

an experimental farm, in each of the States, and made educated practical farmers of thousands of poor orphans.

But why has it happened, here in a free land, where farmers constitute seven-eighths of the whole population, that the arts and commerce have been able to monopolize the resources and legislation of the country, while not one hour is even devoted, by our public functionaries, to the consideration of agriculture? These are the reasons;—Those devoted to manufactures and commerce have been able, from their concentrated position, to act together in organized concert; and concert has enabled them to bring into their service the public press and public men. They have been able to bring to bear upon public opinion all the means of popular instruction; while those devoted to agriculture have been dispersed over the continent, from Maine to Louisiana, and from the Atlantic to the far west, each man in comparative solitude, relying upon his individual efforts, without the means of communicating with his brethren of the same class. Having no union, this mighty, unembodied, disorganized interest, acted not at all upon the public councils. But the spirit of the age will overcome this difficulty. Most of the States have already made agriculture the subject of legislation; Societies are every where springing up; public journals, devoted to the art of husbandry, are multiplying; able men, in all parts of the Union, are addressing the people in their primary assemblies; light is shed abroad among the farmers, and the time has arrived when those who pay nine-tenths of the public revenue will claim the right to be heard in our public council.

It will be impossible, in a free land, for the stupid and absurd notion, that the seven-eighths of the people, devoted to the cultivation of the earth, should remain ignorant, while education is mainly received for those devoted to the learned professions. It will be impossible, where the ballot box is in the hands of the farmers, of the emoluments and honors of the government much longer to be concentrated in the hands of other professions. It will be impossible, in a free land, for those who pay nine-tenths of the public revenue, to remain much longer quiet, and see annual thousands squandered in local and trivial legislation, while the great basis on which stands the public prosperity, is wholly neglected.

There is but one thing needful to make agriculture in Kentucky the surest road both to wealth and fame; and that is, to raise the standard of education among the farmers.—When this is done, our educated young men will not at all crowd the learned professions, but will soon find that the occupation of a farmer is more sure than any other to lead to competency and honorable distinction. Whenever the opinion shall prevail that the cultivation of the earth gives greater scope for the exercise of a highly cultivated mind than any occupation in the world, the landed interest will learn its power. It will have its statesmen and orators every where in primary assemblies, and in legislative halls, to defend and protect its interests. The vast elemental power of agriculture will then be brought out of that chaos in which it has been so long buried, and shaped into system.

Behold the millions of minute streamlets, issuing from the sponges of the Alleghany and Rocky mountains, without any apparent connection! Yet, by and by, they form themselves into a thousand noble streams, and these thousand unite their mighty volumes of water in the Father of Rivers, who pours his resistless floods into the Ocean! So shall the scattered and apparently disconnected interests of the farmers, from the Atlantic to the far west, and from the great Lakes to the great Gulf, be formed into a union that will rightfully and safely control the destinies of America, and perhaps of the world.

This enlightened interest will not seek, in the least, to depress the favor which manufactures and commerce have in the govern-

ment, but to place their mother, agriculture, one step above them. Then agricultural colleges, experimental farms, geological surveys, reports on productive industry, and premiums for new and improved implements, will occupy the time of Congress and the State Legislature.

We have seen that the eminent statesmen of antiquity made agricultural the chief care of their governments. We have seen that all the modern nations of Europe lie in poverty and ignorance, and despotism, until they discovered that God had connected the virtue, and intelligence, and prosperity of mankind, with the cultivation of the earth; until they discovered that the power and resources of the government must act directly on the subject.

The industry and finances of France were in a wretched condition, the nation in poverty and ignorance, until that country happened to have a great King and a great Minister. They saw what was the matter. Henry IV. and Sully applied the remedy; they applied the funds of the government to raise agriculture; and by stimulating a single branch of industry, they raised France to opulence. They gave bounties for raw silk, and for rearing mulberry trees. The result is, that besides the supply for her own vast consumption, she annually exports \$25,000,000 worth of silk. Thus, by the application of a small premium, which no one felt, the prospects of France were changed. The silk culture gave an easy and pleasant employment to millions of indigent people, and created a vast home market for all the products of agriculture, and changed the habits of the people from indolence to activity.

