required in our normal schools; and the class of young men most likely to resort to the one, are precisely those who need the advantages of the other. Our intelligent and well-educated farmers, at least during the years of their younger manhood, make some of the most reliable and efficient teachers of our winter schools. And even to those who would