

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 like 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 annual 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 Agricultural 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, every where, 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 favorably 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.

RURAL LIFE IN GERMANY.

We copy the following extract from "A Sketch of German Life," by William Howitt. This sketch of German Life is both interesting and instructive—and we should be glad to see the example given in this sketch, followed in Canada as closely as circumstances would admit. Mr. Howitt in describing a country school says:

"We saw several children sitting on a bench, in the open air, near a school-house, learning their lessons, and writing on the slates; and we went into the school. The school-master was a man befitting the place, simple, rustic, and devout. He told us that the boys and girls, of which the school was full, came, some of them from a considerable distance. They came in at six o'clock in the morning, and staid until eight, had an hour's rest, and then came in till eleven, and then went home, and did not return again until the next morning, being employed the rest of the day in helping their parents; in going into the woods for fuel; into the fields to weed, cut grass, or do what was wanted. All the children of every village, however remote, thus acquire a tolerable education; learning singing is a regular part of it. They have what they call their singing lesson every day. On a black board the song or hymn for the day was written in German character in chalk; and the master, naturally anxious to exhibit the proficiency of his scholars, gave them their singing lesson while we were there. The scene was very interesting, in a wild and obscure region, to see every child of every hamlet and cottage, however secluded, provided with suitable instruction. We took leave of the school-master, his scholars, and his bees, with whose hives nearly all his house-side was covered.

Each German has his house, his orchard his road-side trees, so laden with fruit, that if he did not carefully prop up and tie together, and in many places hold the boughs together with wooden clamps, they would be torn asunder by their own weight. He has his corn plot, his plot for mangel-wurzel or hay, for potatoes, for hemp, &c. He is his own master, and he, therefore, and every branch of his family, have the strongest motive for constant exertion. You see the effect of this in his industry and his economy.

In Germany nothing is lost. The produce of the trees and the cows is carried to market, much fruit is dried for winter use. You see