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ON THE
NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING
AN
Agricultural College,
AND HAVING MORE OF THE
Children of Wealthy Citizens,
EDUCATED FOR THE
PROFESSION OF FARMING.

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PRINTED BY WEBSTERS AND SKINNERS,
At their Bookstore, corner of State and Pearl Streets.
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CONSIDERATIONS, &c.

The purpose of the following observations is to recommend an institution for the education of agriculturists, or, in more familiar language, to teach the business of farming.

The necessity of such an institution is the first thing that will be required to be shewn before advocates for it can be expected, and this I think will appear in a convincing manner from the following considerations.

There are now thousands of wealthy citizens in this state who do not know what to do with their sons. In the first place, without any determinate object in view, they give them a liberal education, or rather, they send them for four years to a college to obtain the reputation of having a graduate's diploma, and so much instruction in the dead languages and the ordinary sciences as they are compelled or disposed to attend to; after that there are only three professions from which ordinarily they are to choose their means of living and rising into consequence—law, physic and divinity; but so great are the numbers of young
gentlemen destined for those professions, that their prospects are truly dismal; but what other provision can their fathers make for them? Turn them to some mechanic employment? that is considered too degrading; To manufacturing? it has been tried and proved ruinous; To mercantile business? that too is overstocked; To the army or navy? there is little room there, and many reasons against it. To farming? nothing, it is said, can be made by it.

In most European countries, the manufacturing department affords a vast opening for respectable enterprise, and gives employment to millions. Its business can scarcely be overdone. In it are found some of the most important and influential men of the nation to which they belong. In respectability, wealth and usefulness, few in other departments excel them. Hither then, without offence to the most fastidious pride, may the offspring of families of every rank be directed for employment. To us this department may in some sense be said to be absolutely shut, a circumstance which most materially narrows the field of profitable and honorable pursuit. With us so few are the channels of what is esteemed exclusively reputable business, by the proud classes of society, that a multitude, too great for their capacities rushes into them at once. Happily for the agricultural department, it has, among all the capricious and absurd modifications and revolutions of notions, remained exempt from dishonorable
imputation; but still it is guarded by a terrific phantom, which threatens obscurity and poverty to those who shall attempt to enter it, still repeating, that by farming nothing is to be made.

That nothing is to be made by farming, however, is an opinion easy to be refuted, and that will presently be done; in the mean while, some further preliminary observations are to be made.

There are no entailed estates in our country: and there are very few, however enormous, that may not be dissipated by the immediate descendants of those who have acquired them. It may therefore be said, with little qualification, that every person, whatever may be his patrimony, must calculate on being the arbiter of his own fortune. As many young men are now brought up in opulent families, the inevitable consequence will be that they, excepting such as may fortunately escape the effects of their education, must eventually sink out of sight from the respectable part of the community. In the mean time the descendants of the industrious mechanics, following the lessons and examples of their fathers, together with those extraordinary geniuses, that not unfrequently rise from the mansions of obscurity, will by their native powers and unsubduable energies, mount to the highest eminences, command the wealth, and rule the destinies of their country. It is melancholy to look back and see how many families of high repute, have, merely by fostering a despicable, inert, family pride, and disdaining such occupations
for their children as were only suited to their talents, and abandoning them to their wayward inclinations, become exterminated from the ranks in which they formerly stood. And it is pitiable, truly pitiable, to see, as any one in every section of the country may see, by looking not far about him, a family raised to opulence and character by the genius, enterprise and industry of its head, exhibiting, from the same cause, sure and dismal presages of its speedily submerging far below the level of its present stand in society.—Who cannot point to some such in which not one of its branches can be selected with the least prospect of a surviving reputation distinguished from that of the common mass of mankind, after the head of it shall have ceased to uphold it? And how is this to be accounted for? By that same pernicious pride and most culpable tenderness, which forbid persons, elevated by their circumstances but a little above the common level, to subject their children to that severe discipline which is indispensably necessary to prepare them for such callings, no matter which, as are indicated by their capacities and the natural bent of their dispositions. Such persons do to their sons the office of the angel of paradise, in guarding, against their entrance, the only place where happiness for them is to be found. Nor can it escape observation, that to the neglect of early and systematic religious and moral instruction, can evidently be traced the annihilation of families once holding conspicuous stations in the community.
It may here be proper also to make some remarks on the notion which is generally entertained of the hardships, sometimes called cruelties, of discipline. The discipline of young persons is nothing more than compelling them to do what they ought to do, and must do, to escape a comparatively ignominious life, but what they are naturally unwilling to do, and by proper means to impress on them the habit of doing it. This in the operation may not be pleasant to the patient, but the habit once induced will become the source of his greatest enjoyments. As some confirmation of the truth of this remark, I have heard persons, who had in their earlier age passed through a course of the severest discipline, animadvert on it with the highest satisfaction; and with recollections of gratitude to their, once considered cruel, master, ascribe to it all the consequence they had acquired in life. On the contrary, I have heard bitter upbraidings from those who have in after life wofully experienced the effects of its not having been enforced by those who had the control of them in the days of their infancy and youth.

I believe every reader of this will, from his own experience, be ready to testify to the justness of this remark. For myself I can truly say, that there is no hardship which I have suffered to prepare me for the duties of life, nor any which I have endured in the prosecution of them, which I now regret. If I have any one thing more than others to regret, in my recollections of the past,
it is, that stronger injunctions have not been in-
forced, or that a greater self-control, and a
course of more scrupulous and assiduous per-
formance of duties have not been assumed. The
pains of additional labor would have been abun-
dantly compensated by the feelings of self-ap-
plause, which a retrospection would afford, and
the satisfaction yielded by a consciousness of
powers better matured for actions more extensive-
ly useful.

