

FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

[From the Waverley Magazine.]

THE SEASONS.

Fair Spring in budding beauty comes
Light-tripping o'er the hills;
Her crown of flowers and zephyr-breath
The air with fragrance fills.

Voluptuous Summer followeth her
With languid step and slow;
Resting her limbs in shady bowers
Where limpid waters flow.

To her glad Autumn soon succeeds
With all her bounteous stores;
And blessings scattered far and wide
Her horn of plenty pours.

Relentless Winter comes apace
To close the dying year,
And howls remorseless as he lays
His victim on the bier.

Agriculture in California.

At the annual meeting of the California State Agricultural Society, held in Sacramento, Sept. 19, Tod Robinson, Esq., delivered an address, which we find in the *Sacramento Union*, from which we make the annexed extracts.

After some customary salutations, introductory and eulogistic remarks, he said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: The most important of all pursuits is that of agriculture. Every person in a state of civilization, who wears clothing or eats food, is dependent upon it for his support. All other avocations and employments depend upon it. The merchant, mechanic, professional man and manufacturer look to the productions of the farmer alone for the support and foundation of their respective employments. And as an indication of the great importance of agriculture, I present to your consideration the simple fact that we could strike from society the merchant, lawyer, doctor, manufacturer and mechanic, and still the human family could be sustained and supported in the enjoyment of life—still the great work of moral and mental improvement could go on; but strike from society the farmer's calling, paralyze the farmer's hand, and society would not alone be shaken to its base, but its very foundations would be swept away so utterly as to leave not a wreck behind."

The disastrous consequences that would follow a failure of crops for a single year are pictured in glowing terms. "The worst scenes of the French revolution," said he—"the hour of its darkest and deepest orgies—would be exhibited throughout the entire extent of the universe; death would be at every hand, suffering would be found at every door. Every father would mourn the death of his first-born; every mother would be a Rachel, mourning and weeping for her children because they were not."

This, said he, can be said of no other calling or avocation. Tho' the manufacturer and mechanic should cease their operations, still would men be clothed and supplied with all things necessary to their earthly comfort. Three quarters of the people in the United States are now engaged in agriculture. The farmer alone is free. Not only is his pursuit the most important, but it is the first, the most independent, the noblest, and alone would furnish subsistence for humanity if every other class and avocation were swept out of existence.

Nor does he stop here in his admiration of farming. He continues:

"But also, ladies and gentlemen, this calling of the farmer—this avocation of the husbandman—is the highest of all arts. Has the plodding plowman ever thought of that? Has the man that delves in the earth ever reflected upon his calling being that of an art? Why, so different has been the popular impression upon the subject that a proverbial saying has sprung up, to which even a historical importance and interest attaches:

"When Adam delved and Eve span,
Where was then the gentleman?"

I say it is an art—it is not only a higher pursuit, being independent of all others, but it is one of the highest of all arts. Why, it is even the duty of the farmer and gardener to do that which, in poetical conception, was considered impossible. It is his mission—his employment—

"To paint the lily, and add fresh perfume to the violet."

Notwithstanding the infinite importance justly attaching to the cultivation of the soil; notwithstanding Governments were also dependent upon it for existence, as are individuals, it was most strange that it should be the only pursuit which has never received the fostering aid or care of the Government. He asks:

"Where does Government find resources to fill its treasury? Where does it find its tax-paying community—except in those who follow agricultural pursuits? It is true that the tariff duty upon goods is, in the first instance,

paid out of the merchant's pocket; but it is the farmer alone, as the consumer, who eventually pays the tax—the farmer alone who bears all the burden of Government. If war desolates our borders, who suffers the most? If an enemy invades our country, it is the farmer's crop that is destroyed—the farmer's cattle that is sacrificed for the food of the enemy—the farmer's buildings that are burned—his trees cut down—his fruit destroyed—and still Government, or at least our Government, fails and neglects to patronize and encourage this noblest of the arts."

He calls the attention of the Government to the restoration to their former richness and fertility of the exhausted lands of our country, as an object worthy the most flourishing republic on the globe:

"It is estimated by a skillful man, a close observer, and a farmer, too, that it would take \$100,000,000 to restore millions of acres of land thus exhausted to their original fertility, and I know no object more worthy of the assistance of our Government than to give proper aid to this great undertaking, which, if accomplished, would add so greatly to the resources of our country. That noblest of men, Washington, again and again called the attention of Government to this subject and called upon it to extend its fostering care in aid of this great enterprise, but from that time to this, Government has done but little or nothing in relation to it. True, there is a Bureau in the Patent Office, which is directly adapted to the purpose of the promotion of agriculture; but, gentlemen, as you will perceive from its very name, this institution [instead of being independent is but subsidiary to the Patent Office; is but secondary, a mere shadow to an institution which was formed for the purpose of encouraging the mechanical and agricultural arts."

