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DELIVERED BEFORE

THE

WORCESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

OCTOBER 12, 1820,

BEING THEIR

Anniversary Cattle Show and Exhi-
bition of Manufactures.



BY HON. LEWIS BIGELOW.



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ADDRESS.

THE particular objects which have furnished the occasion of the transactions of this day, and which now present themselves to the attention and consideration of this assembly, may claim a competition, as to utility and importance, with any other that has ever exercised the physical or mental energies of man. Whether we regard the profession of agriculture for its antiquity, as the great and almost only source of human sustenance, or for its moral and social advantages, the subject is entitled to a preeminent rank among the pursuits of a civilized and enlightened people, and will command for its votaries the most exalted respect and veneration. It is coeval with the divine sentence, which proclaimed to our first parents the necessity of manual labour as the means of supporting life—a necessity which was instituted not only as a punishment for their disobedience, but was designed, in the wisdom and mercy of Divine Providence, as an incitement to attain that intellectual and moral excellence, which should compensate, in some measure, for the loss of an earthly paradise. It was ordained

for the purpose of disciplining that temper and disposition, which had become prone to evil works, of counteracting the power of sloth and sensuality, and preparing man for his redemption from the thralldom of sin, and for his restoration to a state of virtue and happiness.

By abusing the bounties of Heaven, and disregarding the commands of his Creator, man had forfeited his life. He was sent forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken, which was cursed for his sake; and his posterity, to the latest generation, are obliged to contend with thorns and thistles in procuring the fruit of the tree and the herb of the field. Notwithstanding the sentence denounced against man for his disobedience has been thus executed; although he is compelled to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, and to eat his food in sorrow; yet he is not left without the means of fulfilling the great purposes of his creation, and of retrieving his lost estate. He is promised a seed-time and harvest, which shall never cease while the earth remains, and by which he may satisfy all his reasonable wants, if he will hearken to the voice of nature, and direct his powers to objects, and regulate them in the manner dictated by the light of reason. And still greater hopes and consolations await him, if he will obey the voice of Him, who prepared and taught the way to escape from the heavier punishment of sin.

Through the mercy and benevolence of Divine Providence, the earth has hitherto brought forth grass, the herb yielding seed and the tree bearing

fruit abundantly sufficient to reward the labour bestowed upon it by the husbandman ; and he has the assurance that he shall not toil in vain, nor his honest industry be repaid with poverty and emptiness. The laws which nature has established for regulating the economy of the vegetable kingdom, will apportion the harvest to a judicious expense of means employed in obtaining it. It is thus that individuals and nations, by directing their attention to those pursuits to which they are so encouragingly invited, may not only obtain all the necessaries of life, but may supply themselves with every comfort and luxury of food and of raiment which can please the sense, or gladden the heart of man.

Whatever may be the prevailing genius and habits of a people, or the particular character of their pursuits, it is the cultivation of the soil which is the great source and basis of national wealth, power and grandeur. For in what consists the real wealth of a nation, unless it be in the ability and means of supporting a greater number of the human species than those who compose it? What can be more efficient to that support than the products of the soil? And how shall the power and grandeur of a nation be measured, unless by its wealth and population?

It is true there are other sources of subsistence resorted to by a portion of mankind, who, like the wild beasts of the forest, scarcely direct their thoughts to any higher enjoyment, or to the attainment of any other object, than a supply of their present wants and the gratification of their animal appetites. But no people, which have made any advances in the arts and refinements of civilization,

will ever place any considerable dependence upon sources so precarious and so inadequate to the support of a condensed population. The employments of hunting and fishing may serve to sustain animal life in a people diffusely scattered over a large extent of territory; but are totally incompatible with that improvement and cultivation of the mind and of the social affections, which, more than any thing else, distinguish man from the brute, and lead to the highest enjoyments of which human nature is capable.

It is because any given amount of labour, when directed to the cultivation of the soil, will furnish sustenance for a greater number of human beings than it would if employed in any other manner, that those nations who devote the most attention to Agriculture possess the greatest advantages and opportunities for improvement in other arts and sciences. Hence it is, that where we now behold the most splendid monuments of human genius, their production has always been preceded and aided by a considerable acquaintance with rural economy.

