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By M. MAC LEAN.

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AGRICULTURAL.

From the Spirit of the Times. **MR. CHOULES' ORATION.** *The Oration on the Fourteenth Anniversary of the American Institute, delivered by Rev. JOHN OVERTON CHOULES at the Broadway Tabernacle, October, 1841.* *Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the American Institute:*

"OUR COUNTRY," is a phrase of wide and endearing import. Poetry has sung its charms, patriotism has felt them, and piety has consecrated them. And what a country, fellow citizens, does God permit us to call our own! There is our long Atlantic coast, with more than two thousand one hundred miles of seaboard skirting States containing more than 1 million of square miles. There, too, is our *imperium in imperio*, the Valley of the West, lying between the Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico, the Alleghenies and the Rocky Mountains, containing two millions of square miles, one hundred thousand miles of internal ship and steamboat navigation, four thousand miles of railroad, two thousand miles of lake, and one thousand of gulf. All this extent embraces the best variations of climate upon the globe, comprehending exactly those degrees which have been ever marked by the genius and enterprise of man.

Our land is a mart for the nations, a workshop for the earth; every ocean is white with our canvases, and we have learned to press into our service steam as it rises, water as it flows, air as it flies. We have almost the only Constitution that deserves the name—freedom for every citizen, liberty breathing full and free through all our institutions—thus cherishing a spirit of enterprise, a security that holds out a protecting bounty to each individual, rendering every citizen assured of the full enjoyment of all lawful acquisition; and in addition to this, the law does all that for every man's religion which true religion asks, wishes, or wants, and that is—*lets its alone*.

Who that has passed through the town of Worcester, in Massachusetts, has not admired the taste and beauty of its well planted trees and shaded avenues? All this, I believe, was devised and commenced by a young minister, who, with out any resources but of taste and genius, applied himself and a few kindred spirits to the work of moulding the taste and habits of the community. He was one of four ministers who formed Worcester County Agricultural Society, and in that county many of the ministers have been successful farmers and they have received as many premiums as any other class of men. And while I speak of Massachusetts, and refer to the clergy, I am sure you are all of you reminded of the indebtedness of every man who cultivates the American soil to that able farmer, that distinguished philanthropist and eloquent teacher, the Rev. Henry Coleman, late Agricultural Commissioner for the Commonwealth. When I read his reports and letters to the yeomanry of New England, I wish that his voice could be heard in every farm of our State and Union.*

Mitchell, in his agricultural tour through Holland, states, that each Divinity student, before being licensed, has to attend two years lectures upon agriculture. I have no doubt that the usefulness of the clergy is much augmented by this step, and that their future influence over the manners and habits of the country is greatly increased.

Every school-boy knows the agricultural glory of old Rome, and thinks of Varro, Cincinnatus, Cato, Virgil, Horace, and Cicero, in connection with the cultivation of their mother earth. The history of agricultural improvement is almost the history of the world, and comes not within my province; but it is gratifying that we can trace its most rapid developments in the land which contains the tombs of our ancestors, and was the birthplace of our language, laws, and religion. It was only at the close of the fifteenth century that agriculture began to be regarded and pursued as a science. Fitzherbert, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, wrote the earliest piece upon farming

about one hundred years before the establishment of Plymouth Colony or New Amsterdam. It was published in 1534. The work imparted much interest to the pursuit of husbandry. Tusser's Five Hundred Points of Husbandry appeared thirty years after; then came Barnaby Googe's "Whole Art and Trade of Husbandry." Sir Hugh Plat turned his mind to the proper food of the soil, and wrote "The Jewel Houses." His remarks upon manures are sensible, and still in repute. Samuel Hartlip wrote an admirable treatise, for which he was rewarded by that true-hearted patriot and far-seeing statesman, Oliver Cromwell, who bestowed upon him a pension. Hartlip has the merit of having been the first who recommended a public director of husbandry to be established by law. Evelyn and Tull are names dear to the well-read and scientific cultivator of the soil; and I join with one who has gone before me in this duty, in declaring that Jethro Tull is more deserving of a monument than the Duke of Marlboro'.†

The time would fail me to run over all the names that have helped to make England, if not a garden, yet a prodigy of agricultural wealth, and that little island the wonder of the world.