On this topic I will make one other remark
which, as to its importance and truth, I recom-
mend to the serious and deliberate consideration
of those wealthy parents, whose anxieties to pro-
vide for the happiness of their children, render
them incapable of attending to the plainest dic-
tates of reason and the most impressive lessons
of experience.

A youth supplied with cash to the amount of
his wishes, to be employed for his pleasures in
such ways as his undisciplined inclinations may
lead him into, and which will most probably be
to dissipated company, gambling houses, and the
resorts of obscenity and intemperance, will enjoy
much less real happiness than an apprentice un-
der the strictest master of a mechanic art. Be-
sides, such a youth must expect ultimately to find
the apprentice of the mechanic, and many a far-
mer's son, infinitely his superior in the estimation
of the public, as well as in the abundance of his
comforts; and if he has any reflection, he will
look back with bitter but unavailing regret on the cruel indulgence of his parents. Better for him would it have been if he had been the offspring of poverty, or, as is sometimes the melancholy fact, better that he never had been born. But should he, by a happy constitution, or a fortunate concurrence of circumstances, be kept from the paths of dishonor and vice, still the chance is great that his pursuits will be after frivolous objects, and that his character through life will be marked with the stamp of insignificance. To such a doom do many of our most wealthy and respectable citizens deliberately devote their offspring. Cruel parents!

Neglecting to bring up a son to any business, trade or profession, whatever may be the rank or condition of the parent, is a crime of the deepest die—it is next to murder—It is the same thing as cutting off from society one of its members, whose usefulness, if a due discharge of parental duty had not been omitted, might have been eminently great—It is more—It is letting loose on society one, who, as he has not been taught to do anything useful, must of necessity do mischief, for inaction is unnatural. If his constitutional powers, temper and disposition happen fortunately to be feeble, mild and spiritless, he may be comparatively harmless. But the greater his powers, the more ardent his temper, the more perverse his disposition, and the more inflated his pride, and these commonly go together, the greater is the evil to be apprehended from him—It is a parent's devoting his child to that unhappy ex-
istence, which is the inevitable lot of all who are not put into the road of useful employment, and often it happens that it is also consigning him to ignominy, coupled with every calamity of life, in its most terrible form—It is a crime of the worst kind against the community—It is one of the most cruel curses that a father can inflict on a son.*

Let the biographies of eminent men be consulted, and it will be seen, that, superadded to the ordinary severities of their instructors or masters, their distinction is to be chiefly ascribed to self-imposed severities, deliberately adopted and perseveringly observed, till they have rivetted the habits that gave the complexion of their fortunes and determined their destinies. Such men have in their education and subsequent pursuits submitted themselves to privations and toils compared with which the apprenticeship and labors of the most active farmer may be said to be but of trifling amount. Without such self-imposed discipline, Franklin would not have risen above the standing of an ordinary printer. Washington, whose name is encircled with a halo of glory unparalleled among mortals, would have been confounded with the common planters of Virginia, had he not, from early life, subjected himself to a uniform series of labors and sufferings, both of body and mind, of which the most industrious farm-

* The author has been informed, that in a town in this state, not as populous as Albany now is, and not less healthful, out of forty young men of the most respectable families, who had reached the age of manhood, and who had not been educated for any profession, not one survived his fortieth year.
er or mechanic cannot form an adequate idea.—It is nevertheless true, however, that the innate greatness of such men gives them a sublimity of feeling that makes their labors and sufferings comparatively light. And so will it be with all who undertake a profession with that exalted enthusiasm which is not to be daunted, nor chilled for a moment, by prospects of the greatest obstacles, but, ever confident of victory, will encounter them with the utmost promptitude and alacrity, however formidable and appalling their character or appearances may be.

The chief difference between the noble and ignoble of the human race is this: The one, after having obtained a distinct view of his duties, and the necessary means for attaining a noble end, prescribes to himself a conduct for accomplishing his purposes from which he will never deviate, whatever may be the temptations or discouragements to induce him to relinquish it or to relax in his efforts. The other will, on the appearance of every little difficulty, shrink into himself like a snail, or sink into a helpless state of despondency.

Read the choice of Hercules when addressed by Fame and Pleasure personified as deities. Had he been intimidated by the labors which the first required of him, or accepted, like many an unfortunate youth of our times, of the promised dalliances of the other, instead of that immortal fame which he acquired, he would have sunk, a miserable, debauched, effeminate wretch into the gulf of oblivion.
Nothing is more idle or preposterous than the notion that success or celebrity, in any sphere, can be obtained without great exertion and intense application. Reason at the first glance pronounces it foolish; and every day's observation shows it to be false; and yet it seems, some parents think that their sons will become something without any labor to qualify them for it, and as a consequence, their sons dream of distinctions without an effort to attain them. They expect to glide smoothly down stream on the credit of a family name, or a family's riches, or possibly on the reputation of a superior genius, without the necessity of combatting contrary winds and currents into a port where accumulations of wealth and honor await them. Miserable dreams! fatal delusions! No: young men must have it impressed on them, as an undeniable self-evident proposition, that they must work, and work hard both in qualifying themselves for the business of their profession, whatever that may be, and in conducting it afterwards, if they have any ambition to be seen in the ranks of honorable men; and that all their powers must be strenuously, systematically and perseveringly exerted, if they aim at any thing like superiority.

