

DUTIES OF FARMERS.

Among the many duties which devolve upon farmers, there is none of higher importance or to which is attached a greater share of responsibility, than that of affording to the rising generation the means of instruction, and the facilities for cultivating the mind. It is in vain that we talk of improving the soil and elevating the standard of agriculture in this country, while the youth, the sons and daughters of farmers, are denied the privileges of education and moral culture, which every sound and thinking mind will admit are necessary to enable them to pursue their avocations with pleasure and profit, and to discharge in a proper manner their duty in the various relations of life.

The subject of education in schools, is of vast importance to farmers, and may with propriety be discussed in an agricultural journal; but we intend in this article only to point out some of the errors and omissions of duty with which many farmers are chargeable in the education and training of those who are soon to enter upon the stage of action, and to whom the agricultural interest must look for its friends and advocates. Education does not consist solely in the knowledge gained at schools. The history of some of our most eminent men shows that individual exertion, when aided and encouraged by parental advice and aid, may be the means of acquiring a degree of knowledge and of reaching a position which the mere advantages of school could never afford. We here repeat, what we have often in effect said, that self-culture is more neglected among farmers than any other class of persons. It is time that there was a reform in this respect, and we are happy in being able to say that there is evidence of its commencement, in the desire of agricultural reading, which pervades to some extent the youth of this country. It is the duty of those having the care of youth, to encourage the first appearance of these desires, as to form permanent habits, and a disposition for investigation, which always leads to valuable results. That father, who, when his son discovers evidences of a fondness for agricultural pursuits and an inclination to store his mind with that information which may be derived from the experience and writings of others, withholds the means of gratifying these inclinations, places himself in an unenviable position and can blame no one but himself, if his son does not pursue that course of conduct which he could desire. The youthful mind is never inactive, and if it is thwarted from its laudable inclination, will be very likely to engage in the pursuit of objects which it would be wiser to avoid. There is no subject in which the mind of young men can with more propriety be employed than in the improvement of agriculture, and we think the judgement of our readers will coincide with ours, when we say that the surest means of leading the mind to an investigation of agricultural science, and the best means of accomplishing objects or improvement, is to place before them publications which have for their aim the good of agricultural interest. Often have we heard the boy of twelve or fifteen years, urge his father to subscribe for an agricultural paper, which could be had for fifty cents or a dollar a year, promising to read it attentively, and in some instances to work out and earn the subscription money, while the father would utterly refuse to allow him the privilege of storing his mind with information, which might be the means of adding greatly to his usefulness, and prevent him from acquiring habits of dissipation and idleness.

And why is this refused? Simply because it will cost a few shillings a year, while as many dollars would perhaps be freely expended on objects which can be of no possible advantage to the youthful mind. There are hundreds of such cases even in this enlightened community, and we wish in a respectful manner to call the attention of such individuals to the subject, and to show them the nature of the responsibility which they have thus voluntarily assumed. If we would elevate the character of the farmer, we must enlist the feelings of the youth, thus enabling them well to act their part in the duties to which they will be called. Where is the man who is willing to stand in the way of improvement, by keeping as far as his influence goes, the sons and daughters of farmers, ignorant of the means of improvement which shall be extended to them in their youth. Every opportunity should be embraced to impress upon young persons the advantages, as well as the respectability of agricultural pursuits.

When we hear a young lady, and the daughter of a farmer say with an air of confidence that she cares nothing for the interests of agriculture, and that she feels far greater interest in attending balls, and dancing schools, than in reading publications devoted to the improvement of the business in which her parents have obtained an honest living, and perhaps amassed a fortune, we generally conclude that although the parents may know very well how to take care of dollars and cents, they must have neglected the education of their children, and are accountable for a violation of duty not only to their family, but to the circle in which the children are to move. We have heard young ladies openly avow the above sentiments, and have felt pained on account of their ignorance, while they supposed themselves well informed, and well educated. We are happy, however, to say that a very great portion of the females among the agricultural portion of the community, exert all their influence in favour of rural pursuits, and that much of the spirit of improvement, which is now every where witnessed as well as a great proportion of the interest which is manifested in agricultural exhibitions, may be fairly attributed to the influence of females. Let fathers and mothers discharge their duty in a proper manner, and educate their children so as to encourage rather than repress a fondness for agricultural pursuits, and the time will soon come when agriculture, instead of being looked upon with disdain, will engage the attention of the young and hold a high place among the occupations of life.

