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A LECTURE
ON
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

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BY HON. DONALD FERGUSON.

THE cultivation of the land has always been regarded as a highly honorable employment. It gives health to the body, energy to the mind, and is favorable to purity of moral character. Painting and poetry have drawn more than one half of their inspiration from the charms of pastoral life. From observing the fall of an apple, Sir Isaac Newton discovered the great law of gravitation ; and to the wise men of the east, the shepherds of Chaldea, watching their flocks by night, the star appeared which heralded the world's salvation. Rural populations have always proved the stoutest and truest defenders of free institutions. Liberty, crushed out of existence in the seats of learning and the marts of commerce has lived on in the distant valley and mountain fastness. The Tells and Wallaces and Hampdens of history acquired their love of liberty from their country life, and Cincinnatus and Washington received, in the seclusion of farm employments, that moral and mental training which fitted them to assume the direction of the most momentous movements among men.