

dorse the following:—Many practical farmers, who have been taught in the best of schools, that of experience—decline to write for the press because they have not received the education of scholars, and do not write in a smooth and elegant style. If they were solicited to contribute to the columns of literary papers, where style often passes for more than thought, this might be a legitimate excuse. But writers for the agricultural press need only two things, neither of which is dependent upon the graces of mere literature: 1st. Something to say; and 2nd. A few clear, plain words in which to say it. If our rural friends will bear these two points in mind, they may write to us often as they have a leisure half hour, and we will stand all consequences. Nay, we solicit them to do so. We dare them to write us out of patience, if they think they can. We challenge them to put more interesting facts in a brief communication than we can publish. We defy them to write in language so plain that we cannot understand it. Let us see, now, which one of them will take up this gauntlet first.

### PROSPECTS OF AGRICULTURE.

There is now no doubt in the minds of the greater number of politicians that the immense advances in commerce, manufactures, and mines, and especially the great extension of colonization in regions not agricultural, as California and Australia, must give a permanent stimulus to the culture of the soil, and enhance the value of all its products. Raw material produced from the soil, and the bulky articles of human food, are becoming scarce, in comparison with money and manufactured articles; and just as for the last half century human progress required constant attention to the advancement of the mechanic arts, so now men must, to meet the increasing want of food and raw materials, devote increased attention to agriculture; and the farmer should endeavour to extend and improve his culture to meet the new demands made upon him. Agriculture is in truth "looking up" in the world of trade, and if we can produce in an economical and profitable manner, the bread stuffs, the meat, the hides, the hemp and flax, the sugar, and multitudes of other things that commerce is now searching the world for, we need not despair of agricultural prosperity. We copy the following remarks on this subject from the *Boston Traveller*:

In the prospect which is now favorable for the gradual disappearance of the disease which has affected several important crops, there need be little fear of any dangerous or

damaging social or political revolution in Europe. Dynasties may change, and modifications of governments occur, but in this era of trade, neither the fanatic radical, nor the despotic tyrant, nor any oppressive class aristocracy, will dare to oppress or even interfere with industrial labor, enterprise and capital. Politicians may rise with every new moon and fade into oblivion with its wane, but none of them will dare to molest the industrial and business interests of the times, and these will one day become powerful enough to invade and take possession of every stronghold of political tyranny and religious bigotry in all the great nations of the world.

A good harvest in Europe and the United States, at the present juncture, will give an unwonted stimulus to industry and wealth, and spread faster and farther their overwhelming power in renovating or destroying the barbarian and semi-civilized races with which they chance to come in contact, as well as people and bring into cultivation many now unvisited wilderness wastes.

But while, on the one hand, there is not likely to be any disastrous reaction in the business world, consequent upon the expansion of paper credits; on the other there will certainly be some disappointment in regard to the profits which will flow from this rapidly growing and widely extending business. Under this system competition periodically reduces the remuneration of capital and enterprise below that secured to labor. It is this which makes the system dangerous in old and popular countries, that have no new lands upon which to colonise redundant population in the towns and cities, in these crises of overtrading.

The income of commercial and manufacturing capital is now in many cases below that of agricultural labor, and an equalizing process must soon commence. The agricultural interest throughout the world is now in the ascendant. The patient Asiatics are draining Europe of all its silver to pay for their products; and the growers of tropical productions and of breadstuffs are monopolizing all the new found gold which has been so abundantly scattered abroad.

Either agriculture must soon be reinforced by recruits from the ranks of the army of adventurers employed in manufactures and commerce, or these avocations must be curtailed to meet the diminishing supply of food and raw material. The adjusting process will be somewhat perplexing and uncomfortable, but no very long continued trouble or inconvenience of a serious nature will be felt by those who regard properly the signs of the times, and are prudent and watchful.

*Louis Napoleon's Farm.*—A Paris letter in the *Independance*, of Brussels, says:—"The Emperor's private farm at Fouilleuse has just been stocked with its large cattle; thirty superb cows, chosen by M. Mathieu, the steward of St. Cloud and of

Villeneuve-l'Étang, have been placed there. The first wheats have just been sown. Such as it now stands this farm has cost a million; it is scarcely more than 100 hectares (250 acres) in extent, including the meadows in which the Polygon of Mont Valerian is situated. Numerous visitors have already gone to see the farm, many of them English."

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*English Mutton in New York.*—One of the fashionable eccentricities of the day which have sprung from the rapid intercourse that has been established between Europe and the United States is eating English mutton. No dinner is now considered perfect without a saddle or a leg of mutton, brought by the last steamer. English mutton is not only served at all the restaurants and public hotels, but at the tables of private houses.

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### Chinese Sugar Cane, Or, Sugar Millet.

Early last spring, through the kind attention of the Commissioner of Patents, we were furnished with several packages of the seed of the *Chinese Sugar Cane*, or *Sugar Millet*. These seeds we took pains to place in the hands of such persons as we supposed would plant and tend them, and then give us some account of the crop, whether of the crude plant, or of any extract from it; and whether, in their opinion, further experiments ought to be made with it, in order to determine if it may be introduced into New England as a profitable crop.

In order to have some personal knowledge of it, we planted, and in about one hundred days saw the plants standing ten feet in height, with their seed heads beautifully developed, and their whole appearance luxuriant and promising. Absence from home prevented us from extracting and boiling their juices, or from seeing cattle or swine feed upon the plants.

Several persons, however, to whom we sent the seed, did extract their juice, boiled it, and produced a rich, finely-flavored and colored syrup; some of it now standing by us produced by Mr. Hyde, the author of the Manual on the "Chinese Sugar-Cane," has deposited in the bottom of the bottle containing it a sediment of sugar, much resembling that found at the bottom of our New Orleans molasses. Mr. H. states that cattle and swine are fond of the plant.

A gentleman in another part of the State inform us that the plants grew well with him, though they did not perfect their seed, being planted quite late; his hogs ate them greedily, would even chew the dry stalks, and seemed to find great pleasure in grinding and sucking till all their juices were exhausted. His cattle would eat all clean when they were green and succulent, and when frost-bitten and dry would like them still.