

ers—I may mention the name of Burke in particular—have sought out the retirement of a farm for repose, and there composed those splendid orations which stirred up the heart of England and made their names immortal.

In all ages agriculture has been the delight as well as the support of mankind. To watch the budding fruits through the circle of the seasons, to reap the ripened grain, to gather the varied fruits, to watch the increase of flocks and herds are the elevating, the healthful and natural pleasures of our race. The arts and sciences have been made tributary to the success of the farmer. Improved machinery has rendered his labors less arduous. Chemistry has revealed the constituents of his soils and grains, and thus shown the peculiar adaptation of the one to the other. Careful experiments have improved their quality and productiveness, have pointed out their diseases and enemies, suggesting how to meet and overcome them, thus adding to the interest of the vocation of the intelligent farmer. Yet with all these advantages success only awaits him who faithfully and thoroughly attends to every duty, as our old mother earth, though bountiful and generous to the diligent, is a most uncompromising enemy of the sluggard. If you would gather good crops you must give them good cultivation. The plough must really and truly turn up the soil. The hoe must actually strike into the roots of the weeds, and this absolute necessity on the part of the husbandman to fulfil and perform these obligations of duty should tend to instill into him the virtues of honesty and faithfulness. The great problem in the intelligent prosecution of agriculture, like every other pursuit, is to diminish the cost of production by increasing the aggregate returns.

Thus the farmer who finds that five dollars per acre expended for manure will increase the value of his crop ten dollars per acre, diminishes his labor in proportion to his returns by obtaining the same result

from working one acre that would otherwise require him to plough and cultivate much more. In considering the various sources of the farmer's wealth and income. "The Cow and the Grass she Feeds upon," are, I think, among the most important questions that will come before this Association, they being the primary source from whence the profits of this specialty of farming spring. One cow takes up as much room as another in the stable, requires as much food, care and attention, so that the actual difference in the quantity of milk between the two cows is clear profit. We all of us like to own a good cow, and when we are in want of one we search around until we think we have found what we sought; but how often are we undeceived as to our prize when the milk comes to be tested by that uncompromising truth-teller, the steel-yard. We know that there is a difference in the quantity and quality of milk given by different cows, but I am inclined to believe we do not sufficiently realize the actual intrinsic value there is between different cows. Suppose we are looking for a cow and find that our neighbor has two to sell which we find about the same age, say four years old, and much of the same general appearance. To satisfy ourselves as to their respective merits, we stand by and see them milked, we find that one gives one quart more milk than the other at a milking, and this is a very ordinary difference. On enquiring the price we find that sixty dollars is asked for one, and ninety for the other. No doubt this difference in price would astonish us, and we would naturally say we would take the sixty dollar cow as we cannot afford to pay thirty dollars extra for an extra quart of milk, but we should be certainly making a mistake, as that extra quart of milk would in the course of a season make six hundred quarts, worth at least twenty-five dollars, and amounting in the seven or eight years, the time we might reasonably expect to keep the cow, to from \$175 to \$200; in fact we had better pay \$100 for the one cow than \$50 for the other, as for the extra \$50 paid we would