

ations to agricultural advancement from the State Treasury, is less than that given to three of your colleges, where less than two hundred students yearly graduate. Appropriations amounting to more than \$500,000 of public money have been made by law for the endowment of colleges; and your Literature Fund is still annually drawn upon to the amount of \$15,000 in contributing to their support, while their halls remain a sealed book to him who looks only to agriculture as the profession of his life; and of the thousands who there receive the bounty of the State in aid of their education not a tithe of them in the course of their lives add a dollar to the physical or productive wealth of the country. The common school, or the village academy is the only institution where the young farmer gains admittance; and even there, as at present constituted, he hardly acquires an idea of the rudest elements of his future profession, or of those studies which properly belong to it.

These remarks are not made in a querulous or fault-finding temper. It is right that we have colleges, and academies for the few who aspire to the higher walks of professional or scientific life, as well as common schools for the million. No State can be well, or wisely constituted without them, and I would not abate one jot or tittle from the wholesome support which a broad and liberal system of education demands. But we should claim, and insist, that departments devoted to agricultural teaching, or to the development of agricultural science, should be established, either as branches of our seats of learning, or as independent institutions. Why should not the farmer be educated to the top of his faculties, as well as those who select what are termed the learned professions as their pursuits? If our sons cannot be taught the education they seek in the colleges—and there are well grounded doubts of this fact from the moral malaria too often existing within and around them—institutions for their sole education should be aided, or erected, and endowed by the State. This subject has been annually debated in your meetings for years past: but influenced by a strange timidity, no decided action beyond a formal and altogether harmless expression of opinion has been effected. I beseech you, gentlemen, to look to this matter. The real and personal property of this State is more than one thousand millions of dollars. Nominally, in the assessors' returns, it is rated at less than 650 millions. In these returns, it is notorious that real estate is not assessed at over two-thirds its real value, and it is safe to say, that owing to the imperfect and partial system of taxation, not one-half the personal property of the State, comparatively little of which is held by the farmer, is taxed at all; and in its practical operation, agricultural capital pays two to one over that devoted to other purposes. Yet with all this burthen on its back, the farming interest either stands back from your halls of legislation abashed, although

nominally represented there by its members; or if plucking a momentary courage by the congregation of its numbers on an occasion like the present, it literally shrinks away, either ashamed to ask its rights, or if asking, couched in such a subdued tone of humility, that the Legislature scarce believe you in earnest. This, gentlemen, is your attitude before the temporary power which you create to govern you! Contrast it with the conduct of those who seek a different kind of favour at its hands. Watch the thousands of applicants for corporate, and exclusive privileges, and State patronage, who have in times past besieged your halls of legislation. With what confidence they approach and lay siege to the law-making power; and how like "sturdy beggars" they persevere, till, right or wrong, their importunities are granted. And in parenthesis I might continue to mark, that the history of our corporate legislation is monstrous. Some years by gone, and banking charters were the only subject of moment before these bodies; and that legislator who did not go home with more or less of the promised shares of a successful application in his pocket, was considered as but a dull financier, or strongly suspected of having what, in private life, is called—a conscience! In later time, it has been asserted that railroad corporations have controlled your Legislatures—ridden into their seats by aid of free tickets; and contemporary with them, had we farmers caught the spirit of the day, and adopted characteristic weapons of success, each one of us would have appeared with a sheep on his back, or a truss of poultry at his elbow, to lunch them into acquiescence!

Among the benefits arising from well directed Agricultural education, aside from spreading the requisite learning and intelligence applicable to the chief pursuit of our people, deep and abroad among them, the retention of that portion of active capital, acquired by the industry of our Agricultural population, among themselves, would be one important consequence. In place of the prevailing and mistaken notion that monied capital invested in agriculture is either unproductive, or less so than in other pursuits, our farmers would be taught that, coupled with the knowledge to direct it, no branch of our national industry is so steadily remunerating as that connected with the soil—a fact now practically disbelieved; or why would such amounts of monied capital be continually drawn from the agricultural districts to your commercial cities, to be embarked in hazardous enterprises, or doubtful investments? The merchant, or the speculator may fail—and fail he does, very often—and in his downfall is often buried the toils of a long life of patient industry. But who ever knew a good farmer, of prudent habits, to fail? Nay, who did not, with an exemption from extraordinary ills in life, ultimately grow rich, and discharge meantime, all the duties of a good citizen? I concede to you the many prominent ca-