By the infallible oracles of divine inspiration we are taught, that no man can obtain a good character as a christian, unless he denies himself, takes up his cross—cuts off a right hand, or pulls out an eye, if necessary for his advancement to perfection—Figurative expressions, denoting the extremes of self-denial, fortitude and voluntary suf-
ferring. The same doctrine may, with a qualified propriety, be addressed to those who aim at distinction in any of the professions of civil life. Whatever may be the genius or natural powers, there must be the labor improbus, hard labor, strong exertions, struggles against improper propensities, a rigid observance of rules, a radical extermination of evil habits, a scrupulous improvement of time, an unwavering perseverance, and a judicious exercise of a well disciplined reason in the selection of means for the attainment of the objects to be achieved.

A generous youth, anxious about his fate, waked from his reveries, and adverting to his lost or misapplied time, will often exclaim with the poet,

"The bell strikes one!—How much is to be done!
My hopes and fears start up alarm'd,
And o'er life's narrow verge look down—
On what!"

and redouble his exertions so to improve his natural powers as that they may be displayed in a manner the most eminent in the character he has chosen to appear in on the stage of life; diffuse to others the greatest good, and procure for himself the greatest applause, with an approving conscience.

These observations are made to wipe away the flimsy objections which that foolish womanish tenderness, and that contemptible pride, which are the usual concomitants of an imbecility of intellect, may raise against the discipline and labor that will be required by the institution proposed to be created.
But perhaps our young gentlemen, or their foolish sympathising parents, will be afraid that working like a farmer may spoil the delicate complexion of their hands, and destroy that mark by which they are to be distinguished from the vulgar. What a ridiculous notion of merit! What a contrast to the opinions and practice of the most admired eras of antiquity, when man rose in unparalleled grandeur! When Cincinnatus, after having, as dictator of the proudest and most powerful nation on earth, performed such deeds as have shed a superlative lustre of glory about his name, and transmitted it as an object of supreme admiration through every age, returned to the plough, and resumed his occupation as a farmer for a living.

“In ancient times, the sacred plough employ’d
The kings and awful fathers of mankind,
And some, compar’d with whom your insect tribes
Are but the beings of a summer's day,
Have held the scale of empire, rul’d the storm
Of mighty war, then with unwearied hand,
Disdaining little delicacies, seiz’d
The plough, and greatly independent liv’d.”

As in our civil institutions we have nearly emancipated ourselves from all the trammels bequeathed by the ages of barbarism, and with which the nations of Europe yet remain shackled, so let us also discard such of their customs, and fashions, and rules of taste, as have not a spark of reason to vindicate them; but on the contrary, must, on the slightest examination, appear notoriously derogatory to that independence and superiority of char-
acter of which it is the glory of the Americans to be able to boast.

All kinds of useful labor and hardihood, connected with an unimpeachable morality, and a decorous deportment, deserve respect and honorable treatment; and wherever the contrary is customary, a corruption of manners is indicated, which, so far from descending to emulate, we should treat with the proud scorn of conscious superiority.

Every thing in man of an effeminate cast must detract from his character, and if voluntarily acquired, or cherished as a matter of value, deserves contempt. Such is the lady-like lily hand of a petit maitre; which is about as proper an object to be proud of, as the long nails of the Asiatic beaux, cherished and guarded with idolatrous care, to shew that they are above the rank of laborers, and for the preservation of which, elegant ivory tubes are worn at the ends of their fingers.

A number of considerations not capable of enumeration, besides those already anticipated, crowd on the reflecting mind in favor of an institution, especially in our country, that shall have for its primary object instruction in theoretic and practical agriculture. But it may be asked, on the introduction of the subject, why have not institutions of this kind been formed and patronized in older countries, especially in England, where agriculture has so much engaged the attention of its first characters, and where it has been carried to such a height of perfection? The reason is obvious. In most foreign countries the fee of the soil is gener-
ally in the gentry, who besides their tenantries, have extensive farms under their immediate superintendence; who make farming in some measure a business, and who can afford to make experiments and communicate such as result in improvements of consequence, to those, who, pursuing a steady course, known to be safe and profitable, will not hazard a departure from it without such a demonstration. Such improvements are moreover communicated to their societies or boards of agriculture, by which they are published for the benefit of the public, and thus constantly reciprocated among all who are engaged in its interests. —The sons of such gentlemen farmers, from the practice of which they are the constant witnesses, can hardly fail of acquiring a proficiency in the knowledge of agriculture, so far at least as to qualify them for its superintendence. Thus, then, every landlord's farm, becomes to a certain degree, a school of practical agriculture, where experiments are constantly made, by wealthy, scientific, and practical men, to ascertain the best methods of profitable culture; where the knowledge of it is transmitted as a family inheritance, and sheds its meliorating influence, immediately over a wide circle of tenantry, and remotely over the kingdom at large. And even in those countries there are not wanting some arrangements in their academical establishments for teaching the scientific parts, if not the actual practice of agriculture. But here circumstances are widely different. With but very few exceptions, we have no landlords and few-
er still of that class who turn their attention to farming. It is the glory of our country, that with such rare exceptions, every farmer is the absolute, independent lord of his own territory, little as it may be, and works it with his own hands, and by his own hired laborers: His children are his pupils, whom he teaches from their infancy the mysteries of his calling; but the mediocrity of his circum-
stances, and his habitual prudence will not permit him to hazard experiments for improvements. What he knows of it as practised by his father, will be known by his children, and they will probably during their lives, follow his track without deviation. Under such circumstances, agriculture must remain at a stand, although like other arts, its past progressive improvements, warrant the presumption that to its future no limits can be assigned.