Although mankind have been employed in tilling the earth from an earlier period, and in greater numbers, than in any other profession or business, it is a remarkable fact, that the subject has derived less aid from the light of science than many others of inferiour importance. While the powers of the mind have been exerted to their utmost extent in making improvements in the art of war—while the resources of human ingenuity are, perhaps, exhausted, in contriving the means and implements of destruction—the art of Agriculture, from which the

most valuable temporal blessings are derived, has been suffered to remain, until a comparatively recent date, in its original rudeness ; and, like the religion which teaches the way to avoid the moral consequences of the curse that rendered the cultivation of the soil necessary to our existence and happiness, has maintained its influence by its intrinsic excellence.

An investigation into the causes of this peculiarity of habit might gratify a speculative curiosity, but can be no farther profitable than as it might enable us to apply a remedy to an existing evil. To suppose that the mind finds more powerful incentives to exertion and activity in those projects which have their origin in the malignant and wicked passions of man, than in those which proceed from the benevolent affections of the human heart, would by no means be honourable to our nature ; yet if “the imagination of man’s heart be evil from his youth,” the hypothesis would not be destitute of probability. Other causes, also, may have contributed to produce the same effect. So long as the earth would yield a competent supply of food for its inhabitants, without any increased exertions of theirs, a superabundance might not present inducements sufficient to counteract their natural love of repose. Necessity, which is significantly called the mother of invention, may not have been prolifick enough to advance the art of Agriculture to that perfection which it will probably attain at no distant period. Another cause of this inattention to an important subject may be found in the circumstance, that those who are practically engaged in rural pursuits, and take the

deepest interest in their success, have no time to devote to philosophical inquiries into cause and effect, and the various principles upon which depends the growth of different plants.

No opinion has ever prevailed, which the present enlightened age will more certainly pronounce to be founded in ignorance and error, than that the principles of rural economy are so simple and so easily understood, and have so little connexion with other subjects, as to reject the extraneous aids of physiology; and it is this vulgar prejudice, which, disdain- ing to seek or receive instruction, has co-operated, with the other causes already enumerated, to check the progress of improvement in this branch of industry.

Considering the great variety of soil, climate and situation, in connexion with the various characters and constitutions of different plants, and the peculiar adaptation of one to another; considering also the many diseases to which the vegetable tribe is liable, and for which remedies are to be administered; and that the same culture and treatment is seldom applicable to different species of plants; it must be perfectly obvious to every reflecting mind, that few subjects are more complicated in their principles than Agriculture, or require a greater variety of knowledge to raise it to the standard of perfection. It builds its superstructure upon a knowledge of natural philosophy, mineralogy, geology, botany, and chemistry. Almost the whole circle of the sciences are embraced within its sphere, and even the mechanick arts are subservient to its purposes.

It is not to be expected that beings of our limited capacities can ever acquire such an intimate acquaintance with the laws of nature as to understand the mysterious manner of their operation ; to trace effects to their immediate causes ; point out their connexion and dependence in all their minute details ; and unfold the intricacies in which Infinite Wisdom has seen fit to envelop the works of creation. Nor is it necessary, in order to accomplish the important objects of improvement in the art to which our attention is now directed, that we should aspire to such abstruse and extensive knowledge. It is sufficient for us to understand the means by which particular effects are produced, and what are the natural and probable consequences of the application of specifick agents to specifick objects. Without inquiring into the secret causes of vegetation, or understanding from whence plants derive their nutriment, how it is prepared, or how imbibed, how the functions of the plant are performed, and what sets its organs in motion, the essential properties of different soils, in relation to their effects upon different seeds, may be sufficiently known from their practical results. It may also be remarked, by way of analogy, that this is the only method by which the properties of any medicine can be ascertained, and by which its peculiar efficacy in eradicating disease can be tested. All the knowledge we can ever hope to acquire on these subjects must result from experimental philosophy ; and all we can accomplish in practice is to use the means, which God has placed in our hands, in the manner dictated by

experience. Still, to pursue the analogy, the physician may administer his medicine with all the skill and judgment which can result from human wisdom and experience; but, without the blessing of Heaven, its virtues will remain inert, and human effort become impotent. The husbandman, also, may till the ground, he may plant and he may water, and nurse his growing crops with the most assiduous care, and cherish them with the most unremitting attention; but God only can give the increase. If He withholds from the tender plant the sun's genial rays, visits it with disease or noxious insects, or sweeps the earth with violent winds, it will languish in defiance of human means to preserve it, and perish without yielding its fruit.

