AGRICULTURAL.

A Varied Industry the true Source of Wealth.

BY HENRY STUART, GRANDSBURG, PA. The temptation to make the most of a present advantage, regardless of the probable but remote chance of an ultimate loss is often too great for even a sagacious man to resist. For those whose motto is 'let us eat and drink for to-morrow we die,' the desire for present gain rather than prospective profit. is too absorbing to allow of even a passing doubt of its propriety. And especially is this true as regards the business of agriculture. A fertile soil adapted to a single staple, a climate auspicious, a demand constant and remunerative, are sufficient to induce the planter to invest his means in a single crop whose success may enrich, but whose failure may ruin him; while a more varied investment, though it may not offer so great inducement, would not impoverish him by his failure; because on the one hand, failure cannot be in this case complete, and on the other, the success of one part would go to reimburse the loss of another.

The economic advantage arising from a varied agriculture are not to be narrowed to a single item, viz: that of profit and loss to the individual operator; they in fact affect the social and moral status of the whole community. But the limits of this article would be in. adequate to enter fully into this subject. It will be sufficient here to show to the Southern agriculturist that it is a matter of serious consideration whether it is in the end, a more profitable course to increase the variety of his crops than to confine his attention to the great staple-cotton. That there is money in the cotton crop under all circumstances may make it remarkably profitable, is sufficient to blind | shall tend to place it in the front a casual observer to many drawbacks that lie hidden under the surface, but such drawbacks are not the less potent for all that. A person who sees an ordinary Southern plantation for the first time, is struck with dreary aspect of fields out of cultivation, waiting their turn to be again put into crop, thus necessitating a large surface for comparatively narrow cultivation. Here is a loss of interest on capital which would not be borne, but for the fact that the capital represented by the land is small. In other words land is cheap. Now it may be taken for an axiom in agriculture that where land is in agriculture that where land is daily, (Sundays excepted.) connects with up cheap the population is poor, that and down Day Passengers at Kingville. is, of course, in the aggregate There will be the rich proprietor on the one hand and in the close contiguity, and in strong contrast, the poor laborer. This is everywhere, and at all times the inevitable result of a restricted agriculture. A pastoral commuity, where the wealth exists in the shape of flocks, herds and extensive domains furnishes a parallel to that one whose sole product is a single sta. ple. Whether the capital invested in land and improvements under such a regime produces a fair interest may well be doubted, even during a course of moderately successful years. But under the influence of adverse circumstances, when a crop made at so many cents per pound will not sell for more than cost, as is sometimes the case. the disaster is the inevitable consequence. Compare this system with that of New England, I will not say of the Northern States, because while here agriculture is of necessity mixed, yet it is not of that completely varied kind as exists in England. There, under a system of mixed agriculture which produces grain, roots, grass, diary products, wool, beef, mutton, all in profusion and perfection, land is worth an annual rental equal to the fee simple of many a well improved plantation; and while the proprietor gains from his land a handsome income, the tennant who farms it, is a man of capital, intelligence, foresight, and business capacity sufficiently so, to enable him to live often in a style which few American farmers can do who own their land. And this is due to the varied industry of that country which enables them to keep at home the profits of their labor instead of sending them abroad to purchase necessary articles of comfort, finds for them a market at their doors, and spares them a tax in the shape of freights which, in our country, not seldom, eats up 75 per cent. of our produce.

It must be admitted that the varied industry here referred to, comprehends more than is included in strictly agricultural pursuits, yet they hold an important place and have a serious effect in the general result.

would be the net result of the planter, having disposed of his bales and received the cash therefor, was he not under the necessity of drawing thereon, for a supply ions, and the many necessaris of his business. Instead of using up the profits of his main crop, he had the profits of his of artificial manures, corn, provis. corn, fat stock, cheese, butter, flour, &c., for sale or exchange to the storekeeper or mechanic, or field hands, in return for their labor or skill, his funds would be invested

ing wet lands, constructing buildings, or appliances for making or saving manure by which his crops might be increased many fold. Here would be an addition to the public wealth which would "grow by what it fed on," increasing itself in geometrical ratio; each investment of which would but make an opening for the production of more. A few years time would suffice to change the appearance of the country, would fill up the waste places and build around each plantation small villages occupied by the necessary laborers and artificers requisite to such a state of things. From this would naturally grow the manufactory for the supply of needed articles. And, finally there would follow as an inevitable consequence, what ought of certainty to be the natural manufacture of the South-that of cotton spinning and cotton weaving.

And when it is considered that there are abundant openings for such improvements, it is to be lamented that the condition of agri. culture is such that at present, they are unavailable for want of the necessary population whereon to draw for workers (excepting, of course, in the large cities where, for many reasons, the suitable locations are not to be found,) and thus it is necessary to return to the question, as of primary importance. How can the agriculture of the South be made available as a means of developing the latent resources? The considertion of a subject of such interest should be an object of thought to all those who would desire the advancement of a portion of their country favored highly by nature, but heretofore, laboring under disadvantages of no ordinary character from which, now happily freed, it is willing and ready to shake off all apathy and prejudice and enter on a career of enlightened improvement, which rank of enterprise and prosperi-

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