Anderson and Hunter, Marshall and Home, Young and Dickson, Sinclair and Davy, Loudon and Knight, Bedford and Spencer, Coke and Shaw, are the true friends of man, and their fame is yet to grow brighter and run in larger circles. The glorious era from which all the triumphs of husbandry now date, is 1793, when, under the auspices of Sinclair and Pitt, the British Legislature incorporated the Board of Agriculture; then surveys were made of every county, the resources of the empire developed and proclaimed. It is from this period that we may regard agriculture as a science. The essays published on turning grass land into arable, and the culture of the potato, exhibited the ablest talent of Great Britain, and have furnished, I believe, some of the most valuable volumes ever written. The patronage of the government gave interest to the subject, and the proudest peers of England placed their sons with practical farmers for the acquirement of the details of husbandry.

A member of the late cabinet devoted three years to all the labors of a farm. Now, too, chemistry was brought forward to the aid of agriculture, and has been one of its firmest pillars. In short, we may regard this organization of the agricultural society as the origin of the systematic rotation of crops, the improvement in breeds of cattle, use of plaster, the sowing of cattle, culture of root crops, and artificial grasses. Comparisons led to the establishment of facts, and agriculture may now be regarded as an art resting upon facts.

In almost every portion of Great Britain these societies sprang up, and the farmers had the courage and wisdom to profit by the improvements which skill and science had introduced, and the result is, that five millions of all ages produce annually from her soil seven hundred millions worth of agricultural produce. In 1760 the growth of all grain in England and Wales was one hundred and twenty millions of bushels, in Scotland thirty millions, making a total of one hundred and fifty millions. In 1840 the produce was four hundred and ten millions of bushels. Think of seven hundred millions worth of produce from that little island, and remember, that competent judges tell us this may still be doubled! Agriculture has clothed the most barren heaths with luxuriant crops, converted pools and marshes into fruitful meadows, and clothed the bleakest mountains with groves of forest trees.

Agriculture has been termed by Sully the breast from whence the state receives support and nourishment. It is the primary source of wealth and independence; and when the soil of a country is in such a state naturally or artificially, as, under judicious management, to furnish maintenance for more persons than are required for its culture, thence proceeds the profits of the farmer, the rents of the landlord, the subsistence of the manufacturer and merchant, and the greater proportion of the income of the state. That surplus marketable produce is justly considered to be the principal source of all political power and personal enjoyment; when that surplus does not exist there can be no flourishing town, no naval force, none of the superior arts or finer manufactures, no learning, none of the conveniences and luxuries of foreign lands, and none of that cultivated and polished society at home, which not only

the Hon. Daniel Webster, whose thorough acquaintance with practical farming is exemplified in the very ablest agricultural address I have ever read. It was delivered in Boston soon after his return from Europe. It is the fullest and most condensed article on husbandry that we have access to, and should be reprinted by the American Institute for general distribution.

How much it is to be lamented that there is no library in our country where even a tolerable collection of the old agricultural authors can be found for purposes of reference. It is matter of doubt whether a rich man could do the American Institute as much real good in any other way as by presenting it with the means of collecting in England twenty-five or thirty old authors upon husbandry and gardening. One hundred volumes would procure all the above named authors, and several others who were cotemporary with them.

elevates and dignifies the individual, but extends its beneficial influence throughout society. What exertions, ought to be made, and encouragement to be given: to preserve and improve so essential a resource, this foundation of national prosperity. Agriculture does more than feed, it clothes us; without it we should have no manufactures, no commerce. These all stand together like pillars in a cluster, the largest in the centre, and that largest is Agriculture.