But these considerations ought not to produce any relaxation in our exertions to promote the growth and improvement of vegetable food; for much may be accomplished by artificial means; and as the spontaneous productions of the earth will not suffice for the wants of its inhabitants, much is required from the labour of man. It has been reserved for the enlightened policy of the present age to redeem the profession of Agriculture from the despotism of bigotry and ignorance, to nurture it with the benign influence of science, and to cheer it with the liberal patronage of publick spirit and dignified affluence. The measures recently adopted in Europe and America, by States and by individuals, have already removed the film which obscured the eye of prejudice; and the consentaneous exertions of the wise and munificent, in both countries, have prepared a foundation for one of the most use-

ful and splendid fabricks that ever adorned the civilized world. The great and lasting benefits which will perpetually flow to mankind from the establishment of a Board of Agriculture in England, an institution which owes its origin to the persevering efforts of a few patriotick individuals, will enroll the names of its founders among the greatest benefactors of their country, and emblazon them with its prosperity and grandeur. The laudable example of these men has not been disregarded here; and although we can boast no National Institution for the improvement of rural economy, many of the State governments have extended a liberal patronage to the art—and this legislative encouragement, co-operating with the enterprize and munificence of individuals, has brought into existence a multitude of associations which have already given assurance of their vast utility in advancing the interests of Agriculture. These societies are constantly collecting information upon agricultural subjects, and diffusing it among the people—they excite a spirit of inquiry and emulation among practical farmers by publick exhibitions, and encourage useful experiments by a distribution of premiums. Thus they infuse light, and life, and vigour, and health into the most important and profitable members of the body politick. They are fountains from which will issue streams to fertilize and enrich the country, and by their genial influence “the wilderness and the solitary place will be made glad, and the desert will rejoice and blossom as the rose.”

If there be any so sceptical as to doubt the benefits resulting from these institutions, he need not

search for evidence to dissipate his doubts beyond the confines of the County of Worcester. Let him point out the causes of that proud spirit of industry and enterprize, which now so strikingly prevails among our farmers—let him explain why that ambition to excel in rural pursuits, and that zeal and devotion in the profession, which he now observes, have never been awakened until since the organization of this Society, and the commencement of its operations. If this great work has been accomplished, by an association of a few individuals, in little more than a year, it is but an earnest of still greater achievements hereafter. The force of publick opinion, and a developement of our strength and resources, have given an impulse to the progress of agricultural improvement in this county, which cannot fail to terminate in the highest prosperity.

The patronage which the interests of Agriculture receive from the publick is like good seed sown in good ground. It repays the deed with a plentiful harvest of “fruit after its kind”—it increases the ability of the cultivator to sustain the burdens of government—it opens and expands his heart with thankfulness and gratitude, and induces to liberal actions and a reciprocation of benefits. The bounty thus bestowed, is conveyed back to the publick coffers, with cheerfulness and alacrity, in the same channels through which it was originally received; and, by its kindly influence, serves to enrich both the patron and the objects of protection.

These remarks are not made with a design to inculcate the doctrine, that they have an exclusive application to agricultural pursuits, although it may be

assumed as an axiom, sanctioned by universal experience, that this branch of industry is entitled to the first and highest attention, as being the basis and support of every other. The policy, however, of encouraging any particular species of enterprize, by publick bounties, depends upon considerations which are so numerous in themselves, and so complicated in their details, that it would ill comport with the present occasion to attempt to discuss them with minuteness. Nor would it become the author of an occasional Address before a Society which embraces within the scope of its policy the encouragement of manufacturing as well as agricultural enterprize, to contend that either is entitled to patronage to the entire exclusion of the other. Their comparative merits are, perhaps, sufficiently understood by the people to give that direction to industry which will be the most conducive to the interests of the whole. The subject has already employed the pens of the most enlightened statesmen of this country; and, as it will receive the attention of the united wisdom of our National Councils, we ought to have such confidence in the integrity of our publick servants, as to feel an assurance that the measures they shall adopt in relation to it will subserve the general good.

Nevertheless, it is of the very essence of our free government that the people should exercise the right of inquiring and judging for themselves as to all questions of publick interest. Without perplexing the mind with the abstruse argumentations and refined subtilties of theoretick politicians, there are certain obvious and acknowledged truths, which

every plain practical man, of common understanding, will find but little difficulty in applying to the prominent subjects of political economy, and, by this simple and easy process, he will rarely fail of arriving at accurate results. It is inseparable from the nature and disposition of man that individual enterprize should find its way to that species of employment which is the most lucrative; and thus private interest will seldom err in designating those arts to which the fostering aid of government may be safely and profitably extended. It is also true that the particular cases in which any branch of labour may be beneficially encouraged by premiums, bounties or protecting duties, depend upon their effect, when thus aided, upon other branches. If these forcing expedients should render another branch of industry less productive than when all were left free, and the increased product of the favoured profession should be insufficient to compensate for the consequent deficiency in another, it must be perfectly obvious, independent of other considerations, that such policy would not promote the national interest.—The leading principle, therefore, by which wise and faithful legislators will be directed, in enacting laws for the regulation of industry, is to adopt such measures as will have a tendency to increase the aggregate wealth of the state; and, in determining this question, they will have regard as well to its situation and natural advantages, as to the genius, temper and habits of its citizens.

