

the dark pages of history was but a cross. No;

"Not on the vulgar mass
Called 'work', must sentence pass,
Things done, that took the eye and had
the price:
O'er which, from level stand,
The low world laid its hand,
Found straightway to its mind, could
value in a trice."

No; the utility of a man's life cannot be measured in material things; nor, in fact, can that of his vocation. The latter is merely one mode or embodiment of his life, and partakes of those elusive, but real and essential qualities, of the life.

How, then, shall the Utility of a Vocation be measured?

Speaking generally, it is by the extent of its contribution to the maintenance and evolution of society. Speaking more in particular, it is by the degree in which it ministers rightfully and helpfully to the separate or joint development of man's physical, mental and moral well-being. And, since the Life of Man is organic and indivisible, a vocation which contributes specifically to moral well-being can only be held superior to one that contributes specifically to physical well being in a secondary and somewhat illogical sense; for both are necessary and interdependent. To eat and to drink does not constitute true Life, but yet no higher Life is here possible without the physical as a foundation. Therefore Agriculture, as a vocation designed to provide food and clothing for the body, must be given no inferior position; the more so because through its discipline—as indeed through all our activities—noble qualities of mind and heart are, or may be, developed.

It would seem that no such apology for Agriculture should be needed in the O. A. C. I shall offer no further apology. And yet the facts perhaps warrant one. It is by no means certain that instruction in Scientific Agriculture does everything to reconcile one to the farmer's life, or to fit one for it; at any rate the present position of many of the O. A. C. graduates would indicate that Technical Agricultural Education had not done much yet to retard the lamented exodus from the rural districts. Shall we account for this exodus by supposing that vocations other than that of Agriculture have made their superior claims universally apparent? If not, there are, then, other reasons for the depopulation of our rural districts: strong tendencies at work and movements in progress which our Agricultural Colleges as such are practically powerless to withstand. These tendencies are not wholly evil, even when bitterly deplored. But they are symptomatic of some grave social dangers which he who runs will do well to pause over and consider.

The tendencies to which I have referred may be said to arise out of certain moral defects, always more or less forcible, but working out in many peculiarly modern ways under our present conditions,—in our political, social and economic life.

Much of the trouble arises out of a false notion of wealth, leading to the foolish direction of effort and to false ideals of national prosperity. Says a great thinker: "The assumption which lies at the root of nearly all erroneous reasoning on political economy,—namely, that its object is to accumulate money or exchangeable

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