Let us look at our own State—the Empire State. Her territorial extent is ten thousand square miles larger than England and Wales. In 1783 she had not half the population of the States of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia; now her inhabitants are two millions five hundred thousand. Our Commonwealth exhibits physical capabilities of wealth and greatness existing to an unknown extent, and is fertile in most of the productions which minister to the necessities of man. I envy not the individual whose heart does not swell when he gazes on the bold and magnificent profusion with which the living God has scattered the proofs of his eternal Godhead, and with what a vast an awful scale of grandeur he has piled up the mountain and spread out the valley, planted the forest and poured forth the flood.

The western portion of our State was, forty years ago, a wilderness—we now point out to it is a garden. In that time seventeen millions of acres of forest land have been subdued and brought into improvement. One million five hundred thousand inhabitants are occupied in the various departments of civilized life; and they are to day in the peaceful possession of more than six hundred millions of property.

No State in the Union presents to the farmer the means of health, independence, and abundance more amply than our own; and we are indeed criminal if we do not avail ourselves of all the lights of science, and the aids of other lands, in prosecuting our onward march.

Many of my hearers have heard that the revival of agriculture commenced in Flanders, about seven hundred years ago. There the soil was little better than a white barren sand, now its increase is said to be twice as great as it is in England. The grand maxim on which the Flemish farmer acts is, "without manure no corn, without cattle no manure, and without root crops no cattle can be raised." Their success may be resolved into the following causes: small farms, careful manure, rotation of crops, clover and roots, cutting their forage, and close, undivided personal attention. The farmer does not lumber, fish, speculate, nor hold office.

I have had much opportunity to notice the conduct of our western farmers; and I am entirely impressed with the belief that most of them would be better off if they were to be deprived of half their lands. Labor and anxiety are all they can obtain from the extensive cultivation they now attempt. But there is a perfect mania for adding acre to acre.

The true idea of a farm, is its closest possible resemblance to a well-conducted garden. The Flemish farmer never dreams of exhausting his soil in one place, then moving off to wear it out in another, and then in his old age to commence a new clearing of the forest. If I can make ten acres yield me as much as one hundred, by affording it all my means of improvement, and which was required by the one hundred, the consequence is, that I have profited in my body and mind in an astonishing degree. I have saved ten times the ploughing and harrowing, ten times the sowing and hoeing, mowing and reaping, besides ten times the rent.

I fully expect to see the second crop for more common than it is. With our powerful sun, we need only efficient manuring, limited extent of soil under cultivation, and an increase of care to effect this. We have all encouragement to persevere, when we reflect upon what has resulted from the formation of Agricultural Associations. We can tell of crops augmented in our own state as follows:

Wheat,	from 13 bu. pr. acre, to 37
Corn,	" 40 " " " 79
Burley,	" 25 " " " 40
Peas,	" 25 " " " 45
Oats,	" 40 " " " 71-79
Potatoes,	" 200 " " " 475
Carrots,	" 500 " " " 1000
Sugar Beet,	" 750 " " " 1500
Man. Wur'l,	" 600 " " " 1200
Rata Baga,	" 500 " " " 1200
Hay,	" 15 tons " " 81'ns.

In New York we have authenticated reports of 53 bushels of wheat, 58 barley, 50 peas, 135 corn, 750 potatoes, and 5 tons of hay to the acre.

It would ill become me to adventure instruction to men who have long been conversant with the cultivation of the soil, from their habits of labor, or the deep personal interest which they have in the land which they possess. But it is proper that I should endeavor to call up a more general attention to the pursuits of the farmer. Here, in our cities and large towns, there are errors in the public mind, strong prejudices, unconverted contempt, and above all, the most unfortunate ignorance.

I am not in danger of contradiction when I declare, that our community has regarded money as the chief good, and its accumulation has been practically regard-

ed as the chief end of man. All the occupation and the energy of life have gone out in this direction. To till the ground has been thought disreputable, I imagine, very principally, because its profits have been thought to be slow in their return; there have been no wonderful fortunes made in a few months—no food for that preternatural restlessness which cupidity has revelled in. What a frightful conspiracy there has been going on for years past in our cities and towns against the unchangeable law and ordinance of heaven, "in the sweat of thy brow, shalt thou eat bread till thou be turned again into the ground." Gen. iii 19. All classes in our midst have been afflicted. Lawyers, doctors, merchants and ministers have turned their minds to the best way of getting rich without labor; and such was the ingenuity of this city, that in one year we made property grow ninety-two millions!

