

that—unlike the mechanic, who receives but his material from the hands of nature and must carve and fashion it, inch by inch and piece by piece, to such form and purpose as he desires—while he, the agriculturist, can do much towards effecting improved results, he cannot do *all*; while in the several departments of his occupation, his cattle, his grain, his fruits, his herbs, he can increase and improve their quality and quantity—while in everything that he touches, and to which he applies the faculties that God has bestowed upon him, he may reap the benefits of well-directed judgment and perseverance, yet he must leave much—very much, to nature; there are processes in which he *cannot* interfere—operations conducted by an unseen hand, and perfected by a secret power, which is active when man is weary, and working while man must sleep.

Although in aiming at the highest results in agriculture man may bring much skill and science to his aid, making himself acquainted with the properties of various substances, learning by experiment what chemical combinations best promote the growth of the plants in which he is interested, and what preparation of the field is requisite—though he may learn to scatter his seed upon the soil, and in the season most favorable to its vegetation and perfect development, watching and assisting its progress with the artificial appliances and helps in which observation has instructed him—though he may gather round himself the herbs of other regions, and may naturalize within the limits of his farm the grains and fruits indigenous to distant quarters of the globe, making a hundred lands contribute to the prosperity and comfort of that home which is the abiding place of his heart's affections, and in which his happiness and honorable pride are centred—though in this way he may do much, yet it is still to nature that he is indebted at every step: if at any one stage *her* action be arrested, his progress must be stayed also; if a limb be withered he cannot restore it: the fruit which is prematurely delayed he cannot cause to recover