

## AGRICULTURE HONORABLE.

In the history of Moses we read that Cain was a "tiller of the ground," and "that Noah began to be a husbandman and planted a vineyard." The Chinese, Japanese, Chaldeans, Egyptians and Phœnicians, or Philistines, of the Old Testament, all appear to have held farming or husbandry in the highest estimation; and strange as it may seem, it is no less true, that the two first named nations are far ahead of any other nation at the present time in a number of material points which are necessary to what is called high farming.

In China, so highly is agriculture held in esteem, that the Emperor annually, at the beginning of their year, goes to a field in person, in a common cart, painted green, and in presence of the Princess of the blood royal, of the officers of state, and first mandarins of the empire, holds the plough for a time.

The ancient Persians also made it customary for their kings, once a month, to sit at table with a party of practical husbandmen.

The ancient Romans are looked upon as the most warlike people that ever existed, and very little investigation has ever been made into the cause. A judicious writer says that the Romans were conquerors because they were cultivators of the soil, and that their love of war arose from their attachment to agriculture and the independence and felicity which is enjoyed in that mode of life; and the history of Rome from its earli-

est to its latest period, exhibits proofs that the labors of agriculture, even when unattended by riches, were held in higher estimation than they have ever been by any other European nation. It was in consequence of the high honor in which the profession was held that the Romans, after they had made great conquests, still employed as their consuls, dictators and commanders of mighty armies, men who were in the habit of supporting themselves by holding the plough upon their own lands. To prove this, it is unnecessary to relate the stories of Lucius Cincinnatus and Marcus Regulus, which almost every school boy has pat upon his tongue.

In these fast railroad days, there is a vast deal of self-glorification respecting the great progress of the present time. We assume to have first discovered and applied to husbandry the various processes of irrigation, draining, manuring, liming, marling, and also rotation of crops and cattle feeding; nay, we boast of having made the plough the perfect implement which it now is; improved from the crooked stump in use some six hundred years ago. We also speak of having improved a great many of the tools used in the arts; and last, though not least, we go about babbling respecting our triumphs in the building of splendid public edifices; and what are the facts of the case? The Persians irrigated and drained their lands 2,400 years, as also did the Milanese 900 years,