But in accounting for this popular distaste, let me be more particular. I believe that parents have had much to do in the creation of this feeling. The men, women and children who enjoy the honor to have the architects of their own fortunes, seem in many cases determined to place their children at the very farthest distance from the line of occupation, and the principles and methods of life; which have rendered them happy, prosperous and respectable. No matter how many children they have, the sons are to do with as little labor as may be, and the daughters are to be ladies, they are neither to toil or spin. How many a parent would feel absolutely insulted if you supposed that he intended to put his boy to actual labor of any sort! When parents and children come to the conclusion that the lad must obtain his living by some exertion of his own, they put their minds to the rack, to discover a way in which it can be done without labor. The father perhaps, has made every cent he possesses by toil, yet, under the influence of the day in which we live, he cannot endure the idea that his son should be seen in a laboring dress, engaged in a mechanical or agricultural employment. When will men see the folly of the opinion, that the youth who labors on a farm or works in a shop, can benefit for nothing else! A young man upon a farm may qualify himself not only to pursue his calling, but to take a part in all the public concerns of life.

It is idle to talk of the want of time or the means for mental cultivation upon an American farm. Judge Buel was correct when he declared that a man might devote three hours out of twenty-four to study, without infringing upon his business, fatiguing his mind, or impairing his health, allowing eight hours for sleep, ten for labor, and three for contingencies; and I ask what ordinary occupation affords a larger portion of time to the acquisition of general knowledge? Let no man on a farm complain of want of opportunity. How many such suffer money to be squandered, which would purchase a capital library, and fritter away time in taverns, idle talk, and lounging on winter evenings, and useless sleep in long nights, which if employed in reading and study, would make them able agriculturists, and fit them for the halls of legislation and the council tables of the nation.

I believe, too, that parents err in placing such an estimate upon the talents of their sons, as leads them to select professions as the only sphere in which they can have a proper scope for exhibition. The principal of our academies and the presidents of our colleges will testify, that at the opening of every term, and at the annual commencements, they receive from fond parents nothing but intense and genius of "the first order" and "greatest promise." Alas, that all this pre-eminence so soon finds its level.

I have ever regarded the best carpenter in a village as more distinguished than an ordinary, every day, common-place lawyer; the best blacksmith, the ingenious contriving mechanic, as a more valuable and respectable character than a half educated, conceited, lounging professional man, who has forgotten almost all he learned in the schools, and has never made advances in general knowledge since he commenced the profession which his apathy and dullness have so served to disgrace. The president of one of our colleges remarks, "I have long thought that our graduates mistake their path to honor and usefulness in making choice of a learned profession. Agriculture not a science! Why; there is hardly a science that is not subservient to the promotion of agriculture; zoology, botany, geology, chemistry in a most essential degree, mechanical sciences, are all connected with it. But the great practical problem which this country has to solve, is, to give the speediest return to the cultivator, and of yielding the largest amount of produce at the smallest proportionate expense; and though the science of theory and expensive experiments may not be adapted to the mass of our agriculturists, yet happily, we have a noble class of men of education, property, and public spirit, capable of weighing the scientific speculations of the wise, and with means, and the inclination to apply those means, to a practical investigation of the result of theories.

[To be Continued.]

WORN-OUT LANDS.
LOG. HALL, Feb. 1842.

