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EDUCATION FROM A FARMER'S STANDPOINT.*

It must have been a strange freak of fancy that prompted your President to ask me, an old farmer with hayseed in my hair, and whose tongue betrays a want of learning taught in schools, to stand up before this body of educated and trained teachers, and talk to them upon the subject of education from a farmer's standpoint or any other standpoint. It is barely possible that he wished to exhibit me as an object lesson, to show by contrast the needs and benefits of intellectual culture and scholastic training. I don't believe he would have asked me anyway had he ever seen me; but be that as it may, I am here and I am free to confess that my motives in coming are mainly selfish. The pleasure I hope and expect to derive from looking into your faces—to catch something of the inspiration that is always felt in the presence of an intelligent audience, to feel the sluggish blood in my veins flow quicker by that mysterious, subtle, magnetic influence which is inseparable from youth, these are motives that brought me here. But, if in addition to this I can say anything that shall give you a juster conception of what education is, or cause you to have a higher appreciation of the importance of your calling, or

* An address delivered by C. R. Beach, Esq., at the Educational Institute in Palmyra.