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AGRICULTURE—ITS ADVANTAGES AS A  
PURSUIT.

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[To this Essay, written by a young farmer, has been  
awarded a Diploma by the Board of Agriculture.]

Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the  
only riches she can call her own.—DR. JOHNSON.

Agriculture is coeval with the creation; it is  
co-existent with Time. Independently of its  
great and indispensable benefits to the human  
family, it is the great beautifier and renovator  
of the earth. It is the immovable basis of home,  
and all endearing associations. Without it man  
would be a wandering vagrant, without a "local  
habitation or a name." The social compact, as  
it now exists, in all its nice discriminations and  
distinctions, would never have existed. Com-  
merce would be unknown, and manufactures  
would be undiscovered. The earth would be  
an unbroken forest, and all those bright and hap-  
py scenes which the labor of man has created,  
would never have been imagined.

Agriculture is the true source of patriotism.  
It is what makes country and home valuable.  
The owner of the soil will defend his home, for  
there are enjoyed the pleasures and the sweets  
of life. It is there that life's happiest scenes are  
passed, and there the aged man hopes to repose  
in peace. Agriculture then, so prolific of re-  
sults of the highest consequence to the human  
family, must be advantageous as a pursuit.

First,—It is a peaceful and innocent pursuit.  
While Commerce is involved in the meshes of a  
net-work of speculation, Agriculture is compara-  
tively free from all such contaminating influences.  
In its pursuit honest labor meets its reward, and  
a consciousness of having earned the comforts of  
life, adds zest to the enjoyment. We find evi-  
dences of this truth on every hand. In every  
land the rural population, wherever their indus-  
try is not torn from them by the gripe of avarice

and oppression, are peaceful and contented; and  
it is alone, amid the mazes, and the crimes, and  
the restlessness, and excitements of cities and  
capitols, where Revolutions take place and trea-  
son is planned. By this I do not mean that the  
tillers of the soil take no interest in their con-  
dition politically, and that they never take the  
field in defence of those rights with which Heav-  
en has invested them, and those privileges guar-  
anteed by the social compact. But it is only  
when mis-rule and oppression rouse them from  
their peaceful position, that they are impelled by  
a common feeling of patriotism against a com-  
mon enemy. Thus Cincinnatus was taken from  
his plough to rule the destinies of Rome, and  
Washington exchanged the peaceful shades of  
Mount Vernon for the battle-field. Fabricius,  
the Roman Senator, who was proof against the  
gold of the King of Epirus, received his support  
from a "little field." Some of the great states-  
men and generals of antiquity found a relief from  
the cares and anxieties of State in the composi-  
tion of works on Agriculture. Virgil, in his  
Georgics, makes Agriculture a theme for his in-  
spired muse, and Solomon, the wisest man, wrote  
treatises on every plant from the "Cedar to the  
Hyssop." In short, earth's wisest and bravest  
have found a delightful retreat, and a certain  
repose amid the peaceful scenes and happy fields  
of the farmer.

The merchant who is fortunate enough to re-  
alize sufficient means usually builds himself a home  
in the country, and amid a rural population, en-  
joys for a season each year that repose which  
his worn and harrassed mind requires, and which  
is not to be obtained at any price in the busy  
Mart on the Exchange, or amid the tinsel of  
fashionable life. In doing this he seeks those  
very advantages which are peculiar to a far-  
mer's life,—health and peace of mind,—without  
which the greatest riches cannot impart happi-  
ness.

The Lawyer may find amusement and employ-  
ment for his mind in disentangling the mazes