Mr. Thomas AJcock:

Dear Sir—I will endeavor to give you the plan pursued by farmers where I was raised, to resolute worn-out lands, or even to improve the tired, or the, to appearances, naturally thin land; in so doing, will throw in my own notions, thereby striving to give you as fully as I am able, or as memory serves me, the capabilities of the South for improvement, without any foreign aid. In doing so, I think I can convince you, that our resources are ample; that our means are competent, if we only had the energy to pursue, the information well matured to direct, and a few competent to the task to lead in this good cause of reform. The difficulty at present in our country is almost insufferable; but I trust that time will overcome all difficulties. As a general rule, those who have the capital to farm, don't believe a word in your Berkshires, Durhams, South Downs, deep and fine culture manure, rotation of crops, providing for stock of any description; give them bacon, corn bread, a few earls, and turpins in the shape nearly of a bottle, milk sometimes, coffee, big crops of cotton, and enough corn—they are content—the name of any thing like improvement, is another multicaulis story. Those who have the energy and zeal, are (too much the case, I regret from my soul) tied down by debts, that preclude all possibility to improve, unless in a very limited extent; therefore you must not look for very rapid improvement among us.

We have here generally what may be called a large number of cattle on our farms, in comparison with the North. As the most of us do not feed either summer or winter, therefore I would say, our means are more ample to collect and make manure, especially those of us who live in a woodland country, or near a swamp. By collecting leaves, swamp earth, corn stalks, &c. in our cow lots, herd our cattle regular, even provide food for winter feed, our resources in this way you will understand.

Our cotton seed is another fruitful source of providing the finest material for manuring either corn, oats, or I will, cotton: a double handful on a hill of corn, will, in ordinary seasons, be more than equal to, I think, four times the amount of any other kind of manure we use. While some prefer putting around corn after it is out of the ground; others prefer depositing in the furrow—the latter I prefer. For oats, I have scattered it on the ground and plowed in with oats—and although have never desigedly manured cotton with the seed, yet all of us have seen cotton that grew where the seed had manured, and I have always noticed the plants there, greener, fuller of bolls, and larger than any where else. I can show spots where the seed were deposited three years ago, and venture to predict, (tho' two crops of oats have grown since—the corn crop was manured) that the next crop of cotton, will tell in those very spots, my reason for particularly naming this is, some of my brethren contend that seeds are temporary in their effects.

Another source of manure—superior to your boasted fields of clover too—if we would only put our shoulders to the wheel—is the cow pea. We can make a full crop of corn, and on the same land, a crop of cow peas; plant the pea about the time of "laying by" our corn; work once; plant it in hills, between the rows one way—if in drills in the middle of row—and at a proper time, cut corn to the ground, when fit haul in; and after the pea has pretty well matured, turn hogs in, they will eat the pea, then turn all the vine in; we can have on good land as much vine as we can turn under. One advantage in the pea, if we pursue a rotation, of cotton, corn, oats, cotton—is the pea can be plowed in the second year, in the rotation, and by sowing oats in the spring, with about one bushel of the pea to three acres, after the oats are cut, the pea will cover the whole land, then plow in, the third year of rotation—whereas you plow in clover only when three years old, or two at farthest—we can feed our pea every year in a limited extent, and yet plow it in, in the fall, it being tap rooted is an additional advantage. The cotton crop can be made to aid in this matter. About the middle or even first of September, sow cotton fields down in rye—(I have seen it) after gathering cotton crop, give stock the chance of eating it down; in the spring, thrash down all ordinary sized stalks, plow in the green rye and stalks; or oats will do as well; I would prefer the Egyptian oat, but I believe the black oat will stand our winters generally.

We have yet another adjutant—crab grass; where it has a chance, it will cover the entire surface, not only affording a valuable grass for grazing or curing, but a large quantity of matter, if turned under to the soil for manure.

I hesitate not to advise my friends in the South, to plant oats and peas together. I have done it, and speak from experience; but should they fear to risk this much on my word, they will certainly not let slip the chance of turning in the oats or rye stubble and grass, and either drill peas two feet apart about one-half bushel to the acre, or sow them: I prefer the drill, because they can be plowed and hauled once or twice, and thinned out, if

necessary. When about one-third, or one-half peas have turned yellow, turn in the hogs; and by the time they have eaten out this field, your corn field will be ready—then turn them into it, and plow in the pea vine.

