

nature, this step once taken it is difficult to retrace. One thing is certain—it requires more knowledge, more skill and science, and greater business ability, to manage a factory successfully over a private dairy; but the results of the consolidated system, when judiciously and intelligently managed, is rapidly forcing itself into favor even among the most prejudiced. But if we are to excel as dairymen, if we wish our products to compete with the dairymen of the old world in quality and price, then must we avail ourselves of all the valuable discoveries and appliances the intelligence of the age is developing; if we aspire to become distinguished in this department of agriculture, we must abandon the too fallacious idea that the farmer needs no education or knowledge of science.

It is said there are products quite as important to the farmer in this age as wheat, corn, cheese, choice animals, or delicious fruitage; these are elevating ideas and ennobling sentiments; products which can be grown through every month in the year, uninjured by cold, or heat, or rains, or drouth. Our ordinary business should be but secondary to the growth of the higher faculties. The man should be more important than his occupation, and not merged in it. This is an age that demands the highest improvement in every department. Society is moving upward and onward, and the farmer must move with it. Success in agriculture is not completed by adding barn to barn, and field to field, however desirable this may be; yet I consider that he is an unsuccessful farmer who has not improved *himself* from year to year, constantly ministering to the success of his household, cultivating the heart as well as the soil. Imbued with the idea that if we wish to see our country accomplish its highest destinies we must have loftier objects of ambition than the mere attainment of wealth, at the same time appreciating the dignity of labor, also realizing that labor becomes ennobled under the guidance of enlightened judgment, bringing in its turn a thousand blessings, proving a quotation of the poet:

“Life without work is unenjoyed—  
The happiest are the best employed;  
Work moves and moulds the weightiest birth,  
And grasps the destinies of earth.”

But I must conclude, as I fear I am already trespassing upon your patience. I would announce that your executive have again engaged Mr. Willard to deliver the annual address, who, I have no doubt, will on the present occasion add to his many well-earned laurels in giving to the Society an address replete with useful information appertaining to the dairy interest. His practical and scientific knowledge, together with his great ability, will, I trust, make him very acceptable to the Association. We also hope to have others present who will add to the interest of the meeting, by delivering practical articles, tending to disseminate knowledge, useful and available, to the dairymen. Your treasurer will be able to show a better record, financially, than heretofore, and I trust that an increasing effort will be made each year to