

has the vertical sun with its fierce rays, and also the biting frosts; it can produce those fruits which require the former and can survive the latter. The people of the Western Hemisphere are blessed with a bountiful provision, and from the hills and plains, agricultural exertion is only needed to obtain whatsoever our necessities and luxuries seem to demand. This garden of the West, by bolding out such inducements for labour, will, ere many years are numbered among the "have beens," be stocked with a dense population, which necessity had compelled to seek in agricultural industry its means of subsistence. Thousands of hard-handed and honest-hearted emigrants have already flocked to this "garden," seeking a livelihood, where, thank Providence, there is no unnatural alliance between industry and poverty; and the experience of the past teaches us to anticipate the time when this World of the West will be the theme of admiration at home, and of envy abroad—the time when the industrious and deserving are advanced and advancing in the proud career to prosperity and glory. This will be, when agriculture is properly esteemed and when by agricultural exertion meliorations are made on the capital stock by a healthy and numerous population.

III. This pursuit of improvement is not visionary or trivial, but has been sanctioned by the voice of Time. It is far from being a speculation or an idle dream. The art of Agriculture, well named the "Parent Art," is coeval with human civilization. So long as men roamed hither and yon—living in tents and squatting here and there, where some green spot invited a stay, and had no fixed habitations, they were barbarians;—but when they chose a place for dwelling and scattered a few grains of wheat for the purpose of harvesting and procuring means of subsistence, they had made a step in the march of civilization. The oldest, and the best Book assures us that the first three men were a gardener, a ploughman and a grazier: if it be sneeringly objected that the second was a murderer, let the reply be that when he became so, he turned a builder! This art can survive all sneering. It has received the commendation of the Past, and, as a celebrated Essayist, has wittily remarked, "if heraldry were guided by reason, a plough in a field arable would be the most noble and ancient arms." It is an art which can exist with the exclusion of all others. It has been compared to speech, without which society would be the dismal chaotic jumble; the other arts, mere figures and tropes, in fact, only ornaments.

IV. An argument, aside from its utility, in its favour, can be drawn from the fact that the pursuit of Agriculture is agreeable and innocent. It should never be forgotten that the first man was placed by *divine wisdom* in a garden, to dress it and till it. Its occupations are peculiarly quiet and peaceful, and it is no matter of wonder that great statesmen

have been partial to the pleasurable toils of the farmer, and have greedily sought in husbandry, that freedom from anxiety and disgust which no political atmosphere could afford. History tells us that a step from the throne to the farm, was frequently agreeable and profitable. The Imperial Charles was better employed, while digging in the garden of the Monks of St. Justus, than when, at the head of his legions, he immolated thousands upon the altar of his ambition. I wish to say, explicitly, that the pursuit of this art has a tendency to promote an ameliorating effect upon the characters of those who follow it. They are enabled to shun the rancorous bitterness of party-politics and to escape from the annoyances of sectarian excitement. They are luckily exempt from

"———— the vain low strife

That makes men mad; the tug for wealth and power;

The passions and the cares that wither life,  
And waste its little hour."

"Instead of these, his calm and harmless life,  
Free from the alarms of fear and storms of strife,  
Does with substantial blessedness abound,  
And the soft wings of peace cover him round."

They can follow the even tenor of their ways, rejoicing in quiet industry, and enjoying that genial comfort which systematic employment can only bestow. Where agricultural prosperity is most apparent, you will find the inhabitants are intelligent and determined enemies of immorality, and decided friends to order and virtue. There pauperism and crime are rare, since these are procreated by habits of indolence, which agriculture neither encourages nor permits. We have it on the authority of the late Judge BUEL,\* that "Scotland has but few paupers and Flanders less." While the dome of the heavens stretches far above him, while the woods, fields and waters are around him, and wafting food for the pleasing of every sense, the farmer is reconciled to his honest calling; his duties are agreeable, and what is fortunate, essential to his enjoyment.

"Among the lower classes," says the Author of a Diary in America—a man, who is not authority to be quoted indiscriminately, as we think; "among the lower classes, the morals of the manufacturing districts and of the frequenters of cities, will naturally be at a low ebb, for men when closely packed demoralize each other; but if we examine the agricultural classes, which are by far the most numerous, we shall find that there is much virtue and goodness in the humble cottage; we shall there find piety and resignation, honesty, industry and content

\*An eminent writer on agriculture—and for a few years the accomplished editor of "The Cultivator," an agricultural journal, published at Albany.