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*Address of John Harland, Esq., delivered at the first meeting, held at the British Hotel February 11th.*

Agriculture, the most certain source of health, strength, wealth and independence, is the art of making the earth produce in large quantities, and in the greatest perfection of which nature is capable those vegetables which are necessary to the subsistence, or useful for the accommodation of mankind. The difference between an Agriculturist and a Gardener consists in the one being chiefly engaged in rearing small quantities of the nicer and more delicate vegetables which are rather valued as objects of luxury than as articles of food, whilst the other labors upon a much more extended scale with a view to supply not only himself and his countrymen, but the whole world with the necessaries of life. Agriculturists, or the persons engaged in Agriculture are usually denominated *Farmers*. To enable the farmer to conduct his business with success, it is necessary that he should not confine his attention to the mere cultivation of the soil, or the rearing of vegetables. The vegetables which are capable of affording a comfortable subsistence to the human race, are few in number; and it has been found by experience, that they cannot be profitably sown and reproduced year after year on the same spot of ground; consequently, it becomes necessary at times to raise grasses and other vegetables which are unfit in their original state for the nourishment of mankind. But although men cannot live upon grass, they may nevertheless contrive to obtain subsistence from it in an indirect manner. They may give it to cattle, whose natural food it is, and by thus transmitting grass into flesh, they may obtain a much richer and more stimulating food than any vegetable production can possibly afford. It is therefore a part of the business of the farmer to rear and feed those animals which are universally used as food, in order that he may be enabled to derive the greatest profit from the portion of ground it is his lot to cultivate. It is also necessary towards conducting his operations with success, that he should rear and feed other animals, not as a source of human subsistence, but for the sake of the services which they are capable of rendering him. To the cultivators of the soil these animals,

from their strength and patience of labor, are not only useful, but are absolutely indispensable. They must therefore be fed and lodged with the greatest care. Hence the employment of the farmer requires much foresight, and a considerable knowledge of the relations that subsist between the most important objects in nature—the soil, the seasons, the animals, and the plants, so far as they are connected with the subsistence of mankind. It is by bringing to perfection this art, that man becomes indisputably the lord of this lower world. He subdues by his operations every part of the surface of the earth, and acquires over the animals which inhabit it a solid right of dominion or of property, in consequence of having reared and afforded them subsistence by his skill and labor. He uses them indeed as food; but before he can do so, he must first bestow upon them subsistence, attend to their multiplication, and welfare. As they possess no foresight, the purpose to which they are destined is to them no evil. It is a fortunate circumstance that the art of the agriculturist, which is the foundation of others, and at all times indispensable to human existence, is in every respect conducive to the welfare of those engaged in it. The practice of it not only bestows health on the body, but by the variety of occupations which it affords, it also awakens a considerable degree of reflection in the minds of persons in the lowest ranks of the profession, while at the same time it prevents their acquiring that spirit of artifice and cunning, which in all countries is so apt to degrade the character of those engaged in the inferior branches of commercial employment. Nor does it fail, in all ranks and conditions of life, to produce a more candid and liberal character than any other employment. No farmer refuses, or even hesitates to communicate to the public every branch of this art, and every improvement he and his forefathers have made in it; whereas, in all the branches of manufacture and commerce, every transaction is covered with a mysterious veil of secrecy, and every improvement is as far as possible, concealed by its inventor from the public, and sometimes, undoubtedly perishes with him. In an art so necessary to mankind, and that has been so universally practised, it might perhaps be expected that the principles upon which its operations depend would have been by this time