Let us pause here for a moment, in order to apply these principles to the subjects of Agriculture, Commerce, and Manufactures. None will deny that

each of these, when unshackled by fiscal regulations, is an important and productive source of national wealth, and deserves a suitable patronage.-- They mutually assist each other, have an interest in each other's prosperity, and neither ought to be sacrificed or depressed to accelerate the growth of another. Indeed, Manufactures are almost as necessary to the comfort, convenience and happiness of man, as agriculture. But it is not by such comparisons that we can ascertain the true value of either, as it respects ourselves. The true question is, in which of these employments, having a regard to our situation, can the labour of our citizens be most profitably engaged? If a person, by a given amount of manual labour, when employed in the cultivation of the soil, is enabled, by exchanging its products, to procure a larger and better supply of manufactured articles, which he may want, than he could have fabricated by the same labour, surely he would be unwise to become his own artificer, instead of making an exchange of commodities with his neighbour, which might be mutually beneficial. And if a system of measures should be adopted by a State, having for its object the encouragement of Domestick Manufactures, at the expense of Agriculture and Commerce; if the effect of such system should be a diversion of the whole labour of the community into new channels; and if it should prove less productive than when left to its own direction, there would evidently be a positive loss, which would sufficiently prove the system to be unwise, unless its injurious effects should be countervailed by others of a favourable character.

While, then, there are nations, who, in consequence of the density of their population, or the barrenness of their lands, are under the necessity of devoting themselves to Manufactures, and can furnish the various articles of their labour at a less price than could be afforded by our own artificers; while they are in want of the products of our soil, and are willing to exchange with us on reasonable terms, we may enjoy, by the aid of Commerce, the principal benefits of manufacturing establishments, without experiencing their concomitant evils. The profits, also, which our merchants would derive, from becoming instruments to effect the exchange, would perhaps exceed those of the farmer or manufacturer, and furnish, at the same time, no inconsiderable portion of the publick revenue. But if this exchange should be interdicted by protecting duties, or other expedients, for the purpose of encouraging Domestick Manufactures, the measure would operate as an odious tax upon other branches of industry for the benefit of the favoured class; and in this way all the mischiefs of monopolies would be realized, a valuable portion of the community would be deprived of a lucrative employment, the publick revenue would be diminished, and national prosperity would be swallowed up in a distorted system of unequal and unnatural regulations.

Other considerations, however, may be urged in favour of Domestick Manufactures, of sufficient moment, perhaps, in the minds of some, to place the subject on higher ground than it occupies at the present time. It might be contended that by

multiplying and diversifying the objects of labour, so as to adapt and accommodate them to the variety of talent and skill which exists among every people, the sphere of human action would be enlarged, and the springs of invention and enterprize invigorated. We might be reminded, also, that the fertilizing current of foreign commerce does not always flow equally ; but that it is liable to be obstructed and turned aside by the fluctuating and discordant councils of those with whom it is pursued, and by the accidents and commotions to which they are peculiarly exposed, both as to their internal police and external relations ; and that if we depend on them for our necessary supply of manufactured articles, we may become the dupes of a capricious policy, and participate in those evils and embarrassments which interrupt their peace and threaten their safety.

To avoid such an unpropitious state of things, to render ourselves independent of the smiles or frowns of foreign nations, and to separate our destinies from theirs, it might be deemed prudent to encourage domestick fabricks to a certain extent, and not be governed by the maxim, that “ sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” On the other hand, it cannot be doubted that we ought to be still more vigilant in avoiding the necessity of resorting to foreign nations for agricultural products, bearing in mind that the soil is the natural reservoir of our prosperity. The wayward policy of neglecting Agriculture for Manufactures, in our present condition, could only proceed from the wildest theories of the most distempered imagination. It would

violate the clearest principles of political economy, and be a miserable perversion of our faculties in the application of means for the accomplishment of ends. It would be no better than an attempt to change the laws of nature, and to obtain her productions from other sources than those which were originally designed to yield them. Such a measure could no more consist with wisdom and sound policy, than the cultivation of cocoa-nuts and pine-apples by factitious heat, that we might send them to the torrid zone, and there exchange them for ship-timber, when our own forests will furnish an abundance of that article of a much superior quality; and, by pursuing such delusions, we should be as well deserving a diploma from the academy of Lagado, as those who should spend their lives in making experiments for the purpose of discovering a mode to raise melons from acorns, to extract sunbeams from cucumbers, or to calcine ice into gunpowder.

