

Thus, the man who has not studied the science of Agriculture, can make little use of books, or even the best of them; he knows not how to arrange the new ideas which they unfold, and he cannot follow them in their fullest extent. All that he dares to do is to read these books which have the closest relation with the circumstances in which he is placed.

EXPERIMENTS.—We can experiment either by means of simple *observation*, by examining the subjects and agents placed in relation with each other, and by considering their reciprocal action, and observing its results, or by means of *trials* or experiments, by placing some well known plant in certain situations, determined with precision, observing their reciprocal action, and preventing, as much as we possibly can, any foreign or unknown body from influencing the results of our experiment.

A trial is a question addressed to nature; when such a question is properly put, nature will necessarily reply either yes or no.

It is only within the last century that the art of making experiments has been clearly apprehended. It is on this art that the principal power of man over the material world is founded, and that power will become more extended in proportion as he brings this art nearer to perfection and carries it into full practice. * * *

There is a particular kind of Agricultural experiments which have arrived almost at perfection, and which can be regulated with a degree of precision equal to that which is attained in the other practical sciences—these are comparative trials in the open air.

It is true that experiments of this kind are not easily made; but, nevertheless, they are in the power of every reflecting Agriculturist. Whoever has accomplished one experiment, whatever may be the peculiarity of the circumstances under which it was made, and has given a faithful account of it, has well contributed to the advancement of science, and consequently to useful practice, and has entitled himself to the gratitude of his contemporaries and of posterity. It would surpass the power of any single individual to accomplish any considerable number of these experiments, and could not be expected from him. It is the duty of the Government to place some well educated men in a position to employ their time and talents in investigating the secrets of nature for the advancement of Agriculture and the general good. Agricultural Societies, which are instituted for the advancement of science, should especially engage in the preparation of such experiments, and divide the execution of them among the several members. * * *

Science would have made much greater progress if the false shame with which Agriculturists conceal every unsuccessful experiment, and the exaggerated manner in which they often relate

all those in which they have succeeded, had not retarded its progress.

NOTE.—We believe that the exaggerated reports of experiments that are often published is most injurious to the progress of Agricultural improvement. Plain practical farmers, who read such reports, lose all confidence in what they properly call book farming. We have seen, in respectable Agricultural papers, reports that cannot be credited by any farmer who understands the practice of Agriculture and its results. Were it possible even that some of these reports were correct in particular cases, and under extraordinary circumstances, what is the use of publishing them in an Agricultural Journal, if the experiment cannot be successfully adopted by others, or continually practiced by those even who report them? It is worse than useless to publish any experiments in Agriculture that cannot be pointed out as an example for other farmers' practice or instruction.—[EDITOR AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.]

"It is evident that Agriculture ought to borrow from every science the principles which she employs as the foundation of her own, and although the sciences do not form an indispensable part of the farmer's education, he ought, nevertheless, to have a general knowledge of them.

"It is impossible that an enterprize like that of Agriculture can be exempt from casualties and accidents; a certain tranquillity of mind must be united with the necessary activity in order to secure a happy life. Whether this be attained by the consolations of philosophy or religion, the Agriculturist must learn to support this misfortune with resignation; he must forget all the evils which it was impossible for him to foresee, all those hopes which have ended in disappointment, so soon as he has, by the adoption of prudent regulation, diminished, as much as possible, their annoying consequences.

"Rural life, in despite of the pleasures that attend it, has so much uniformity about it, and, with all its occupations, has so many hours for idleness, that it scarcely satisfies an active mind that possesses no other object of employment. In choosing an accessory study, the accomplished Agriculturist will not find any one that will be more consonant with his feelings than Natural History. He, better than any other person, can abandon himself to the consciousness of living in the bosom of nature, and investigate her sublime laws; and so far from interrupting his usual occupations by this pursuit, he will almost always be able pleasantly to unite them.

"In the moral world, and the relations of society too often present us only with the painful spectacle of a resistance to the laws of reason which spreads grief and misery over the earth. Nature, on the contrary, unfolds to us more striking proofs of order and unity in proportion as we penetrate into her mysteries. The beauties