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THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 1891.

The Dignity of Agriculture.

Not agriculture, and the men who have adopted it as a profession, are considered infinitely more respect than they have been accorded in the past, as nowhere more visible than in the deference paid to them by the leading journals of the world. The London Times, the representative of English aristocracy and the pride of Englishmen everywhere, is latterly very friendly to the farmers of Great Britain; as witness the following from the Times of July 17th:

"We shall be glad to have the assistance of any of those actually engaged in agriculture."

The fact is that England obtains her rice and bone in a great measure from her own farmers. Many of her most renowned names in foreign parts left their native land to engage in agricultural pursuits. They were found raising coffee in Ceylon, indigo in India, clove in the Malay islands, sheep in Australia and New Zealand, and cotton in Egypt and the Fejee islands. Hence agriculture commands respect, and now possesses an influence that competition from the powers that govern. It is, however, a matter of great gratification that the United States was the first great nation to establish a National Bureau of Agriculture. This bureau should be cherished by all classes of our citizens. Its work is not only of direct and immeasurable benefit to the farmer and his laborer in the field, but is educational in the largest sense. The bulletins and reports now issued are upon every subject in natural history as found in the latitude and longitude of the United States. Neither is this literature the "dry-as-dust stuff" that it has been generally considered. Specialists of undoubted ability and large culture in their special departments contribute these monographs. While it is true that many specialists are tedious paragraphists, yet of quite a number of these papers that we have read, we do not recall one where the style is not popular and highly enjoyable. The lucid and George of Virgil are much lauded by classical scholars, but with an intimate knowledge of them since our school days, we believe that for interesting reading, Secretary Rusch's lucid and shoulders above them, whether we read them in the original or the vernacular.

The department is wide awake in every topic of interest to the farmer. The horticulturist is advised and assisted in every direction, in method of culture, choice of varieties, insect and disease allies. Every economic plant is studied and its culture and qualities set forth so plainly that wayfaring men need not err therein, nor be in ignorance even of their history. Comparative anatomies, natural history physiologists contribute invaluable papers composed in a happy combination of technical and popular style. Hence we repeat, the department of Agriculture is an educational institution, and of the very highest character.

Yet it is not alone in its efforts to educate and cultivate the tillers of the soil. It has most valuable auxiliaries in the many agricultural, horticultural and entomological journals published in the different states. No man can read a journal, the Homestead for instance throughout a whole year without realizing that he has been immensely benefited and educated thereby. Every page shows the solicitude of the editors to present the very best that can be written upon the topic in hand. If, as Henry Ward Beecher said, a catalogue of Peter Henderson's is of absorbing interest, what shall we say to advertisements that embrace the entire range from a potato to an orange grove, and from an apple pearer to a steam engine? To the intelligent, reflecting mind and changing character of agricultural advertisements for the last third of the century is a vivid history, and a history too, that marks the progress and advance of our chief industry as completely as the pen of a Bancroft.

That greater progress has not been made is due, we thoroughly believe, to the inertness of the agriculturalist himself. His ambition has been to qualify his sons and daughters for other places than the farm, thereby declaring that ignorance is intelligent enough for the processes of agriculture. Our boys shall be doctors, or lawyers or ministers, they have said; to that end they shall go to school and to college, which was an emphatic way of saying that these callings are more respectable, and therefore more desirable than farming. Such has been the tone and practice in the past of the most prosperous class of our farmers. It is a subject of thanksgiving that this mossy fungus is fast becoming obsolete. To farm intelligently and successfully today is acknowledged to be a task demanding not only energy and shrewdness, but a generous education. Men believe now that to raise corn does not imply an ignorance of Longfellow and Mot-

ly. They can admit a well-bred man to be a farmer, and a farmer to be a well-bred man. They can admit that the farmer is a noble and useful citizen, and that the noble and useful citizen is a farmer. They can admit that the farmer is a noble and useful citizen, and that the noble and useful citizen is a farmer. They can admit that the farmer is a noble and useful citizen, and that the noble and useful citizen is a farmer.

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