

the same time, and the variety of different and even opposite substances found out of the same ingredient, and almost at the same place, astonish and confound us. The order, too, and the skill with which everything is conducted, are no less surpassing. No two operations clash. There is no discord, no irregularity, no disturbance. Every object is gained, and everything is ready for its intended purpose."

The above may not be considered to have much connection with the practice of Agriculture, but we should very much regret if farmers did not feel an interest in reading such articles. We do not conceive it necessary to exclude from this Journal all matter that does not treat of the practice of husbandry, and we trust the subscribers will be better satisfied that we should give them a little variety, provided we do not meddle with political questions.

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AT METTRAY.

THE colony at Mettray, near Tours, about 150 miles from Paris, was founded in the spirit of the good Samaritan, which succors the wounded and forsaken traveller by the wayside, takes him home, and there nourishes and cherishes him. This establishment grew out of the compassion of two gentlemen of high rank and fortune, who were moved to essay what could be done for the rescue of unfortunate, condemned, and vagabond boys, to save them if possible from destruction, and give them the power of obtaining an honest living. It is not consistent with my plan, in this place, to go further into the account of the institution than as a *School of Agriculture*, though the directors propose three objects of instruction to qualify their pupils for farmers, sailors, or soldiers. The discipline of the institution is military. They have a full-rigged ship of ample size in the yard, that boys designed for a sea life may here take their first practical lessons; and they have a well-stocked farm of 500 acres, which is under direction to be cultivated by the pupils. The institution is situated in a healthy part of the country, and near a large market town. They employ an educated and experienced agriculturist as director of the farm. The first object is to render it productive, that it may go as far as it can be made to go towards defraying the expenses of the institution; the second, to instruct the boys in the best and most improved methods of husbandry.

The institution had its foundation in private subscription, and though in its commencement it had many difficulties to struggle with, it has now a firm establishment. Besides a farm,

there are connected with the institution a large garden, an extensive nursery, and a manufactory for the fabrication of all the implements, carriages, &c., which are used on the farm. The boys are likewise employed in the making of the shoes, caps, clothes, and bedding, which are required, and many fancy articles which serve for sale, and give them occupation, when by any circumstances they are prevented from out-door labor. The number of pupils is at present 450. It is not intended to keep them after sixteen, but they are willing to receive them at the earliest convenient age. I saw several not more than six or seven years old. They live in families of forty or fifty, in separate houses, under the care of a respectable man and his wife, who give them their whole time. This seemed to me a most judicious provision. They have a guardian with them in the fields, who always worked with them. Many of them have been condemned at courts of justice for some petty offence, and many of them, orphans and friendless, have been taken up in the streets in a condition of miserable vagabondage. The discipline of the institution is altogether moral and paternal. Confinement, abstinence, solitude, and disgrace constitute the chief punishments; but there are no whips, no blows, nor chains. It has been so far eminently successful. A boy, who had been earlier familiar with punishment and prisons, and now for some time a resident at Mettray, was asked, Why he did not run away from Mettray? His memorable answer was, "Because there are no bolts nor bars to prevent me."

When one looks at the innumerable herds of children, turned, as it were, adrift in a great city, not merely tempted, but actually instructed, stimulated and encouraged, in crime, and observes them gradually gathering in and borne onwards on the swift current with increasing rapidity to the precipice of destruction, until escape becomes almost impossible, how can we enough admire the combined courage, generosity, and disinterestedness, which plunges in that it may rescue some of these wretched victims from that frightful fate which seems all but inevitable? I do not know a more beautiful, and scarcely a more touching passage in the Holy Scriptures than that which represents the angels in heaven as rejoicing over a repenting and rescued sinner. It is, indeed, a ministry worthy of the highest and holiest spirits, to which the Supreme Source of all goodness and benevolence has imparted any portion of his Divine nature.

If we look at this institution even in a more humble and practical view, as affording a good education in the mechanical and agricultural arts, its great utility cannot be doubted; and much good seed will be sown here, which, under the blessing of God, is sure to return excellent and enduring fruits.