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OLD SERIES] *Nec aranturum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.* [COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.

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LOCAL.

LECTURE IN NAPAN.

[At the request of a large number of the inhabitants of Napan, we publish with pleasure, the following Address, which was delivered by Mr. Caie in the school house of that settlement, on the 20th July last, and shall continue it from week to week, until the whole is completed.]

The President of the meeting having concluded his remarks, Mr. Caie began by saying:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sorry to say that I appear before you this afternoon but ill prepared for the task I have undertaken. The duties of my office being more arduous and unremitting, than many of you can imagine, and the hay season having come on, at least a week earlier than I had reckoned on, I really have not been able, with all my anxiety, to catch sufficient time to do that justice to the lecture which I could have wished.—Among other things, I had intended to have introduced a few experiments, illustrative of various parts of the subject; but instead of this, I have, with difficulty, found time to prepare a rough sketch of the ground I intend to occupy.—I must therefore cast myself upon your kind sympathy and indulgence.

The subject to which I solicit your closest attention, for a short time, is AGRICULTURE. The evening on which I had the honour on a former occasion, to occupy my present position, a friend hinted to me in a whisper, that my style was rather too lofty for my audience; or in other words, instead of seeking *admittance into your heads* I had foolishly attempted to *fly over them*; this opinion, however, I suspect, arose—not from the loftiness of my style, but from the loftiness of this Pulpit sort of desk, to which your partiality had exalted me! Be that as it may, I have resolved that if my strain, while handling literary subjects, was somewhat lofty, it shall on the present occasion, be *exceedingly lowly*: it shall not be stained by one flight of the imagination from the beginning to the end of it.

I shall have occasion, as we proceed, to mention many things which you all know as well, and some of you much better than I do myself, but then there will no doubt be other things brought upon the carpet, which you do not know, and which you may find it difficult to comprehend, nevertheless, by the aid of what you already know, I hope to be able to make you understand some things, of which some of you would otherwise remain ignorant.

Agriculture is the art of disposing the soil in such a way as to cause it to produce in the greatest abundance, those articles of food which are necessary to the existence of mankind, and those animals that depend on man for their subsistence. The earth in its natural state produces plants, more or less suitable for the support of man and beast, but then its spontaneous productions are insignificant, when compared with what may be drawn from it by means of industry and intelligence.

The earliest efforts in Agriculture were simple in their nature, and very limited in object. The surface of the ground was ploughed, wheat, oats, or some other kinds of grain was sown, and just such a crop as nature brought, was contentedly reaped. In this low condition Agriculture appears to have continued in all countries for very many ages; indeed it has only been in modern times that mankind have ever thought of cultivating the soil on anything like scientific principles so as to increase its natural productiveness, and consequently render it capable of supporting a vastly enlarged amount of population.

Agriculture having been originally prosecuted, that the wants of man might be supplied from the bosom of his parent Earth—has received due honor at

the hands of many of the wisest and most powerful of our race. Emperors have held the Plough; and kings have made special laws for the encouragement and protection of the Ploughman. The good king Kenneth of Scotland, upwards of a thousand years ago, had the following, and many other laws enacted, in favour of Agriculture:—

“Let no man sow in the earth any grain before it be purged of all weeds.—He that through negligent sloth suffereth his arable grounds to be choked up and overrun with weeds, for the first fault let him forfeit an ox: for the second ten oxen, and for the third let him forego the same ground.

“A swine that is found eating of corn that groweth on the field, or rooting upon the tilled ground, let it be lawful for any man to kill the same without danger.” (Mr. Caie humorously pointed out the applicability of such a law to the lawless conduct of swine in and around Chatham.)

Robert Bruce and the regent Murray of Scotland, enacted laws for the protection of the farmer. Randolph, in particular, was exceedingly severe on persons accused of stealing any farming implement. He caused the Sheriff of the county in which the theft was committed, to pay the value of the article stolen; and there is on record, an anecdote of a trick which was practised on the Sheriff of a southern county. A peasant with the view of securing the paltry sum from the Sheriff, went and hid his plow-irons, and reported that they were stolen. The Regent, however, discovered the cheat, and instantly ordered the fellow to be executed.

