

delay, for their adoption. The following is copied from the address we have referred to:—

And it may be well inquired, why is this so? Agriculture occupies four-fifths of the laboring population of the land. From the agricultural ranks have sprung many of the most illustrious names whose services have adorned and honored their country. From its ranks, too, have perhaps a majority of the most successful among those engaged in the various other pursuits and occupations of life arisen. In short, there can be no class of our population which affords so sure a basis on which to rely for an infusion into all other pursuits to the durable prosperity of a State as the agricultural. Such is the gratifying truth; and it is to the health-giving influences of the soil itself; the free wild air of heaven that he breathes; cheerful exercise and occupation; contentment; and the full, unrestrained enjoyment of man's first estate bestowed by God himself, that thus constitutes in him who tills the soil, the full development of his faculties in all the admirable proportions of body and of mind that his Creator intended. Notwithstanding all this, the question still recurs, and may be variously answered. The very ease and contentment of condition in the farmer, is one probable cause of his inactivity in improvement. The quietude of his avocations prevents that constant attention of mind inseparable from the bustling activity of most other pursuits; and the certainty with which the soil yields its annual tribute to his labor, dispels that spirit of investigation common to classes the result of whose labors is contingent or uncertain. Nor yet is the farmer an ignorant, or a slothful man. In the great responsibilities of life—in domestic duty—in love of country—in the orderly support of the institutions of the land—in stern watchfulness over the acts of those he has placed in authority, and in that exalted patriotism which is ever ready for the heaviest sacrifice to the benefit of his race, he, as a class stands without a rival. And yet, possessed of all these qualities, and enjoying all these advantages, the absence of the spirit of association, leaves him in effect the least benefitted at the hands of those he elects to govern him, of all others.

Who invents, improves, and perfects the plow, and all the nameless implements which alleviate his toil and accelerate his labor? Who analyzes his soils, instructs him in their various qualities, and teaches him how to mix and manure them for the most profitable cultivation? The mechanic—the chemist. Who, ascertaining that his seeds are imperfect and unprofitable, searches foreign lands for new or better ones, and introduces them to his notice? The commercial adventurer, or the travelled man of enquiry and observation. Who, on comparing the inferior domestic animals which he propagates, and in whose growth and fattening he loses half his toil and the food they consume, sends abroad, regard-

less of expense, and introduces the best breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine for his benefit? In nine cases out of ten these labors and benefactions—and their name is legion—are performed by those whose occupations have been chiefly in other channels, and whose agricultural tastes have led them into the spirit of improving it. And in how many examples have we witnessed the apathy, if not determined opposition with which the farmer proper—or at least he who claims to be one—has set his face like flint against their adoption, even after their superiority had been demonstrated beyond a question!

So, too, with the farmers education. They have been content that the resources and the bounty of the State should be lavished upon the higher seats of learning, where the more aspiring of our youth should receive their benefits, not caring even to inquire whether such youth should again return among them to reflect back the knowledge thus acquired. They have failed to demand from the common treasury of the State those necessary institutions which shall promote their own particular calling, and which every other pursuit and profession in the land has been most active to accomplish. In all this the latter have progressed with railway speed; while the farming interest has stood still with folded arms, and done comparatively nothing; and what good has been forced upon it by others, even regarded with suspicion. It is not because we as farmers, compared with others, are either ignorant or stupid. We only neglect to assert our rights, and appropriate the share to which we are entitled in the common patronage of the State to the benefit of our own professions. It is for us to ask—to will—to do it. We hold the power of the State by our numbers. We can control the halls of legislation. We can so direct the laws that we may share equal advantages in our institutions with others. We desire nothing exclusively to our own advantage, but we do deserve an equal participation in those institutions established for the common benefit of all.

If a practical inference may be drawn from the thoughts thus desultorily thrown together, it would be that, from a history of the past, and the condition of our agriculture as it now exists, we demand that our profession shall be placed within the reach of equal advantages for improvement that are now enjoyed by other professions.

Agricultural education should attract largely your attention; and it is a subject which will bear a little examination. The pittance of \$8,000 a year is now doled out of our public treasury, a bare recognition only of the importance and value of agricultural associations, of which the stipend of \$700 is paid to your Society. To call this State bounty, which we in courtesy do, is little better than mockery. Forty thousand dollars a year would now be less, compared with the wealth and resources of the State, than \$10,000 in 1819. Why, gentlemen, the annual appropri-