It is now agreed that America is better adapted to the culture of silk than Europe or Asia; and it is perfectly certain that judicious legislation would introduce it into these States, to the saving of the drain of \$20,000,000 of specie, which we annually send to the East for that article. In our own time, and within our own observation, the industry, finances, and powers of the world have been revolutionized by the culture of a single plant, (cotton.) Russia was unknown among the civilized nations, until the government of that country, by bounties, induced agriculturalists from other nations to settle in their dominions. In 1793 Catherine II. established schools, and as early as 1793, Russia became an exporter of grain to the amount of millions of bushels. There are now Americans in Russia conducting farming operations on a large scale. Before the power of the Russian Government was brought in aid of individual industry, in the promotion of agriculture, there were but a few fishermen's huts on the Neva, where now stands the most splendid capital in the world.

GRASSES.

1. I have found in our publications on agriculture, very little information on the improvement of our meadow and pasture grounds. Indeed, the names of our native grasses are scarcely enumerated, much less are their habits described, or their relative merits for hay and pasture pointed out, in any American work which has fallen within my notice. A considerable portion of our land is unsuitable for the system of convertible husbandry, that is, an alternation of grain and grass crops.

2. Of this description are our stiff clays, marshes, and swamps, and all of those lands in which tillage is rendered difficult by reason of hardpan, stones, or wetness. These should be improved as permanent meadows and pastures; and it is of the first importance to the farmer to know the grasses which will render them most conducive to profit; for that our grass grounds are as susceptible of improvement as our tillage grounds, by a suitable selection of seeds, and suitable man-

agement, must be apparent to every reflecting mind. The improvement and productiveness of our cattle and sheep husbandry, which at this time deservedly engage much of the public attention, depend materially on this branch of farming.

3. *Street-scented Vernal Grass.* This is a grass of diminutive growth, and is not worth cultivating for hay. It is nevertheless considered as valuable in pasture, on account of it affording very early feed, and growing quick after being cropped. Its proper situation is high, well-drained meadows. It constitutes, in such meadows, in Massachusetts at least, one half of the whole crop. Its chief fault is that it is too early for the other grasses, but it affords a second and even a third crop if cut early. It is the grass which gives the finest flavour, so grateful to milch cows.

4. *Meadow Fox-tail* possesses all the advantages of early growth with the preceding, and is much more abundant in product and nutriment. It generally constitutes one of five or six kinds which are sowed together, by the English farmers, for pasture; and affords withal a tolerable crop of hay. It does best in moist soils, whether loams, clays, or reclaimed bogs. Sheep and horses have a better relish for it, says Sir G. Sinclair, than oxen.

5. *Rough Cocksfoot.* Dr. Muhlenburgh and T. Cooper concur in opinion that this is the orchard grass of the United States, though some that I have raised as orchard grass does not seem to correspond with the figure of *dectylis glomerata* in the second volume of Dickson's Farmer's Companion. In England, cocksfoot is taking the place of rye grass with clover. Arthur Young speaks in high commendation of it; though all writers concur in the opinion, that it should be frequently and closely cropped, either with the sythe or cattle, to reap the fully benefit of its great gerits.

6. I should prefer it to almost every other grass; and cows are very fond of it. Cooper rates it above timothy, and says it is gradually taking the place of the latter, among the best farmers about Philadelphia. This is probably owing to the fact that it is earlier than timothy, and of course more suitable to cut with clover for hay. Its growth is early and rapid, after it has been cropped. It does well on loams and sands, and grows well in shade.

7. If further facts are wanting in favour of this grass for pasture, the reader will find them in an article in the American Farmer of the 14th November, 1823, supposed to be Col. Powells, a gentleman who combines as much science with judicious practice, especially in cattle and grass husbandry, as any person in the Union. He says, "I have tried orchard grass for ten years. It produces more pasturage than any artificial grass I have seen in America." Sow two bushels of seed to an acre.

8. *Tall Oat Grass.* Both Arator (Mr. Taylor) and Dr. Muhlenburgh have placed this at the head of their lists of grasses, which they have recommended to the attention of the American farmer. The latter says, it is of all others the earliest and best grass for green fodder and hay. The doctor was, probably, not apprized of its deficiency in nutritive matter, as indicated in the table.

9. It possesses the advantage of early, quick, and late growth, for which the cocksfoot is esteemed, tills well, and is admirably calculated for pasture grass. I measured some on the 20th of June, when in blossom, when it should be cut for hay, and found it four and a half feet long. The latter math is nearly equal in weight, and superior in nutritive matter, to the seed crop.

10. *Tall Fescue*, although a native grass, has not fallen under my personal observation. It stands highest, says Dury, according to the experiments of the Duke of Bed-