

which in most other pursuits, is only a doubtful calculation.

Taking the accumulation of riches into account, if the farmer does not accumulate as rapidly as an occasional chance speculation in Commerce, it is, nevertheless, *more certain*. Commerce is liable to be overdone, so that bankruptcy is the inevitable consequence. Manufactures may be carried to too great an extent, so that capital invested in them will remain idle or unproductive,—operatives thrown out of employment, and want and suffering inevitably follow. But while the earth is peopled, food must be provided. This is exclusively the province of the farmer; and while man is constituted as he now is, the Agriculturist will have an unfailing market for all he can produce. Nor can manufactures be carried on without the raw material, which for most articles must be provided by the farmer. 'Tis true an abundant harvest may reduce, to some extent the prices of produce, but instead of this being regarded as a calamity, it should be looked upon with gratitude, as a blessing of Providence. The Agriculturist, then, is certain to obtain a competency.

Another consideration of vast importance is that a competency, when once obtained, is more secure. In Cities, men who invest their money in houses, frequently suffer heavy losses by fires, and certain loss by inevitable decay. Commerce is at the mercy of the winds and waves, and an unfavorable turn in the markets, often strips men engaged in mercantile pursuits, of all they possess. Risks of this kind are not incurred, to any great extent by the Agriculturist. Farmers can get their property insured against fire at a rate far below what is paid in cities; and if a farmer is utterly ruined, it is usually done by "*endorsing for a friend*," or frequenting the bar-room. In a word, the farmer is the only man in the world who can combine, within himself, those pre-requisites to happiness which "lie in three words," and which are so often quoted, namely: "*Health, Peace, and Competence*."

Third,—Agriculture is a pursuit favorable to the improvement of the mind. The alleged ignorance of farmers is proverbial. I will meet this objection at the beginning. The Agriculturist may be ignorant of the intricacies of Statute law, or the conflicted creeds and hair-splitting disputes of Theologians. The technicalities of science, and the almost imperceptible inductions of speculative philosophy, may be to him a sealed book. But he is, nevertheless, well acquainted with the *principles of justice*, and in the Courts of Law we invariably find the farmers of the Counties composing the juries, who are in the end to decide on the facts of causes and the conflicting testimony of witnesses. The volumes of nature and revealed religion are spread out

before him. He worships with a simple and unaffected piety. The growth and formation of plants are among his familiar subjects of observation and study: he is, in fact, a botanist without understanding, it is true, the technicalities of Linnæus. The nature and the peculiar habits of the various animals that compose his stock are well understood, and all the operations of a well regulated farm, exact in themselves, beautiful in their combined operation, and beneficial in their tendency, require to be matured and directed by a single mind.

The mere book-worm may sneer at the farmer's poverty of language. The Lawyer may sometimes rejoice that his client is ignorant of the technicalities of Law. But let no one suppose that the genuine Agriculturist is the ignorant, imbecile *thing* he is so often represented. He can boast of his *practical* intelligence; an intelligence that empowers labor to create a garden in the wilderness; that founds empires, where only the wild beasts formerly roamed. The pioneers of every land, before whose efforts the forests melt away; beneath whose hands the earth is clothed, as if by magic, with a robe of loveliness, are all farmers. They bring forth from the bosom of the earth, the bread that supports the teeming millions of this world, and by their ceaseless activity and unyielding perseverance create that capital which is the sure foundation of a nation's greatness, and "*the only riches she can call her own*."

I do not wish to be misunderstood; far be it from me to insinuate that Agriculturists do not require their minds to be enlarged by the various branches of science, and particularly those that more immediately relate to farming. I believe that with a proper system of common schools to lay the foundation, there is no occupation so conducive to intellectual and moral improvement as Agriculture. The fields of the farmer constitute a grand Laboratory, in which nature performs her work, and where the intelligent mind can find sources of improving thought, and volumes of the most valuable instruction. And in the calm retirement of his quiet home, the farmer, whose mind is properly trained, can scan the movements of conflicting parties, the turmoil and excitement and confusion of politics, and in the hour of danger, as well as of peace, becomes the sheet anchor of his country.

Agriculture was devised by the Creator as the means of support for his creatures, and in its time-honored pursuit, the farmer, in the beautiful language of one of England's greatest bards, will find—

"Tongues in trees,  
Books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones,  
And good in every thing."