It is not many years ago since in many parts of Scotland, now famed for first rate farming, the plough used to be drawn by four horses abreast, and the Ploughman was attended by two help-mates. The business of one was to drive the cattle, and this he managed to do by placing himself between the middle horses with his face to the plough, in order that he might guide it straight, and in this odd, and awkward position, he stepped backwards, having the reins in his hands. The other assistant walked before the horses with a “Clicket Staff,” which he fastened in front of the beam, and by this means he regulated the depth of the furrow, by raising or lowering the plough, as occasion required. The man of greatest importance, I mean the ploughman himself followed after, having hold of the stilts; and in this laughable manner did many a farmer of Scotland make his annual attack upon the soil that gave him birth.

It was not till the reign of William and Mary, that agriculture began in Britain to make a decided and continuous onward movement. Indeed, as late as the commencement of the last century, & during the brilliant reign of Queen Ann, the vast importance of agriculture was but little understood.

It may be said that Great Britain has attained to a more exalted position than has ever been reached by any other nation. In literature and science: in the useful and ornamental arts: in trade, navigation, and manufactures: in riches and power: in eloquence and arms: in the grandest efforts of genius, and most brilliant displays of talent: in all that elevate man and nations, in a word, that Kingdom is without doubt a glorious example for the whole world. But what is all this greatness, prosperity and grandeur to be traced? Is it to the genius and enterprise of her sons? Be it so! yet who will deny, that much of this prosperity, power and independence, is attributable to the fact, that in recent times, her advancement in agriculture has kept pace with the rapid growth of her population. The yearly product of her soil was valued a few years ago, at upwards of *Three Hundred and Fifty Millions Sterling*, while that of her manufactures amounted to little more than half that sum. Besides this, the agriculture of Great Britain gives employment to ten millions of her people, while the industrial arts do not employ four millions. Nothing can be more certain

you may rest assured, than this.—Should England ever cease to protect her agricultural interests,—which may Heaven forbid,—very soon would her grandeur disappear, and her power pass into other hands.

Although it is a truth so self-evident, that none but fools, one would think, dare attempt to gainsay it, viz.: That there is no occupation on earth, so admirably well calculated to promote our peace, happiness and prosperity, as farming; yet many around us esteem it as not half so desirable, because not half so respectable, as that of a Doctor, Lawyer, Merchant, or any of our quid-ding births, however low or contemptible; now I make bold to tell all who hold this opinion, that ‘one occupation, as the means of making a living—as the phrase goes—is just as creditable as another, provided it be honourable and in accordance with the laws of God and man.’ The farmer who holds his plough, in order to support himself and family, is not, in my estimation, one whit below the man who deals out snuff behind a counter: displays at the Bar, his intimacy with the intricacies of the Law, or even he who sits at the Council Board of a nation. But who, let me ask, are they who strive to uphold this vulgar (and most pernicious feeling?) are they not generally speaking, a set of silly upstarts who began life in the ditch, and vainly hope, by crying up distinctions, to elevate themselves above the common mass from which they were taken, and attain to a degree of importance, forsooth, which innate worth and honesty must be denied. No! no!—Honest and honourable labor is the same, whether performed by the king or the beggar, and is just as honorable one as in the other. It is very true that all men are not fitted to pursue the same vocations, and that there are natural divisions, not distinctions, as the word is commonly used, created by habit, taste, talent, and a variety of other causes; this is just as it should be, and fits us for the proper discharge of all the peculiar and varied duties of society. But to say that because a man performs any given duty, however humble, yet necessary that duty may be—*necessarily degrades him*, or renders him less meritorious than his neighbor, who performs another duty, but not more faithfully, is, to say the least of it, a stiff-necked adherence to a principle, which the light of Christianity has long since cast into the shade. Let the rising generation then be taught that it is not the occupation which ennoble the man, but the man that ennoble the occupation! and more than all, let us impress upon the minds of our children, the wisdom of setting a proper value upon the riches and honours of a world, which is only at best, but as a bubble—blown into existence to-day to burst to-morrow, and let them understand that the grand distinctions which exist in society, are those of virtue and vice, and that the only true and enduring riches are an intellect duly cultivated, affections honourable schooled, and a heart that knows no guile.