The agricultural societies organized and brought into action of late, operate principally by the stimu-
lus of emulation; and the good that they are cal-
culated to do, and will unquestionably do, if con-
tinued with the spirit with which they have started, and with the improvements which time and experience will indicate, must be great, very great, in a department of business which of all others is the most important to our country. But it is evi-
dent that the good derived from them is conveyed through one channel, broad indeed and deep, and having attached to it numerous ramifications; still there may be others leading to the same port, and
as essential to the effectual promotion of our national prosperity. The institution now proposed will not be their rival, but rather a co-operator. Its essential difference of character will be, that, availing itself of all the improvements that have been made, and are constantly making, in the science and practice of agriculture, it will be a school where they will be taught in that perfection to which they have been carried by all those variegated means, and by all the experience of every nation, and every age, since men first emerged from a state of barbarism. It is intended not so much to give instruction to farmers as to make farmers from the other classes of society, which are stocked with such a superfluity of members that hordes of them must otherwise remain useless, or worse than useless to the community—And while this is doing it will shed a light over the profession, that may be greatly useful, even to those who are most eminent in it.

The farming department in America cannot be overstocked, at least for centuries before us, so wide, so vast, so boundless is the field, that imagination cannot grasp the population sufficient to fill it; and it is only in proportion as that flourish will be the substantial wealth, the power, the grandeur, and the happiness of our country. It is the only solid foundation on which our national prosperity can be erected, and therefore the object, of all others, that ought first and chiefly to engage the attention of government. No rational
scheme for its advancement can therefore, consistent with that wisdom which characterises true statesmen, be treated otherwise than with an impartial and a deliberate investigation of its merits; and if found eligible, whatever apparent difficulties may be in the way, its adoption must and will be effected.

It is therefore true policy to draw into this field as many as possible, especially of young men, qualified for it by a suitable education, and possessed of a capital sufficient to conduct their affairs to advantage. But how is such an acquisition to be effected?

At present there is no doubt that there are numbers of men of fortune in our state, and many of them large owners of lands, who would wish to qualify, as farmers, at least some of their sons, and give them suitable establishments as such, but are deterred from it by such considerations as the following.

Success in every profession or calling depends on a perfect knowledge of it.—Such knowledge cannot be obtained without actual application for its attainment as a student or apprentice for a competent time.—The profession of a farmer, no less than that of a lawyer, a physician, a divine, a manufacturer, or of any of the mechanic arts, cannot be duly acquired without such application.—For any one to undertake a business with which he is unacquainted, or rather for which he has not been regularly educated, is the height of folly, as
it must in all probability eventually ruin him.—In every kind of business there will be sharp competi-
tions, and those who are the most adroit and skil-
ful in it, will, with equal means and industry, make the most by it, and those who have not a com-
petent knowledge of it must suffer in its pursuit.

Now, how are the sons of wealthy gentlemen of other professions to acquire such knowledge of agriculture? At present there is no other way than to put them out to serve as apprentices to farmers. To this there are many objections. From their previous education they will not be disposed to sub-
mit to the necessary discipline, and their masters will not have it in their power to enforce it—They may be associated with laborers whose manners will contaminate theirs—They will probably be destitute of all society by which they might be stim-
ulated to further advances in their previous studies and a progress in refinement—Released from ade-
quate restraints, they may be enticed, by profligate companions, into low-bred practices, and contract disgraceful and ruinous habits. And, after all, in the best situations, they could learn little more than the business of a farmer in its most ordinary state.

For all this there is no remedy but an institu-
tion like that which is now proposed, the happy tendency of which, when once established, will beyond all doubt be abundantly demonstrated as soon as it shall be completely carried into opera-
tion.
It will make agricultural pursuits more fashionable, and engage in them the noblest spring of human activity, the ambition to shine pre-eminent in a sphere of usefulness, of the most brilliant character, and the widest extended magnitude.

It is a mistaken idea that nothing can be made by farming. Universal fact proves the contrary.—The chief part of our immense population lives by it, and lives too in a comfortable, and very many of it in a luxurious state. It is a fact, not now noticed for the information of our countrymen, who all know it, but as a contrast to what prevails on the other side of the Atlantic, where probably it will be considered incredible, that our farmers' tables are ordinarily furnished, three times a day throughout the year, with as much meat, besides a superabundance of vegetables, as their families and their laborers can use, and that two, out of the three meals a day, have commonly coffee or tea, with sugar and cream or milk for their accompaniments. It is fervently to be wished, that a more economical mode of living were adopted—but so is the fact. Is this making nothing by farming? Which of the other pursuits of life furnish more of the means of comfortable living? Do we not often see it the source of riches and abundance, while many in other professions find it difficult to subsist? It is the only one that is independent. Indebted to his industry, and the ordinary goodness of Providence alone, the farmer can live should all others be annihilated. His bosom is
free from the anxieties which agitate others, who have not the same certainty of enjoying a competency, who know not whether there will be sufficient openings for their industry, whether their labors will be duly appreciated, or whether the chances on which success depends will eventuate for or against them.