If this system is pursued, we can really give to our mother earth a fair allowance of food yearly:—1. first year of rotation, plow in the cotton stalk; or the limbs and branches any how, if the stalk be too large, and a green crop of rye or oats in the spring;—second year, plow in the roots of corn stalk, crab grass, and pea vine, in the fall and winter;—third year, plow in stubble, crab grass, in June, and in the fall, plow in pea vine, or if oats and pea be planted at same time, plow in, in the fall.

I would put all manure gathered from the cow lot, stable, and cotton seed to the corn crop, thereby not only making corn better, but adding to the growth of the pea and the sward of grass. I am almost shy, of naming the length of stalks of crab grass that I have seen here; but I think I can send you next fall one that will measure five feet from where it branches from the seed, to the seed sprang; and I can send you two many, for the good of our cotton crop. I fear, as it is the sorrest part we have, when fully possessed of a young crop of cotton. It requires getting up soon, and stirring the plows, hoes, and every thing we can move in this section of the State, our lands have not been in cultivation long enough to be termed worn out; yet, I think we have as a people delayed too long. It is easier to keep good land up, than to make poor land good. I would then urge the immediate resort to all the various aids, or a part, that can be controlled. I make no question that no one will fail in seeing a benefit by even the rotation I make mention of, though I know as fully as they do, that some of us can show fields that know not rotation at all. I can myself, show a field that has grown eight or nine consecutive crops of cotton—all the land that was ever good—produced as fair a crop last year as any I had, and it was spoken of in June as the best piece of cotton that was in this neighborhood. I have also grown oats for two years on the same land; if any difference, the oats were better the second; the coat of grass decidedly; and appearances clearly indicated an improvement—so much so, that it was alluded to by visitors. But for all this, I am satisfied a rotation is necessary, and prefer the quarterly—

1st. For instance cotton, with rye or oats. 2d. Corn, with peas and pumpkins. 3d. Oats with peas. 4th. Rest. We cannot carry this yet awhile; we must learn to cultivate less, add to our farms, and provide the right kind of animals to feed our provender to—for it is a waste of time and talents to feed land pikes, and those things covered with raw muds.

Yours truly,
M. W. PHILLIPS,
Wes. Far. & Gard.

THE DIFFERENCE.

A consideration of the different courses pursued by the Parliament of England and the Congress of America, is almost humiliating. Both countries are in the same financial difficulties—in both the revenues come short of the expenditures—in both, business is stagnant—speculation dead—labor idle—money scarce, and the people distressed. But look at the difference of action existing between the legislatures of the two countries, as regards the empty coffers of their treasuries. In England, Sir Robert Peel, at the imminent risk of place and popularity, proposes a severe and direct tax—a tax upon incomes—a tax which falls heavily upon the aristocracy, the gentry, the nobility—yes, by consent already, even the Throne itself. It falls hardest upon the very men to whom the bill is proposed, and upon whose fiat its success depends. What is the consequence? "Total defeat," you say. No such thing. The measure is received by a very handsome majority. Is not this against human nature? No—not against that human nature which is not enamored by avarice, and sees a favorable result to arise from present distresses and impositions—but is against the human nature of the mere pocket. It is opposed to the views of life founded on the "almighty dollar," and diametrically opposite to the policy which "takes no thought for the morrow," nor for posterity. The English lawgivers have for centuries borne the character of noble, honest, upright, self-sacrificing men. They do not pass laws and impose burdens for the present moment, but their minds and policy reach abroad—they lay anchors to windward, they scan futurity, draw auguries and employ their judgment. When it comes to the pinch, they themselves lead into the gulf like Curtius. They bear the brunt of taxation—they open their purse to the need of the nation—and thus, whether the want come from disastrous war, or unsuccessful war, or from the catastrophes to which God sometime subjects all nations. Such devotion makes a government strong, and in the generous relinquishment of private interests, we can forget and forgive much of that