

climate, elevation above the sea, low prices, distance from markets, and so on; but to those social and class obstacles which, in so many places, and in so many ways, interfere not only with the rapid extension of our knowledge, but with the diffusion of what we already possess as to the application of science to the rural arts. I may enumerate as belonging to obstacles of this kind:

1st. The aversion to theory, as it is called, which is so generally professed by practical farmers in most countries of the world. Rash and hasty theorising in regard to agriculture, it is right to reject; the error lies in confounding with such theory every thing that does not appear to bear directly upon the more common operations of the farm—as if chemistry, or the chemist for example, could be of no use to the farmer, because he does not interfere with the handling of the plough—or with the shape and management of the drill machine, or the harrow.

2d. The small amount of talent hitherto in all countries considered necessary to fit a man to become an excellent farmer. This not only lowers the general education and attainments of the agricultural class, and the estimation in which they are held—but it unfits them, as a body, readily to appreciate the labors, or to listen to the counsels of men of science, however prudent and practical they may be.

3d. The special deficiency, among all grades of the agricultural community, (in England among landlords, among tenants and among laborers,) of any instruction in the elementary parts of those branches of knowledge by which the principles of agriculture are especially illustrated.

4th. The extreme sub-division of the land, which you may not see in this country for many generations, but which already exists as a great evil in some of the countries of Europe. It prevents the use of improved implements, and therefore the encouragement of agricultural mechanics—because the farmer is too poor to buy anything but the merest necessities. It prevents also the purchase of manures, natural or artificial, to any extent—the employment of paid labor in farming—and generally all those forms of improvement which demand an outlay of capital, or to which the occupation of a considerable breadth of land is a necessary prerequisite.

5th. An obstacle peculiar to your country, and to its present transition state—and it is really a serious obstacle to improvement—is the feeble local attachment by which the proprietors of the more newly settled districts are bound to their farms. This appears in the fact that so many of your farms are for sale. Few families have yet become so attached to their locations as to be unwilling to sell them, if a fair offer be made. The head of the family trusts to his own skill to do better elsewhere for all his household, with the money for which they may be sold. This state of things will pass away as age creeps over your commonwealths and institutions, but in the meantime it operates as a serious hindrance to the expenditure of money in embellishment or in costly improvements, which might possibly not enhance, in a proportionate degree, the value of these properties in the market.

I merely mention these social obstacles, for although some of them do, as I am informed, exist to a certain extent in this State of New York, yet I would rather express my high opinion of the much good I have found among you, than appear to detract from your just deserts, by discovering and commenting upon wants and defects which in your hurry to get forward, you have as yet scarcely had time to discover, much less to supply or remove.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.—Of the good I see, for example, I may specify the enlightened desire exhibited by your

several State governments, to promote the applications of science to your home agriculture, as it is strikingly shown in the numerous surveys and reports which they have caused to be made and published, in respect to the geology and agricultural capabilities of the several parts of the Union. In this respect your State of New York occupies a most distinguished position, and its inhabitants will no doubt reap from their well directed exertions, a rich harvest of deserved fruit.

Again—in this great Agricultural Fair, the implements and stock here exhibited, the countless numbers who have entered the show yard to see them, and who now surround us—impress upon a foreign visitor, the obvious usefulness and efficient management of your Agricultural Societies, how much they are doing, and how zealously they are supported. To those at a distance, who cannot look upon you with their own eyes, your annual publications speak. I have myself been both interested and instructed by the former volumes of the Transactions of your Society, and I have heard them, in a public meeting in Scotland, most highly spoken of, and favorably contrasted with the published proceedings, even of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. It gives me pleasure to express my opinion, that the volume for the present year is not only equal to its predecessors, but contains matter highly creditable to the Society, and useful to the advancement of scientific agriculture.

Farther—The interest which, as individuals, you take in the promotion of agriculture, by the acquisition and application of new knowledge, may be gathered from two circumstances—first, from the establishment and liberal endowment of chairs of science in connection with agriculture, by private parties, in two, at least, of your state universities—a liberality at once most patriotic and most judiciously applied; and second, from the causes which led to the recent visit to Europe of your countryman, Mr. COLMAN. Him we were led to look upon as a deputy from the individual farmers of this and the adjoining states, to the farmers and agricultural assemblies of Great Britain—for it was your individual encouragement and subscriptions, I believe, and those of your societies, which induced and enabled him to come among us. As your deputy, he was every where received—every where kindly, I believe, as so kind hearted a man deserved to be—and every where with a desire to give him the fullest information on every subject that might be useful to you.

Gentlemen, in the minds of some of your countrymen whom I have met, not so I hope in yours, a wrong impression exists as to the feelings of my countrymen towards you as a community, or as individuals. We do not envy or regret your rapid growth and prosperity as a people—we are proud of it. We do not dislike you individually—we are predisposed, rather, to see good in you and to like you. Whatever sour men on either side of the water may say, you may rest assured that there is a corner in almost every heart at home, which especially warms towards the North American, whether from the Colonies or from the States, and a warm seat at many a fire side, if he will come and occupy it. It may be old fashioned, gentlemen, but we all still think at home that blood is thicker than water, and if any of you doubt it we beg you, like Mr. COLMAN, to come among us, and honestly and frankly to try whether it is so or not.

If I were asked to give a special reason why a knowledge of the scientific principles of agriculture is more necessary among you than among any other existing people, I would mention the great extent of your territorial dominion, and the varied soils, climates and cultures, which your people encounter, as your dominion over the forest and prairies extends. When you take this fact in connection with another, which is no less