

tral structure, combine to give the whole a very singular appearance. Without architectural beauty, it nevertheless affects you with a sense of grandeur, which grows upon you as you gaze. Too many trees about the base detract from the general effect of the massive edifice, and not till you get to the very steps do you take in the whole building.

To attempt to tell all about Washington, at the end of a long and rambling article like this, would be very silly. Leaving the White House, Treasury, Smithsonian Institute, and other buildings, the Navy Yard, Potomac, Mount Vernon, and other attractions, let us end our rambles for the present by walking up to a new and spacious red-brick building, which occupies a commanding spot of ground southward of the city, presenting its broadside to Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington's chief thoroughfare. The edifice is reached by passing through what is to be a park when the trees grow, and what is already a spacious lawn and flower garden. As we near the building, we read over the main entrance, in rather modest looking letters, "AGRICULTURE." It is the official centre and headquarters of the farming interest in the U.S. The interior is fitted up for offices, museum, library, etc. Until within a year or so, agriculture was elbowed and jostled about in the Patent Office building, but now it boasts "a local habitation and a name" of its own. In the Commissioner's absence from the city, much polite attention was shown us by his deputy and chief clerk, Mr. McLain, also by the Government Entomologist, Mr. Townend Glover, and by Mr. Saunders, who has charge of the experimental and botanical gardens. To our surprise, we found the department only in a partial state of organization, and crippled in its efforts to be useful by stinted grants of public money. It is a bureau of statistics, crop reports, and agricultural information, but little more as yet. There is the beginning of what bids fair to be a very complete, well-arranged museum, that cannot fail to be of great service to the country. The officers of the department have broad and comprehensive ideas of what might and ought to be done by them for the agriculture of the Great Republic, but thus far "chill penury" has "repressed their noble zeal." The members of Congress and Senate are politicians, not farmers. They don't appre-

ciate the importance of agriculture as underlying the pillars of the State. They vote money freely in other directions, but only give it in dribbles to promote agriculture. So it is too much all over the civilized world. Governments and statesmen undervalue the farming interest, though "the profit of the earth is for all," and "the king himself is served by the field."

The department issues, all through the growing season, a monthly report of the weather and crops, embracing returns from all parts of the Union. These returns are made as a labour of love by some competent person in each county, who is nominated to the department by the Local Agricultural Society, or by the member of Congress for the district. The only remuneration given is a free copy of the monthly and annual reports of the department. Monthly schedules are sent to these correspondents, filled in mostly by the use of a scale of numbers, and from them the reports are compiled. Have we not, in every county or electoral division, some farmer as intelligent and patriotic as these correspondents of the U.S. Department of Agriculture? Then only organization and arrangement are needed to secure for us also regular crop returns. We have for years been in receipt of these monthly reports from the U.S., and supposed them to be prepared at great expense, when lo! so far as the correspondence is concerned, it is done almost gratis.

The park about the departmental building is to be an arboretum, and already considerable progress has been made in laying out and planting it. Extensive greenhouses are to be built next year. The experimental garden has long been in operation, and under Mr. Saunders' able management (a Scotchman, by the way—in boyhood, schoolmate and co-wrestler of Mr. David Murray, of Hamilton, to whom we bear and hereby present his respects), is crowded with all manner of trees and plants, as it may well be, for it only comprises five acres. Here we had an opportunity of seeing and testing many fruits, of which we only knew the names previously, and were especially interested in examining a number of varieties of grapes, planted in our own grounds, which have not yet fruited with us. Among these were Adirondac, Perkins, Creveling, Martha, Allen's Hybrid and Diana. We were glad to see Mr. Arnold's new hybrids flourishing well, but only Brant and Cornucopia had fruit on them, and these but a bunch or so each. Mr. Saunders has a high opinion of these hybrids, and believes they will prove valuable acquisitions. Among much else that interested us were two horticultural "winkles," with the mention of which we suspend at least for the present these rambles. Mr. Saunders prevents mildew by a slight board roof at the top of his grape trellises, and grows dwarf peaches in wooden boxes, made 10 feet long of three ten-inch boards, which are carried out of doors in early summer, and put in the greenhouse or cellar for the winter. He thinks these expedients may be tried successfully in Canada. So do we.