Admitting that the farmer indirectly derives benefit from commerce and navigation; as do also the various mechanical appliances; yet, without the farmer, there would be no commerce, no navigation, no mechanics. The neglect of the Government to make some appropriations for the permanent development of practical agriculture is thereby rendered more palpable. However, he says:

"But, ladies and gentlemen, such is the fortunate position of the farmer that he has no need to complain of this forgetfulness on the part of the Government. As I said before, it is the agricultural interest that supports Government as well as all other interests in society, which are, indeed, but its offspring; and it does not complain if the Government protects its children and neglects itself, for it is independent, needs not this support, and it is one of its greatest triumphs—one of its noblest encomiums that it can say: 'I care not for the protection of Government. All I ask of Government is to let me alone; let me take care of myself, and I will take care of myself and you, too.'"

While for almost every other purpose there are colleges and institutions established, he complains that there are none in which the science of agriculture is taught:

"We have West Point to make our soldiers; the Smithsonian Institute for the purpose of making navigators and sailors. We have our Universities for the purpose of teaching Theology; institutions for teaching Medicine, Law, Philosophy, Latin and Greek, Logic, every harmless and useless thing, but not an institution which furnishes the slightest intellectual assistance to the farmer, in order to aid him in his enterprises. What a field is here open to the philanthropist who wishes to serve his country. What a shame it is, and a reproach to our name, that no hand, no mind in the United States has been intellectually trained to this noblest of all arts. Why, sirs, it appears to me that it should be the pride and boast of every intelligent farmer to send his sons to a school where he could learn thoroughly and well the science of Agriculture—learn how to extract from the soil without impairing its fertility, the greatest amount of food—bread, the fruits of the earth, and the wine and oil that gladdens the heart of man; but there is no such institution. Your children go to school and learn a little smattering of the sciences, a little logic, a little Latin and a little Greek, which, in comparison with the importance of this subject, is utterly useless, except, indeed, to allow the scholar to read Virgil's Georgics, which is the only practical treatise in Latin upon husbandry. They may learn a little of mathematics, a little surveying, which is of no use to the farmer except in aiding how to survey his own fields; but with regard to vegetable physiology—with regard to the nature and proper tillage of the soil—with regard to everything that makes the farmer successful or the reverse, he has learned nothing. This vocation is entirely ignored, or if not entirely ignored, is still disparaged and made subservient to other vocations. All the schools except the mere normal schools that teach simply to read, write and cypher, are engaged in fitting persons to engage in the learned professions, when, if all the human learning ever known from Bacon, up or down, was taught and retained by a pupil, it would utterly fail to make him a practical farmer."

By reference to late numbers of the *Deseret News* it will be seen that there has been, within the past year, several farmers' schools and one or two agricultural colleges instituted in various localities among the Eastern States.

Mr. Todd, with great propriety remarks:

"Give to the farmer's sons an education as complete upon this subject as is given to lawyers', doctors' and gentlemen's sons, and agriculture would no longer be deemed a vulgar trade; it would be no longer an art, but would rise to the dignity of a science, and you might calculate with as much certainty the productions of the farm as the navigator can calculate from astronomical observations his position at sea."

The notorious ignorance which prevails among the masses relative to questions by no means intricate or mysterious when naturally or scientifically treated, also receives a passing notice.

"We have two newspapers devoted to the cause of the success of agriculture, and for two months they have been contending whether it was the best to cut off the tap root of a young tree or leave it on. While I do not pretend to say which is right, I must express my surprise that at this late day a question so simple in its character should be a subject of dispute. Here the world has been engaged in the practice of agriculture for six thousand years, and one of the simplest questions is yet undetermined. But let agriculture be treated as a science, let the sons of our farmers secure such an education as I have described, and in ten years' time, or even less, not only this but many other questions will be removed and settled by well established and settled rules."

If agricultural colleges, when they shall have become as common in our country as seminaries of literature, add no more to the common stock of information among farmers than has been done towards discovering the true cause and cure of disease by the legion of medical colleges, with their attendant incessant anatomical and dissecting operations, combined with all the efforts of doctors of physic, during the past two thousand years, they will be of small avail to the world.

To elevate the aspirations of the farmer is a work truly philanthropic. Whatever may be done towards directing his attention to a more approved and intellectual application of his energies, we are and have been the earnest advocates. Nor do we wish to cease our efforts till every intelligent farmer shall be surrounded with those comforts and elegancies of Nature and Art combined, to which he is so eminently the rightful heir; and, adopting the language of Mr. Tod, we conclude:

"When this is accomplished—when our agriculturists are fully aroused to the importance and dignity of their vocation—when all other interests are considered secondary or subservient to this—then will the agricultural interest take its proper position. And in the hope and belief that this time will come—that this glorious result will be realized—I apply to the people of California the almost inspired lines of a sacred poet:

"Rise, crown'd with light, imperial Salem rise,
Exalt thy lowering head and lift thine eyes;
See, Heaven its sparkling portals wide display,
And break upon thee in a flood of day.

See a long race thy spacious courts adorn;
See future sons and daughters yet unborn,
In crowding ranks on every side arise
Demanding life, impatient for the skies.

See barbarous nations at thy gates attend,
Walk in thy light, and in thy temples bend;
See thy bright altars throng'd with prostrate kings,
While every land its joyous tribute brings."

Women in the Garden.

