



"THE EARTH BEING MAN'S INHERITANCE, IT BEHOVES HIM TO CULTIVATE IT PROPERLY."

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THE FARMER'S MANUAL,

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"The Sire of Gods and Men, with hard decrees,
Forbids our plenty to be bought with ease:
Himself invented first the shining share,
And whetted human industry with care:
That studious need might useful art explore;
From furrowed fields to reap the foodful store."

Dryden's VIRGIL, Georgic 1st.

The paramount importance of Agriculture had been long observed before it was rightly understood; and few researches could prove more interesting to an ingenious and curious mind, than to trace out the acquisition of this knowledge, through the mazes of those conjectures which so long baffled the investigations of the most learned and patient enquirers.

Now that this knowledge has been obtained, its demonstration seems as simple as it is certain.—All wealth is derived from labor,—Sustenance is essential to labor—Agriculture to the production of sustenance: without Agriculture there can be no sufficient supply of food for the laborer,—without sufficient food, his energies are prostrated, and the only source of wealth exhausted.

Wealth, then, whether it be individual or national is supported by that labor whose foundations rest on the products of the soil; and as the term *wealth* is only employed as the short hand *indicia* of all that is essential to the support of human life, and

promotive of man's physical enjoyment, it will be evident that, whether we regard the provision of wholesome and sufficient food, the supply of comfortable apparel, or the attainment of those luxuries which, if not required to support life, have become necessary to man's comfort; wherever these may be procured—by whatever process, however artificial, they may ultimately be provided,—they are all dependant originally on the employment of that labor, which by a further relation depends on the Agriculturist.

We are aware that the very food which is derived from the soil is itself a return made available and valuable by labor, rather than a free oblation of nature; but we distinguish agricultural from all other labor in this respect—it employs itself in the production of that without which no other labor could be prosecuted successfully, or indeed prosecuted at all.

Agriculture is not only peculiar in its eminent importance to all that sustains life and renders it desirable; another peculiarity suggests itself and solicits remark: Agricultural employments were prepared for man—preceded his creation; stood ready for him when he came pure and new from the hands of his Creator; received the first impress of his skill, and constituted his sole occupation during the short interval in which he sustained his primeval innocency—"And the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden, to dress it and to keep it."—It may indeed be said, that the command to *till* the ground was not given until Adam's disobedience had incurred the displeasure of the Almighty; yet the command itself implied that he had already acquired the knowledge *how* to *till*.

In every age of the world agricultural pursuits have been held in high esteem and honor.—Even in the darkness of those ages when a fanatic soldiery, a marauding and egotistical spirit of chivalry held control over every court and country; pretending to refinement; when the artizan, the merchant, and the manufacturer were indignantly