Hope, which only can illumine the gloom that envelops humanity, and assuage its sufferings, holds her lamp, burning with a bright equable flame, before the cultivator of the earth; while to others, it appears and disappears and appears again, like the wandering fire of an ignis fatuus, or flutters like the faint light of a glimmering taper, or like a meteor blazes intensely for a while, then vanishes for ever.

Travel through our country, especially the western parts of this state; look at the groups of rosy, well clad children, that swarm from their dwellings, and cluster about the school houses; observe the neatness and elegance of the farm houses as you pass them; examine their appendages of out-houses, gardens, orchards and fields, stocked with cattle, or enriched with crops ripening for the harvest, estimate their value; go into the churches, raised in all their magnificence, from the surplusages of farms, and behold the brilliance of appearances there, where not a single object, with the marks of poverty on it, is found to disfigure the scene; enter some of the stately abodes which will meet you with frequent occurrence; see the plen-
ty, independence, comfort and happiness predominant in them, which the lords of palaces might envy, but which they never can know; ask if these are the fruits of a fortunate or prosperous ancestry; you will be told, no! they have all been extracted from the soil by a judicious and industrious application of their present owners to the business of agriculture. After this say, is there nothing to be made by farming?

Little do many think what they make by it.—Let them only calculate the amount of every article that enters into the consumption of their families, according to the prices which the inhabitants of cities pay, and they may obtain some idea of the produce of their farms. Most of them, and those not of the wealthiest, will no doubt, at the end of such a calculation, be astonished to find that, with all their economy and avoidance of extravagance, and notwithstanding their previous very different belief, they live at the rate of two or three thousand dollars a year: a fact easy to be ascertained by keeping regular accounts; and yet many such have accumulated no ordinary fortunes to bequeath to their families.

Englishmen, in their characteristic vain-glorious manner, exult in the happy condition of their farmers; and what is that condition? They cultivate a soil not superior, but perhaps on an average rather inferior to ours. The price of their land, compared to that of ours, is exorbitant, and rents of necessity are equally exorbitant. They
possess no incommunicable *arcana* for managing their business; on the contrary, the American genius is well calculated to outstrip them, and will most undoubtedly do so, under the influence of that spirit which has become so active of late, in all the niceties of husbandry. One third, probably one half, if not more, of the fruits of their labor is taken from them, without remuneration—by tithes to support an ecclesiastical nobility with its numberless dependents,—by taxes to pay the interest of a national debt, of incomprehensible magnitude, incurred for carrying on a savage warfare against the human race, almost without intermission, for centuries past, and for the support of an aristocracy, of which the thousands that compose it, each must be supported in a style of magnificence which the first magistrate of this nation cannot afford—by the poor-rates exacted from them to keep a great portion of their immense population from actual starvation—and by what is drawn from them in private charities by that enormous mass of *pauperism*, utterly inconceivable to Americans, which overwhelms the nation, and, not being adequately provided for by the public, continually assails their humanity with irresistible importunities. It is from this compulsive display of British humanity, that Britons, *proud Britons!* have obtained a character at home so perfectly the reverse of what their public acts have indelibly stamped on them abroad.
If then the English farmer, after having so much of the fruits of his labor taken from him, can, as represented by his own countrymen, live in an enviable style, what must we say of the American, whose contributions for the support of government, and all needful charitable purposes, are comparatively but as a drop in the bucket, or the small dust in the balance!

O fortunatos, si sua norint bona, colonos!

But with all these superior advantages of the American farmer, it is nevertheless true, and it is no less true in regard to every other profession, that he who has not been in the way of becoming thoroughly acquainted with actual farming, will make nothing by it, or rather will sink his fortune in the attempt. A rich young man, sent into the country to prosecute farming, without an education for it, will, most assuredly, be cozened and swindled out of his property, till all be lost; on the contrary, a competent knowledge of his business, to be acquired only by a regular education for it, would make it to him, if not a mine of wealth, at least the means of an affluent living.

The inference from all these facts and observations then is, that there is and must remain an insurmountable barrier to prevent the sons of men of other professions, and especially of the rich, from becoming farmers, unless there be some institution in which they can receive an education for that profession in a manner different from what is now possible:—That it would be incalculably
for the benefit of our country if the surplus candidates for other professions, could be diverted to this, the most useful of all:—And therefore, that an institution specially intended for this purpose is of the greatest importance;—that it is demanded by every consideration of the wisest policy, and that the resources of government cannot be better employed for any other object for which governments are formed.

It may be called an agricultural school, academy or college, no matter which; but if any importance is to be attached to names, I would give it the most respectable, and call it THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.

Its primary object should be to teach the theory and practice of agriculture, with such branches of other sciences as may be serviceable to them: its secondary, to make improvements.

This state has been liberal, almost to excess in the endowment of other colleges. For the purchase of but a little, almost useless, and now nearly neglected appendage to the college of physicians and surgeons—Hosack's botanical garden—a sum has been given which alone would place the all-important institution, now advocated, on a respectable footing. After this, an endowment of such an institution as this cannot be consistently refused.

If then an agricultural college is of the importance thus clearly evinced,—if the best interests
of the community so eminently depend on it—if numbers of youth in the wealthiest families must without it, be abandoned to dissipation, and finally to ruin—if the perplexities, despair, and melancholy prospects of their parents, in regard to the destinies of their children, can be removed only by it, and if capital to an immense amount, otherwise devoted to annihilation in the sinks of prodigality and vice, can by it be drawn into the most productive employment, then surely must the agricultural college share the patronage of government, at least equally with others; nay, it must become the DARLING FAVORITE.