Admitting, therefore, the wisdom of that policy, which, by a considerable sacrifice of present advantages, guards against remotely probable or even possible evils, there can be no hazard in the assertion that so long as our commercial intercourse with Great-Britain, and other foreign nations, is free and unrestricted, and so long as trade is conducted upon equal and liberal principles, our interest cannot be advanced by a forced growth of Domestick Manufactures, to be supported and kept alive by the artificial aids of government.

In comparing our situation with that of Great-Britain, and other manufacturing nations, we shall

readily perceive the causes of their superiority over us in the various arts of manual occupation. Whenever any territory becomes so crowded with inhabitants as to be capable of furnishing more labour than is required for a profitable cultivation of the soil, the excess will necessarily be pressed into other employments. It is the case with every country where manufactures flourish, that the arts of husbandry have led the way to excellence, and absorbed the first portion of the labour and enterprize of the people. But here, our citizens may yet find ample employment in tilling the ground. Immense tracts of fertile country, sufficient for the foundation of mighty States and Empires, are yet to be reclaimed from the pristine inhabitants of the wilderness; and even where we now behold the incense of industry and refinement ascending from our towns and cities, and proclaiming our rapid and majestick march to a high station among the most powerful nations of the earth, the soil has been but partially cultivated, and refuses to yield that abundance, with which its natural exuberance promises to requite the increased labour of the husbandman. Here we have no redundancy of population to crowd into the demoralizing work-shops of manufacturers, to export to other countries, or to force into foreign wars, in order to make room for the remainder. Here the fruit of honest industry is not wrung from the peasant by the tyrannical hand of government, to pamper the luxury of placemen, pensioners and hereditary noblemen. Here are no sinecures, standing armies, nor an irreducible and discouraging national debt, to drain his garners and to devour his substance:

he is not oppressed with burdens heavier than he can bear, in the shape of rents, taxes, subsidies, exactions and tythes ; but he is protected in his property, his privileges, his liberty, and his life, by mild and equal laws, framed and administered by men selected for their wisdom, intelligence and integrity, and whose interests are identified with his. Under such a government, with the additional blessings of a salubrious climate and luxuriant soil, truly it may be said that “our lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and that we have a goodly heritage.”

While contemplating the signal blessings which the bountiful hand of Providence has distributed in such profusion, among all the members of this extensive Republick, a laudable pride will prompt us, without losing sight of the fundamental principles which unite and bind together the interests of the whole, to take a nearer view of the local advantages of our own Commonwealth. Equally removed from the enervating influence of a tropical sun, and from the stupifying blasts of a frigid zone, our situation presents sufficient difficulties to be surmounted to render exertion necessary, without extinguishing the hope of success in our undertakings. Great schemes are never projected where no obstacles exist to their accomplishment, nor illustrious actions achieved where there is no resistance or opposition to be encountered ; and where nature has been so lavish of her gifts as to leave nothing to be supplied by artificial means, we neither find inclination for the one, nor resolution for the other. It is therefore that the rocks and oaks of New-England are more favourable to genius and enterprize, than the

spontaneous and delicious productions of a more feasible and luxuriant soil, and of a more ardent and indulgent climate.

It was not because that Massachusetts had more at stake or more to gain than any other member of the Union, that she took the lead in the arduous contest for liberty and independence—that she sustained the heaviest burdens of that unequal conflict, and poured out her blood and treasure, in liberal profusion, for the common good of the nation. The high advances she has made in Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures, and her persevering and successful efforts in all the pursuits of a free and moral people, do not wholly arise from any adventitious circumstances of interest, education or superiour means. The cause of these distinguishing traits in her character may be found as well in the qualities of her soil and climate, as in the elements of her civil and religious institutions. Esteeming that as the most favourable situation which produces such signal effects upon national character, and taking into consideration our excellent political institutions, which aid the happy influences of our climate, we have no reason to repine at our lot, or to suppose that any other State combines greater physical and moral advantages than our own.