It is too often the case in this country, that young men instead of relying on their own powers of mind, to investigate the different and varied subjects connected with agricultural pursuits, rely solely on the knowledge which their father can impart, and never dream of turning aside from the track which others have pursued before them.

We recollect on one occasion meeting with a farmer whom we invited to subscribe for our journal, and inquiring the price and the objects of the paper, he inquired of his son, a young man of perhaps sixteen or eighteen years, if he would like to have an agricultural paper, to which he replied that he wanted a paper that had funny stories in it. On our remarking that a knowledge of agricultural pursuits, was of far greater consequence to a young man than a perusal of funny stories, he very promptly answered, "I can learn enough about farming from Dad." We fear that this opinion is far too prevalent among the sons of farmers in this country, and that they rely more on Dad

than on their own exertions. We ask farmers, and the friends of agriculture, to think of these things, and see whether their duty does not require that they place within the reach of the youth in their charge, information which shall enable them not only to make a proper choice of business, but which will qualify them for the proper discharge of the business of their choice.—*Central New-York Farmer.*

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS.—From an examination of the Marshall's Returns at the last United States Census, it appears—That the State of Ohio, raised more Wheat than any other State in the Union—exceeding Pennsylvania by about 8,000,000 bushels; and Pennsylvania exceeds New-York about 2,000,000 bushels; Virginia about 1,500,000 less than New-York. New-York, however, exceeds Pennsylvania in Rye, about 3,000,000 bushels—Indian Corn, 2,800,000 bushels—Oats more than 2,000,000 bushels—Buckwheat, 300,000 bushels—Barley, 2,200,000 bushels—Potatoes, 21,000,000 bushels—Wool, 1,000,000 lbs.—Hay, nearly 2,000,000 tons—Sugar, over 8,000,000 pounds and products of the dairy, upwards of \$8,000,000 dollars. The State of Tennessee raised 42,000,000 bushels of Corn, exceeding any other State in the Union. North-Carolina, 34,500,000—Virginia, 34,000,000—Illinois, 23,000,000—Michigan, 22,000,000—Alabama, 18,000,000.

Of neat Cattle, New-York possesses 2,642,433, Pennsylvania, 1,146,418; Ohio, 1,003,313. Of Sheep, New-York, has 5,331,225; Pennsylvania, 3,396,431; Ohio, 1,963,957; Vermont, 1,393,420; Virginia, 1,230,736.

In the products of the Orchard, New-York and Vermont have nearly double the amount of any other State—the former being to the amount of \$1,737,357; the latter \$1,169,287.

There are many other items which we intend to give hereafter. The resources of our country are abundant. If our citizens will only economize—purchase no more foreign articles than are absolutely necessary for their wants—the time will soon arrive, when the pressure which is so heavily felt, will pass away. We must return to a system of economy in every department of life. Frugality and industry are absolutely necessary to the prosperity of this country. We must learn to live more within ourselves, if we would be prepared for exigencies, such as we now witness.—*Id.*

INDUSTRY.—Every young man should remember that the world always has and always will honor industry. The vulgar and useless idler whose energies of mind and body are rusting for want of exercise—the mistaken being who pursues amusement as a relief to his enervated muscles or engages in exercises that produce no useful end, may look with scorn on the smutty laborer engaged in his toil. But his scorn is praise. His contempt is an honor. Honest industry will secure the respect of the wise and the good among men, and yield the rich fruit of an easy conscience and give that hearty self respect which is above all price. Toil on then young men—Be diligent in business. Improve the heart and the mind and you will find the well-spring of enjoyment in your own souls and secure the confidence and respect of all those whose respect is worth an effort to obtain.

MAXIM OF HEALTH.—Sir William Temple says:—"The only way for a rich man to be healthy is to live as if he was poor, using exercise and observing abstinence."