The following sensible thoughts we find in an exchange:

"Much in these days is said about the sphere of women. Of the vexed question we have nothing now to say. The culture of the soil, the body and the soul are our themes. Rich soils, healthy bodies, pure, cultivated souls, these are what we are aiming at. And to this end we recommend that every country woman have a garden that she keep and dress with her own hands, or that she supervise and manage.

The culture of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants and garden vegetables is as delightful and profitable as anything in which a woman can engage. She may sprinkle her garden well with flowers. All the better for that. A snowball in this corner, a rose in that, a dahlia bed there and a moss border here will not be out of place. Only let the substantial and useful constitute the chief part.

A touch of the ornate, like a ribbon on a good bonnet, is not in the least objectionable.

In all the schools the girls study botany. In all families the women ought to practice botany. It is healthful, pleasing and useful. The principles of horticulture are the principles of botany put into practice. Farmers study agriculture; why should not their wives and daughters study horticulture? If any employment is feminine, it would seem that this is. If any is healthy, this must be. If any is pleasurable, none can be more so than this.

A rich bed of strawberries, a bush of blackberries or currants, a border of flowers produced by one's own hand—what can well afford a more rational satisfaction?

We say to all our country sisters, have a garden, if only a small one, and do your best with it. Plant it with what pleases you best,

with a good variety, and what you can do with it. What woman cannot raise beets, tomatoes, melons, onions, lettuce, and furnish her own table with them? What woman cannot plant a raspberry bush, or currant, or gooseberry and tend it well?

Come, good women, study your health, your usefulness and happiness, and your children also."

Spring will soon be round again and we suggest to our practical young, active and ambitious women that now is the time to be preparing for a vigorous campaign among the beds and walks, the fruits and flowers of the early spring. Gather up, now, and put away in some place where they will be secure from mice and where you can put your hand upon them when needed, all the choice seeds of plants and flowers that you can procure and, as the planting time approaches, have a spot set apart, enriched and thoroughly spaded for your own cultivation.

The preparation of the soil—manuring, spading, etc.—of course we do not enjoin upon you, "unless, indeed, you would prefer" to do that also yourself; but the arrangement, the planting, the hoeing, the irrigating, the weeding, etc., must devolve upon you; and you shall enjoy the fruits of your labors and your friends, also, may partake thereof and greatly rejoice with you.

Wherefore, young women of Utah, go forth in the season and beautify some portion of Mother Earth with your handiwork. Let the wholesome vegetables and the fragrant flowers adorn your pathways and give more than indifferent attention to the spot you may choose to cultivate. Show what a woman can do.

To improve a "leisure hour" among the expanding leaves, the swelling buds and the ripening fruits of a well-cultivated garden is to us a source of the most exquisite pleasure. To carefully watch the development of each plant of the different varieties—here loosening the soil a little, there pulling up a straggling weed, yonder training a honeysuckle or a morning glory, that shall salute you with its fragrance at early morn, ere yet you have fully aroused from slumber—are pursuits at once intellectual, refining and healthful. But, to fully realize all these, while thus engaged, fail not to cultivate the nobler sentiments of the soul. Quell the storm of relentless passion that may at times convulsively swell in your bosom. Let the calmness that pervades Nature, as seen in her gardens, and fields, and beauteous landscapes, infuse its holy influence within you, leading you to look up to Him who is the Author of all that is created, to acknowledge His hand and await His providences.

Manner of Milking.

From an article on the "Dairy" in the *Irish Farmers' Gazette*, we make the following extract:

"The manner of milking exerts a more powerful and lasting influence on the productiveness of the cow than most farmers are aware of. That a slow and careless milker soon dries up the best of cows, every practical farmer and dairyman knows.

The first requisite of a good milker is, of course, utter cleanliness. Without this the milk is unendurable. The udder should, therefore, be carefully cleaned before the milking commences. The milker may begin gradually and gently, but should steadily increase the rapidity of the operation till the udder is emptied, using a pail sufficiently large to hold all, without the necessity of changing.

Cows are very sensitive, and the pail cannot be changed, nor can the milker stop or rise during the process of milking without leading the cow more or less to withhold her milk. The utmost care being taken to strip to the last drop, and to do it rapidly, and not in a slow and negligent manner, which is sure to have its effect on the yield of the cow. If any milk is left it is re-absorbed into the system, or else becomes caked, and diminishes the tendency to secrete a full quantity afterwards.

If gentle and mild treatment is observed and persevered in, the operation of milking appears to be one of pleasure to the animal, as it undoubtedly is, but if an opposite course is pursued—if, at every restless movement, caused, perhaps, by pressing a sore teat, the animal is harshly spoken to—she will be likely to learn to kick as a habit, and it will be difficult to overcome it afterwards.

To induce quiet and readiness to give down the milk freely, it is better that the cows should be fed at milking-time with cut food, or roots, placed within their easy reach. The same person should milk the same cow regularly, and not change from one to another, unless there are special reasons for it."

The above remarks are especially worthy the attention of every person who keeps a cow in the city, as also those living in the country, who have many cows. They are practical and philosophical.

A Pear Tree was in bloom in San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 19.