

of nature, on the green hill side, or in the sheltered valley,

"Where peaceful rivers, soft and slow,
Amid the verdant landscape flow,"

seems so enticing to one who has been "long in populous city pent," that it is no wonder he should desire to escape from the din, and the dust, and the bustle of the crowded thoroughfare, and seek for refreshment and repose among the invigorating breezes and peaceful solitudes of the country.

But while there is no doubt, that the Greek and Latin Poets have helped to throw a charm over the Pastoral Life, still, if I am not mistaken, my own mind has been more affected by the beautiful pictures of that state contained in the Sacred volume. I could wish to have lived with Abraham in his tent, to have worshipped with him at the Altar which he built on the Plains of Hebron, or roamed with him who was "the friend of God," and listened to his prophetic words, in the fertile and well watered valley of the Jordan.

But however delightful in contemplation these scenes of rural felicity and Pastoral innocence may be, they are only pictures of Society in a state of transition. No country ever rose to a high state of civilization, while the Pastoral Life continued to be the universal condition of its inhabitants. Flocks and herds would furnish a more abundant, as well as a much less precarious, supply of food than the beasts of the chase; but still, even they would be far from meeting the increasing wants of a rapidly multiplying population. I suppose that the increase of food furnished by domesticated animals, over those in a wild state, may not be estimated too high, when I call it a thousand to one. But what is to be done when the demand is increased not one thousand, but ten thousand fold? Nature has set limits to the productiveness of animals, and these are soon reached; and it is obvious they cannot long keep pace with the rate at which the human race are multiplied, especially when a constantly increasing number of them are required for food. The only remaining resource, then, is in the cultivation of the soil: and thus we are introduced to the third and most advanced stage of society—the Agricultural state. The two former that we reviewed are but transitory; this must continue as long as the world endures.