

familiar to you, that a general set of your population, like a great moving tide, is carrying them towards the south and west—so that the old tillage and crops of one year are often deserted by the mover for a new form of tillage, and the culture of new crops in the next—you will see how useful to the shifting agriculturist himself it must be, and how beneficial to the whole community, that he should possess some degree of familiarity with those principles, not only of Geology to which I have already made especial allusion, but of Chemistry and Botany also, which enable him in whatever circumstances of soil, of climate or of tillage he is placed, to make the most of the advantages he happens to possess—to overcome most easily and most economically the difficulties he may have to encounter—and to employ at once his head and hands with skill in bettering his local condition.

As an agricultural people, you possess many advantages over the nations of Europe. You are not old enough to have acquired district and state prejudices, which are difficult to overcome, and which in many parts of Europe, long opposed, successfully, the importation of improvements from abroad.

I may mention, as a most intelligible illustration, the introduction of implements imported from other countries, which in Europe is a very slow process. The swing plough of Scotland, for example, has made its way into many districts of England, has been extensively introduced into some parts of France, Holland, Sweden, and even into Poland and Russia. But into Germany, where attachment to the old tools and methods is so very strong, it makes its way very tardily. And I advert to this instrument—this fundamental instrument, I may call it, of the practical farmer—because I find it mentioned to your credit, by a German writer, that the swing plough has had a much more willing and ready reception among you than among his own countrymen, and that Germany has already received many excellent swing ploughs from America.* I have seen plough irons of Scottish manufacture, in use in various parts of North America. It is said that plough irons in considerable quantities are now exported from the States in considerable numbers to England.

Whatever is good in other countries, you are very much in a condition to adopt at once. You have, as I have said, fewer old forms to break through, old methods to abandon, old tools to lay aside, and old rules and regulations to abolish. Above all, as proprietors, you work every man for himself and for the profit of his family.—Not only are feudal superiorities, servitudes, serfdom and tithes, unknown among you, but even rents are not, as with us, to be made up on two dark days of every year. What ought to stand in the way then of your rapid progress in this most important art?

Another great advantage possessed by the agriculturists of this country, you will both understand and estimate. As a nation you commence your agricultural career at a point which we have attained. The eminence which we have reached after long climbing, you start from. You have the benefit of all our knowledge and experience, and—unwearied with previous labor, or satisfied with the idea, as too many of our farmers are, that you have already done very much—you must progress beyond what we have at present attained to. And with the intellect and energy you inherit, you must and will progress. It cannot fail indeed to prove a great blessing to mankind at large, that so many new minds, unfettered by old restraints of prejudice or partial legislation, or conventional custom, are now directed in this country towards the varied arts of social life. Especially must intellectual exertion on your part, in refer-

ence to any of the arts of life, benefit us in Great Britain—whom a common parentage, individual ties of blood, and a unity of speech, connect, and whom now the broad Atlantic, more than bridged over, almost brings together again into a common home. What you think, reacts upon our thoughts; what you speak, intensely affects our speech; and your literature and ours, are read and have their influence in both countries. What each discovers sooner becomes the property of the other, than in the case of nations who speak different tongues; and a step in advance on either side of the Atlantic, carries the arts of the other side along with it. We are not selfish—perhaps I might say we are eminently unselfish—in wishing you to become agricultural improvers. But of all the arts, it may be said more truly of agriculture than of any other, that it is of no country. The producer of the common staff of human life, ought in all its perfection, to be the common property of all. In rivalling each other in our endeavours to push forward this highest art of life, Britain and America will be striving only which can do most for the human race. And if we in Britain should benefit hereafter by the advances you are destined to make,—beyond what you have obtained from us,—it will enable us only the more speedily to aid in diffusing a knowledge of these advances among the other nations of the globe.

What is the moral of this discourse, what its immediate application to you whom I have the honor to address?

Is there improvement any where—let it be seen among you. Is there agricultural progress any where—you ought not to stand still. Are there means of bettering the modes of culture any where—you possess the same. Is there greater knowledge any where—it is within your reach. Is there energy and determination any where—these qualities are inherited in as great strength by you as by any other people. Is the climate favourable any where for special kinds of culture—you possess all climates, and may take a leaf from the farming book of every country. Is knowledge necessary any where—it is so among you; if not because of an over-crowded, yet because of a constantly moving, and at present rather retrograde agricultural population.

And if in consequence of its progressive tendency, the Teuton blood of the Anglo-Saxon shade, is destined, as some believe, to conquer and possess this vast continent from sea to sea: it is surely the wish and purpose of the Deity, that such possession should be made a source of happiness both to the ruling and to the ruled, and a means of furthering at the same time, that general advancement of the human race which all philanthropists so ardently anticipate.

But this conjoined happiness and pregression demand the constant aids of augmenting knowledge. In your western migrations, you must bear with you, to plant on your new soil, the arts and sciences and daily discoveries of the east; and thus will population and civilization extend together to the shores of the wide Pacific.

And among the branches of knowledge which you will most carefully carry with you, those which relate to the arts of rural life, will, above all others, contribute largely to the temporal welfare of your spreading people. That which we know in England, you soon learn to master and apply here; and what is known in the Empire State, ought, in like manner, to diffuse itself hence over the vast dominions of your great confederacy.

Though I have considered it my duty, in conformity with your request, to lay before you the observations I have put together in the present address—it would be presumptuous in me, after what I have seen in this show-yard, and in this city, to suppose that any thing I could say, would materially hasten the progress of agriculture among you, or turn you into any better paths than those you have already begun to follow. If any

* *Ueber Englische Landwirtschaft von A. von Weckertin.* Stuttgart, 1845. p. 81.