

among those engaged in any particular occupation, certain common characteristics, the result of common influences which have acted upon them. For this reason, when we meet a man, we can often tell, by his very appearance and manner, whether he is a lawyer, or a cobbler, or a grocer.

Then, recognizing the fact that every occupation has a certain specific influence upon the men engaged in it, let us examine agriculture, with a view to seeing the conditions operating there, that we may understand what kind of man the farmer ought to be.

Agriculture is a calling that demands both head and hand, "a sound mind in a sound body." The one who would succeed, must work with his head, even more than with his hands. The decreasing natural fertility of the soil, and the keen competition brought about by improved transportation, have made farming more and more an occupation requiring a high degree of intelligence. The farmer needs to bring to bear upon the problems of the soil, a sound knowledge of scientific principles, and he must possess much common sense, as to the method of applying these. Thus we see, that farming is an occupation that demands, for the best success, a large amount of mental effort. It also opens up, to the men who follow it thoughtfully, many broad fields of thought, touching as it does, upon most of the more important branches of science. This being the case, we should expect to find men engaged in it with broad and strong minds, and with powers of observation and comparison trained to a high degree of excellence by the necessity of intelligently observing and comparing the many natural phenomena that are constantly brought to their notice.

Besides this tendency of agriculture, to produce men with strong minds, we find in it forces which tend to mould men's characters in a characteristic way. The farmer is the most independent of men. He is entirely his own master, and is under the command of no man. He is not under tribute to public opinion in the small things of life, as most men are who are brought constantly into contact with their fellows. This independence, while it makes the farmer rough and uncouth in some ways, produces a fine manliness of bearing, and independence of thought, which are, and ought to be, characteristic marks of the profession. Then too, the very solitude of his life should