I shall now proceed to notice, 1st—the art of Agriculture, and 2nd—The science of agriculture.

What I mean by the art of agriculture is the practical every day business of the farm; under this head it might be reasonably expected that I would afford you much useful and interesting information, respecting the most approved methods of tillage, ploughing, harrowing, cropping, &c., but there are two *orthodox* reasons which I offer for not occupying your time with these topics: first, because I believe two thirds of you know more of ploughing, harrowing and cropping than I do myself, and secondly because I find I shall be stinted of time, to get through at a reasonable hour, even when I omit these points, I shall, however, in passing, make a few remarks.

1st—On the choice of farms.

2nd—On labor saving machines and implements.

3d—On the value and preservation of manures.

The first thing which materially claims

the attention of every man who has made his mind up to live by farming, is the *choice of the farm*. It has been justly remarked by an eminent practical farmer of the day, ‘that too much can hardly be paid for a good farm, and that a bad one is not worth accepting as a gift.’ The labor of cultivating a rich and a poor soil is much the same: the latter, of course requires more manure, and is consequently far more expensive than the former, while the returns bear no proportion in value.

In making a choice, therefore, of a farm, or land on which to make a farm, let it be a rule—independent of the good quality of the soil—to prefer a gently sloping, or level surface, to a hilly or irregular surface, for the labor of working land of irregular surface, is very great, independent of other disadvantages. If possible, select land that lies with an easy slope to the south, though if well sheltered, an inclination in any other direction, is of little consequence. If the land requires drainage (and almost all lands in Northumberland, except on the banks of the Miramichi, and a few other localities, would be vastly improved by drainage). Observe if there be a sufficient inclination to carry off the water. If there be no lower point to which the water may be conveniently drawn, avoid the risk of purchasing or leasing that land, for this defect would prove a frequent source of trouble and loss.

Land on the banks of a running stream—and this county abounds with such streams—is likely to be more salubrious for crops, than that which is near sluggish or stagnant sort of brooks. From dull dirty waters, there arise in certain conditions of the atmosphere, heavy injurious vapors, which steal along the surface of the surrounding grounds, and tend to blight, and otherwise injure the crops. These waters are also a fertile bed for insects. Running waters, on the other hand, purify the air, and are of great advantage for cattle. Take care however that the land be not liable to be flooded in the spring or fall; that circumstance should cause a corresponding decrease in its value.

These considerations, however, are of small importance, compared with the all-important matter of distance from market, and good roads. A long carriage to market, particularly if the road be bad, is one of the greatest draw-backs, with which this, or indeed any country can have to contend. We have a striking proof of the truth of this remark, in the condition of this very settlement? Since the sad catastrophe of 1825, which left many of its inhabitants houseless and almost hopeless, it has arisen like a Phoenix from its ashes,—comfort, peace and plenty have succeeded indigence and want, while settlements more remote and separated from market places, by bad roads, have got, comparatively speaking, but slowly on.

A word or two now as to *labor-saving machines and implements*. I would be the last man on earth, I believe you all know, to assert that all innovation is improvement: I cordially agree with the old saying, ‘Striving to be better, oft we mar what’s well,’ but from the deeprooted prejudices which some persons evince for whatever is ancient, it would seem to be their opinion, that no innovation can be an improvement. This remark—pardon me—is, in a peculiar degree, applicable to a certain class of farmers in this county. It is, without doubt, a highly commendable practice, to distrust whatever is new, till its claims to utility have been proved by science; but when the advantages of any new invention, intended to do away with an old one, have been fairly tried and established, beyond cavil, then to reject or scorn its aid, is to show forth to the world, either a silly prejudice in favour of what is old, merely because it is old, or in a contemptible spirit unwarranted alike by true economy and self-interest. In no way, in my opinion, can a farmer of New Brunswick, where wages are ridiculously high, manage to save money more effectually than by economising