

While self-dependent power can time defy,
As rocks resist the billows and the sky."

To her unsurpassed agriculture England is most indebted for her support in the midst of those tremendous pressures which so often have threatened to crush her. It is the unparalleled cultivation of her soil that has enabled the British people, placed upon a rockbound island, to excel the world in every article of fabric, to maintain an unrivalled navy, and plant their power in every quarter of the globe. Firm are the foundations of the strength of that nation, which in time of peace is nourished from the resources of its own industry, and in war can rely upon the strong arms and undaunted hearts of its yeomanry, to sustain its rights in the din of strife or in the loud roar of battle!

Upon agriculture, in addition to the necessities and common comforts of life, depends the success of every other employment. It is agriculture that builds up our crowded cities, covers our fields with yellow grain, and diffuses life and vigor throughout the land.—It is agriculture that supports our gigantic manufactories, ringing from their basement to their attic with the music of free labor, and causes our ten thousand ships to dance upon every rolling billow, and spread their sails to every propitious gale. Says Lord Erskine, in his political romance called *Armata*, "You might as well hope to see the human body in active motion when palsy had reached the heart, or a tree flourishing after its roots were decayed, as expect to see manufactures, or arts, or industry of any description, progressive, when agriculture has declined." Paralyze it, and you weaken the pulse of enterprise, stiffen the fingers of machinery, and clip the wings of commerce. Destroy it, and you bury in one common grave national power and individual prosperity.—*Martin's Address in Simonian*.

AGRICULTURAL BUREAU IN THE UNITED STATES.

In surveying the various interests of the country, no one can fail to observe how little has been done by Government to promote the cause of agriculture. It is true the cultivator of the soil, in common with all other classes of society, enjoys the protection of the laws, and the blessings incident to good government. But something more seems to be due to a branch of industry which employs more than half our population, and, to a great extent, sustains the other.

The power of the general government over that subject is limited, but this furnishes no good reason why it should not be exercised so far as it does legitimately extend.

The ordinary means adopted to afford protection to the manufacturing and commercial interests are comparatively inoperative in regard to the agricultural. A tariff can do but little, directly, to benefit the farmer or the planter. The staple productions of the South are peculiar to that climate, and, therefore, are in no danger of competition from abroad. Those of the North and West, in consequence of the soil, and the low prices at which land can be bought, are produced at less cost there than in other countries, and consequently except under extraordinary contingencies, need no

protection by imposts on the breadstuffs of foreign nations.

But still much may be done by government, at a small cost, to promote the interests of agriculture. The science is yet in its infancy, and great minds are now directed to the study and development of its true principles. Experiments are in progress to ascertain the qualities of different soils; the comparative nutritive properties of different animal and vegetable productions; and the utility and efficiency of various manures in fertilizing and renovating the exhausted lands of the old States.

Encouragement may be afforded to enterprises like these, and facilities furnished for the collection of seeds, plants, and vegetables from all parts of the earth, and their distribution throughout the country.

Premiums may be offered for the best practical treatises on the different branches of husbandry, which can be published and sent abroad among the people. By means of these, a spirit of philosophic inquiry may be stimulated, and a great impulse given to the interests of agriculture. Much has already been done in this respect, through the agency of the Patent Office; but the subject is too important to be left in this dependant condition.

The last report from the department recommended the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, to afford to this great branch of American industry the encouragement which it so well deserves. This is no novel suggestion. It had the sanction of Washington, who, in his last annual message, referring to the propriety of creating an agriculture board, said: "This species of establishment contributes doubly to the increase of improvement, by stimulating to enterprise and experiment, and by drawing to a common centre the results, everywhere, of individual skill and observation, and spreading them thence over the whole nation. Experience accordingly has shown that they are very cheap instruments of immense national benefit."

I therefore renew the recommendation of my predecessor for the establishment of a separate bureau, to be entrusted with the duty of promoting the agricultural interests of the country. The vast extent and rapid development of the mineral resources of the country seem to require that adequate provision should also be made by law for the collection and analysis of the various mineral substances which have been, or may be discovered so that their properties may be understood, and their value correctly appreciated.

The purchase of a farm in the vicinity of the national metropolis, to be tilled and managed under the direction of the bureau, has been suggested as an important auxiliary in illustrating the best modes of culture. If this idea should be favourably received, I would respectfully add that Mount Vernon, whose soil was once tilled by the hands, and is now consecrated by the dust of the Father of his Country, should properly belong to the nation, and might, with great propriety, become, under its auspices, a model farm to illustrate the progress of that pursuit to which he was so much devoted. *Extract from Secretary of States Report.*

Two interesting agricultural productions have just been introduced into France from the Equador by M. Bourcier, formerly consul general of France in that country. The one is the red and yellow *hocus*, which is of the form of a long potato, and has the taste of a chesnut; the other is the *millico*, which has the taste and form of our best potatoes. These two productions, which are found in great abundance in the neighbourhood of Quito, grow rapidly in the poorest land.