

THE O. A. C. REVIEW.

THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

VOL. IV.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH, OCTOBER, 1892.

No. 1.

A CHAT WITH OUR READERS.

ANOTHER year now belongs to the past, and a new college year is fairly opened before us. Another batch of "freshies" are fairly initiated, while we look in vain for many a familiar form that is now numbered among the ex-students. Though we do not wish to make them conceited, we must confess that the "freshies" are not a bad-looking lot, and when they have been under the civilizing influence of their seniors for a few months, we believe they will develop into something worth being proud of, and the prospects of the REVIEW for the next year or two are certainly bright.

Perhaps the first thing to attract the attention of our old readers is the change in form of the REVIEW. This change was deemed advisable for various reasons which need not be specified here, but we trust that it may meet the approval of our readers; for though perhaps not quite so artistic as the old form, yet it is neat and attractive, while we are firm believers in the doctrine that the contents of a paper are of much greater importance than its style.

We need scarcely say that one of the main objects of our paper is to serve as a bond between ex-students and their alma mater, and consequently it furnishes considerable college news. But, while this is the case, we shall do our best to make the REVIEW of interest to outsiders, and humbly trust that it may be the means of inducing some to partake of the advantages of the institution which it represents.

But now comes the most painful part of our duty. Editors are proverbial for their modesty, and we are no exception to the rule; and it is almost needless to state that it grieves us beyond measure to be forced to mention such a sordid matter as money; but we must descend to it, no matter how much we may suffer.

You know the good book intimates that money is the root of all evil, and we may add that it is also the root of all newspapers, college or otherwise. Now please do not draw any unpleasant inferences just here—but surely no one would think of associating "evil" with a college paper! Be that as it may, unless the root is sufficient, the foliage is sure to suffer. This, by way of introduction; now for the facts.

Last year we sent out a large number of copies, and asked those who did not wish to subscribe to kindly let us know. As silence intimates consent, we continued to send to those who did not refuse, and waited for their remittance; but we are sorry to say that we are still waiting for a large number of those remittances, and we fear we shall continue to wait until doomsday, and then it is highly probable that we shall not need them. We are also sorry to say that, in consequence of the above, our printer had also to do some waiting; but, somehow or other, he did not seem to be able to wait with the same degree of equa-

nimity that we could. At any rate, for some time he was not the pleasantest person in the world to interview. This year, however, we think we see our way clear to pay as we go, providing we receive from ex-students a fair portion of the support we may reasonably expect.

If, then, when you receive a copy of this paper, you feel that you cannot subscribe, we ask you with the utmost good nature to send us word; but, as we are giving our time and labor gratis, we shall feel wonderfully encouraged and strengthened by your support, and will use every effort to return value for the money received.

Before closing we wish to apologize for the lateness of this first copy; but, owing to several unavoidable changes, it was impossible to send it to press any sooner. In a short time we expect to have things running smoothly, when the REVIEW may be expected to visit you regularly.



AGRICULTURE AS AN OCCUPATION.*

THAT art on which a thousand millions of men are dependant for their sustenance, and two hundred millions expend their daily toil, must be the most important of all the parent and precursor of all other arts.

We are gathered to-day for the purpose of introducing to the practice of scientific agriculture a band of earnest candidates. Can we do better, therefore, than consider its position amongst the occupations of man; the advantages and disadvantages attendant upon its pursuance?

In reviewing the past history of agriculture we find that though it is the oldest of all occupations, our knowledge of its rise and progress is extremely limited, being confined to the writings of one or two historians.

In Judea the wealth consisted largely of flocks and herds, yet agriculture was not neglected; for we read that Job possessed five hundred yoke of oxen, which he used in tillage, and a very great husbandry. Upon the entrance of the Israelites into the promised land the country was divided equally amongst the adult males, giving to each man about twenty-five acres. This land, naturally fertile, was so carefully cultivated, that crops of an hundred fold were sometimes even exceeded.

The literature of Greece says little regarding agriculture, but the evidence left us testifies to its high state of perfection.

The Romans were a purely agricultural people, commerce and art occupying, in their estimation, but a secondary place; and it is not too much to assert that many of those qualities which fitted them for conquering the world, were acquired and nourished by the practice of this noble avocation.

During the early period of European history, the practice of agriculture, owing to civil wars and the tyranny of land-lords, fell into disfavor, and the farmer was treated with great contempt. In the 16th century, however, it partook of the general improvement which followed the revival of learning: from this time we have an authentic his-

*Valedictory address, delivered by J. A. S. Burns, at the closing exercises of the Ontario Agricultural College, June 28th, 1892.