There is another aspect of this institution not unworthy of serious meditation. Men filling the professions, exclusively called the literary, have too great a preponderance in our political machinery. This necessarily results from their qualifications, derived from a superior education, giving them a superior power to accomplish their purposes, and which, directed by an esprit du corps, as it unavoidably must be, cannot be expected always to harmonize with the general interests of the community. It has been observed, and not altogether without reason, that in some places, the clergy have had too much of a controlling influence over the politics of a state. Of such an aristocracy however, this state, we are proud to say, has had no reason to complain, and has nothing to fear. But the greatest evil of this kind, in our country in general, is most to be apprehended from the
profession of law. Every one on reflection, must perceive the extent of the present existence of this evil, and may conjecture to what, without a remedy, it will ultimately grow.

The profession of law is considered, more than any other, as directly in the line of promotion to the highest offices, and therefore, like lottery gamblers, aiming at the highest prize, most ambitious families destine some of their branches for it; but the profession becoming thereby overstocked, numbers are necessitated to intrigue for measures specially favorable to their individual interests, and which may raise them to more fortunate stations. And thus are their superior acquirements, for want of a sufficient counterpoise, successfully employed with other views than the promotion of the public good. When markets are glutted with any commodities, the ingenuity of traders will be stretched to the utmost for discovering ways by which they may dispose of them, and necessity too often urges them to the adoption of unjustifiable means to effect their purposes. Not a few of the lawyers of the inferior grades, it is believed, are in similar circumstances, and obliged to resort to a similar sinister conduct.

For the truth of these remarks let me appeal to general knowledge. Is there a village or town in which the little oracle is not a lawyer? Is there any office in it worth possessing which is not mostly held by a lawyer? Is there any caucus for nominating candidates for offices where lawyers have
not too great an influence over the votes of the meeting? Are there any appointments of consequence to be made which are not directly or indirectly, at least attempted to be, dictated by lawyers? Are there any political projects formed in which lawyers do not take the principal lead? Are there any sycophants or parasites entwining themselves about those who are supposed to have the most influence with the general government, of whom lawyers do not compose the greatest number? May not these questions, with but few exceptions, be all answered in the negative? Thus then it is inferred, that the profession of law forms an aristocracy which virtually rules the nation; and it must necessarily be so, as long as there is in other departments such a dearth of talents sufficiently improved for the business of government in all its branches.

These animadversions on the profession of law, as at present existing in our country, are by no means intended to disparage the profession; on the contrary, it must be confessed that to it we are indebted for the greatest blessings of government, the due investigation and correct discrimination of the rights of the people, and the execution of the laws for their security and protection. An honest, well qualified lawyer, with suitable dispositions, in any community, can be one of its most extensive public benefactors. To him the oppressed may flee, with a consoling confidence, as to a guardian angel, and be sure of
relief. But the evil which has been noticed, and which in its progress is considered to have an aspect sufficiently malign to justify apprehensions of its dangerous growth, arises from the superabundance of the numbers annually added to the profession, and the want of talents, elsewhere, to form a counterpoise to its preponderating weight. But we cannot pull up the tares, lest thereby we destroy the wheat also.

The most essential, if not the only remedy for this evil then is, to introduce more men of accomplished education into the agricultural department, men who shall have discernment sufficient to detect the tendency of sinister measures that may be artfully projected, and the masked batteries that may be raised in hostility to the public good, and be able to meet the champions of them with their own weapons, and with equal dexterity in the use of them. It is believed that nothing better can be devised, for bringing about this most desirable reformation, than the proposed agricultural college, and the dissemination of similar institutions throughout the nation: and if so, this view of it urges, with additional force, the necessity of its adoption, for giving a still higher finish to our already most wonderfully improved political fabric; the most perfect existing model of government; the wonder and the envy of the world.

In our ordinary institutions we have been the mere copyists of foreign establishments. The happy peculiarities of our country require some-
thing different; and it would be an eternal blot on the American character if we had not the genius and the boldness to tread out of the paths traced in barbarous times, and pursue a course suited to this new world, so very different from the old; especially in regard to the matter now contemplated, which so eminently involves the highest interests of our country. Let it then belong to the state of New-York, to give birth to an institution, which, if the view now taken of the subject be correct, will exceed all others in immediate and most lasting substantial utility. She will then have the praise of being the mother of agricultural schools, by which the cultivation of the earth, in the best possible known manner, will be taught, and ultimately improved to the highest possible state of perfection.

One other very important effect will be produced by such an institution. Comparisons will be made between the practice of those who are educated in it, and those who are brought up to farming in the ordinary way; and thereby an emulation will be excited that will cause exertions, which would not otherwise be made, for making continual further approximations to the maximum of improvement.

What the precise construction, organization and discipline of the agricultural college ought to be, I shall not at present presume to define. They ought to be well digested in the outset, but whatever may be the wisdom engaged in it, like all
other institutions, time only can bring it to perfection. Experience must teach what will finally make it what it ought to be, to answer all its intended purposes. The outlines of it only can now be attempted.

