

lessons of Nature and Science, and behold in their homesteads and fair domains so many favored spots, where all Nature's forces work together for good of man, and to the abounding consummation of fruit and flower, grasses and grain, and of far more than these, to the rearing and nurture of citizens who are the secure pillars of the country's safety. And while the farmer cultivates his broad acres, rears his children to habits of industry, and educates them according to his means and their capacities, he should not overlook nor forget the spot which, of all others, should be to him the dearest—"Home!"—in which are garnered his most precious treasures, around which cluster his purest, his highest joys. This he should seek by all the means in his power to make the happiest and most lovely spot on earth, by beautifying his grounds, planting them with trees, fruits and flowers, and inviting his family to share in his pleasing task, which would both gratify and improve their tastes, their affections, and their dispositions, and attach them by still stronger ties to that dear spot. He should ever remember that home influences are all-powerful over the minds of youth, either for good or for evil. Rendering home beautiful and attractive to his children, he will be almost sure to prevent them straying or falling into bad habits. The cultivation of the beautiful would be a relaxation from sterner duties, while it would tend to the elevation of the mind and affections, and to purity of heart and life.

Make your homes, then, brother farmers, both outwardly and inwardly, attractive and beautiful. Flowers speak of the beauty and purity of God, for He made them. They all teach some valuable lesson, and especially teach you to cultivate the choicest flowers of virtue in your own hearts, and those of your households, and make you feel every year more sensibly than ever that "There's no place like Home!"

That family that finds no pleasure in embellishing with shade, fruit and flowers, their own domicile, and in cultivating the home virtues, will seek in vain for true happiness abroad. In leaving the theme for your consideration, I would admonish you to cherish the principles of our order, craving for it no higher reward than your adherence to its precepts, and the blessing of Him who watches over the seed time and the harvest. Thus may your illustrious example show to the world the dignity of labor, the shame that lights on idleness, the honor that belongs to toil.

To the end of time be happiness the companion of your busy homes, and the plough ever be found in the hands of its owner.