As usual, its concerns will be committed to a board of trustees. Its faculty will consist of a president and professoors of the several branches to be taught, the chief of which will be one for the theory and another for the practice of agriculture, besides others for such appendant branches as may be judged necessary, particularly chemistry and botany. What the business of each is to be may be easily conceived, except that of the professor of practical agriculture, who is to be literally what the title imports, and whose duties it may not be amiss more minutely to consider, as it is he who is to make him, who is previously or simultaneously instructed in the necessary scientific parts, the perfect practical farmer.

Much will depend on the choice of this professor. He should himself understand all that relates to the theory, and besides have been so far engaged in the actual practice of farming as to be thoroughly acquainted with all the methods already successfully adopted. He must be capable of making all prescribed experiments in the best manner, and of stating true comparisons between their results and the customary practice: He must know how to make all the arrangements for the work to be done, and direct every part of it to its
proper end, so as to produce the best and greatest effects with the least loss of time. On this faculty more depends than is generally conceived; for it is a well known fact that by skilful management one person will obtain much more from his laborers than another, although both may in other respects understand their business equally well.

This professor will of course have the superintendence and direction of the labor of the students in the field. What will be required of them there next demands consideration. It has already been observed that they must learn to work; and this is to be an essential object of the institution, for without knowing how to perform, with their own hands, every kind of work belonging to the profession they intend to pursue, they never can become sufficiently acquainted with it or qualified to conduct it to advantage.

It will be readily perceived that to such an institution must belong a farm of sufficient extent and variety of soil for all the practice and experiments that may be required to carry its views into the completest effect; and this farm is to be made not only instructive, but, if possible, profitable also. For certain regularly allotted portions of time, the students are to be employed on it and practice every species of work that may be requisite; such as plowing, harrowing, sowing, planting, reaping, hay-making, threshing and preparing every thing for market; and they are to be practically instructed in the selection, qualities, man-
agement and value of cattle; in short in every thing with which a farmer ought to be thoroughly acquainted, and which he ought to be able to do.

Instead of giving formal lectures, this professor, who must constantly attend his classes while thus engaged, will, during the progress of their work, explain to them the best manner in which every thing is to be done, the reason of it, and the errors that are or may be committed in it; on all which, the students will be required to make notes and comments at their hours of relaxation, and undergo examinations at stated times. And as hired laborers will besides be necessary, the very best should be selected to give examples of the most proper manner of performing every branch of business, and of the time in which it can and ought to be done.

The knowledge of gardening, inoculating, grafting, and the best manner of propagating fruit trees and shrubberies, will also be taught by engaging the students in the same way in actual practice.

Every farmer ought to be able to repair his implements when out of order, without suffering, on every such occasion, the loss of time and expense to which the sending for the proper mechanic would subject him. A workshop provided with all necessary tools will therefore properly be a part of the establishment. Some exercise here will give to all the students an agreeable variety of employment, and to those who have a mechanical
turn it will be as gratifying as useful. Here also ought to be collected models of all the best implements of husbandry, of which the respective merits will not only be explained by the proper professor but proved by actual trial.

Books will be kept in which will be entered in detail, all the transactions of the farm, and periodical statements of results, with accounts of profit and loss; and these the professors may make the subjects of useful and profitable lectures.

Public examinations on theory and practice, and exhibitions of work will be appointed, honors awarded and diplomas given as evidences of superior merit on a completion of education. And these when justly estimated, as undoubtedly they will be, must give title to a precedence before those who hold licences for following any of the liberal professions.

Here will also be taught, both by precept and example, that frugality, temperance and economy, of time as well as of expense, which are equally essential with skill in the profession for its successful prosecution; lessons of the utmost importance to those young gentlemen who may have been contaminated by the customs of cities; customs, which besides fostering idleness and dissipation, prescribe innumerable costly delicacies, as useless to adults as pernicious to children. And it is sincerely to be regretted, that so many of the farmers of our country depart from a better manner of living for the purpose of aping,
in an awkward way, the more irrational style introduced, partly by necessity, and partly by a ridiculous vanity, among the inhabitants of cities. By such frugality and economy will be taught the secret, of possessing, at all times in abundance, the means of a better living than such citizens enjoy; if by better living be understood what is more according to nature, more highly relished by an unvitiated palate, and more conducive to health, the sine qua non of every enjoyment.

It is well known that there are men laboring under an incurable infirmity, or delicacy of constitution, for which is assigned, as the most probable cause, their having been pampered, when young, with fashionable dainties. To have the effects of such practices corrected, as early and as effectually as possible, is therefore, to any such unfortunate individual, a matter of the highest importance, and to do this will be one, among the many other good offices of the proposed institution. Foreign luxuries will be discarded, and the food will be, as it ought to be, with every agriculturalist as far as possible, the sole produce of the farm, and that will be made, independent of all other sources, to yield in abundance, all the prime luxuries of life.

If by means of the proposed institution, or by any means whatever, foreign luxuries could be abolished, or only retrenched to reasonable bounds, how much would it annually save to our country! how much to individual families! and how much would it contribute to the constitutional stamina.
of the American people! I allude chiefly to tea, coffee and spirituous liquors. The embarrassments of our country at this time are ascribed chiefly to the abstraction of specie from us, directly by our commerce with Asia, and indirectly by our commerce with the West Indies, for articles which make no part of the necessaries of life, and most of which, such is the unaccountable caprice and tyranny of custom, are a perverse substitution for articles produced by our own farms, greatly superior in every quality to gratify the palate or to give nourishment to the body. Time was when tea and coffee were almost unknown in our country, and happy for us would it be if such a time should return, and that such things should only make an occasional variety in our entertainments and cease to be, as they now are, articles of daily use. They contain extremely little of nourishment if any at all; what then is the use of them? It is said that they possess something of a narcotic quality, and thence arises the temporary refreshment attributed to them, and thence also the attachment to them which their daily use so strongly establishes. But it is an undoubted fact, that no person without such use will acquire a relish for them, and therefore are additions made to them, as to other nauseous drugs, in order to render them palatable, and to decoy children into the use of them. Children look to the conduct of their parents for information about what is estimable, and if they see them prize any thing high-
ly in the daily business of eating and drinking, they will, even if they have a natural aversion to it, gradually force themselves into the use of it till habit makes it desirable. How important to children is the example of parents!

Breakfasts and suppers of milk, with bread, or mush, or hasty pudding as it is called in the eastern states, would always be preferred by them if it was not for the example of their parents, or attendants, by which they are thus tempted into the use of those deleterious drugs, procured at a great and utterly useless expense, by us who have in the productions of our farms, such an abundance of better things. Such children, if not thus corrupted, would all their lives long, preserve such a preference, and ever lament that they are compelled by custom, and the habits of their associates, to submit to a privation of their favorite meals. The inhabitants of cities, who have to pay six-pence and eight-pence for every quart of milk, and who, for a stinted indulgence of their families with this wholesome luxury, have to pay fifty or sixty dollars a year, may be excusable for not furnishing their children with it without limitation: but with farmers, who commonly have it in abundance, and yet force their children to use tea and coffee instead of it, it is absolutely a sin against nature.

But admitting that by thus reasoning we are convinced of the impropriety of the custom, how is it to be abolished? It is true, nothing can appear more romantic than a project for effecting a
material alteration in long established national habits. With adults it is impossible; but by commencing with infancy in its earliest stages, it is not absolutely impracticable, for the human being as come from the hands of the Creator, is composed of such pliable materials that it can be moulded into any shape, which time will harden and render unalterable. But, one of the essential means for this is the example of adults, and how can that be procured? Universally it cannot, but in individual cases it may, and these may be multiplied till the effect shall become more and more general.

Among the premiums offered by the agricultural societies, let there be some liberal ones for every new married couple settled in the farming business, who shall, with certain necessary exceptions, discard tea, coffee and imported sugars altogether from their family, for a certain number of years. After having thus experienced the economy and other advantages of living in this manner, there will be no danger that they or their children will afterwards forsake it. The eclat and reputation which will thus be given to this style of living, and the salutary consequences which will be seen in it, will induce others voluntarily to adopt it, and such a reformation, once commenced, we may hope, will proceed with a continued accelerated pace till it shall finally become universal. The simple fact, then first brought to the knowledge of the public by the interest which the most respecta-
ble characters will take in it, that the prevailing custom is not innocent, and that it will be considered honorable and meritorious to adopt the manner of living for which prizes are offered, will probably be sufficient with many to induce them to conform their domestic management to it.

At the same time let a liberal additional premium be offered to him who shall be entitled to the ordinary premium for the best managed farm, if no spirituous liquors shall have been given to his laborers or permitted to be used by them while engaged in his service.

If cheering or exhilarating beverages are necessary, and some thing of the kind seems, from the practice of all ages, to be allowable, if not actually beneficial, while reason does not condemn their use in moderation, we have them of the most innoxious kind and the most grateful variety, without resorting to places beyond our own territories for them. Our cider, were it not for the unaccountable prejudices of taste, would be deemed superior to the ordinary wines of Europe; and every family, with a little instruction in the process, could make its own beer of sufficient excellence, or it might be had from the best brewers by a ready exchange of produce. To send our money abroad for any such luxuries cannot then be considered otherwise than as a wanton waste of property and a mistaken apprehension of what is necessary to support true dignity of character.
A family of middling size will, in the course of a year, use thirty-five dollars worth of coffee, and probably its tea and sugar for suppers will cost as much, making seventy dollars. This is a serious sum to be paid every year for mere luxuries by any farmer, and especially by new beginners: It is the interest of one thousand dollars, for which a little farm might be bought and many a good one rented. But this is only a part of the useless expenses of our countrymen. Add to it what is laid out for spiritous liquors without taking into the account unnecessary fineries of foreign manufacture, and many other useless items, and the amount will appear still more serious.

If anything can be done towards this reformation by the agricultural college, thus seconded by agricultural societies, the immense good it may do even in this incidental branch of its objects, presents its importance in a point of view that must still more forcibly arrest our attention.

Here an enchanting picture might be drawn of the happiness which will intermingle itself with the little hardships of the tasks to be performed by the young gentlemen that shall fill such a college; tasks which, notwithstanding the sternness of their aspect, as pourtrayed in this treatise, will, by habit, have every repulsive feature obliterated, and become attractive by the group of pleasures that will, on a more intimate acquaintance, be found playing around them; but enough has already been said to give an idea of what the agricultural
College is intended to be, and what may be expected from it. I shall take leave of the subject by recommending it to the serious consideration of the legislature, confident that, if it be deliberately examined, there will be a unanimous disposition to give it a being, and a support commensurate with the importance of the purposes intended to be effected by it.

The reader is requested to make the following corrections.

Page 7, line 18, for master read masters.
11, 3, 4, from the bottom, instead of, that immortal fame which he acquired, read obtaining an immortal fame.
22, 7, from the bottom, after harvest read and.
23, 15, for most read some.
30, 10, for essential read effectual.