If we may be permitted to descend to a more minute observation of territorial divisions, it is believed that the County of Worcester will suffer nothing by a comparison with any other similar section of the Commonwealth. One who is familiarly acquainted with the character of different portions of the State for agriculture, industry and good morals,

whose intelligence and discernment enable him to decide with accuracy upon the comparative merits of each, and whose high official standing will give authority and sanction to his remarks, has pronounced this County to be "the heart of Massachusetts." The appellation implies a distinction and honour, which, if deserved, we are bound to maintain by a faithful and diligent improvement of those advantages, which have raised us to the proud eminence we now occupy, and upon a proper use of which essentially depends the prosperity of the whole body politic.

It is no trivial subject of gratulation that this Commonwealth is exempt, as a State, from that destructive moral evil, which pervades and overwhelms a large portion of our Republick; and that here the soil is cultivated by the hands of a freeborn, independent yeomanry, who appreciate so highly their own liberties that they disdain to hold others in bondage. Here rural labour is reproachful to none, but honourable to all; and the fruits of the earth are not rendered the less salutary and pleasant to the taste, because they are not reared by the reluctant toil, and moistened by the bitter tears of slaves. No wonder, indeed, it should seem an inexplicable paradox to some, that those who have recently delivered themselves from colonial subjugation, and who feel so sensibly the value of liberty and the right of self-government, should still withhold these invaluable privileges from others, and wish to subject them to a servitude incomparably more abject than was attempted to be imposed on themselves. Our inconsistency in this respect is rendered the

more striking by a deliberate proclamation, to the world and to Heaven, of the principles by which we were influenced in our struggle for independence, and by which we must have been understood as promising to be governed in our intercourse with other nations. This solemn manifesto commences with a formal declaration of these self-evident truths, "that all men are created free and equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;" and yet, strange as it may seem, we attempt to justify ourselves in violating these fundamental principles of our nature, and persist in depriving multitudes of human beings of rights which we acknowledge to be unalienable! What will be the ultimate effect of the continuance and extension of a practice so repugnant to our professions, and so incompatible with the unchangeable principles of righteousness, is only known to Him, who will retribute nations, as well as individuals, for every unatoned violation of his law. We cannot but fervently pray that He will avert from us the judgments which He visited upon His chosen people for a similar offence, as foretold by their prophet.—"Therefore, saith the Lord, ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour; behold I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the Lord—to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth; and I will give the men that have transgressed my covenant, who have not performed the words of my covenant which they

made before me, I will even give them into the hands of their enemies, and into the hands of them that seek their life; and their dead bodies shall be for meat unto the fowls of heaven, and to the beasts of the earth."

But whatever may be the disasters, if any, reserved for this people, as a punishment for their systematick violation of the rights of man, it is by no means difficult to calculate, with sufficient accuracy, the pernicious effects of that system of injustice and oppression, to satisfy ourselves of the expediency of discarding it from our political institutions. Pride, sensuality and sloth are apt to characterize those who hold others in slavery; and from these is suspended a long chain of causes and effects, which terminates in consequences the more afflictive and deplorable, because they might have been foreseen and avoided. On the other hand, industry, justice and philanthropy carry with them the recompense of a healthful body and a peaceful mind. "The sleep of the labouring man is sweet; and he that tilleth the land shall have plenty of bread, and his wealth shall increase: but riches gotten by vanity or oppression will not permit their possessor to taste repose, nor will they save him from poverty and distress." If contentment and happiness dwell any where in this world of sin and sorrow, they may be found in the cottage of the honest, industrious farmer. Remote from the bustle, pageantry and allurements of cities and courts—unacquainted with the vain amusements and enervating pleasures of the voluptuary, and exempt from the tormenting cares and feverish anxieties

which are engendered by schemes of aspiring ambition, he can view the common scenes of life with tranquillity and cheerfulness, and envies not the condition of those who are found basking in the sunshine of affluence, or delight to sport upon the giddy current of popular applause.

Rural occupations, also, lead to a familiar contemplation of nature's works, and are favourable to religious meditation; for in the germination of every seed may be seen the wisdom and power of God, and his beneficent hand in the growth of every plant. By these the mind is taught to adore Him as the fountain of all life and being, and the heart is swelled with gratitude for all his gifts.

Let us, then, diligently improve, and not abuse the advantages and opportunities with which we are favoured above all other nations—let us be just and merciful to all men; and let us “return every man from his evil way, and amend his doings, and we shall dwell in the land, and eat the fruit thereof, which the Lord hath given to us and to our fathers forever and ever.”

CATTLE SHOW

AND

EXHIBITION OF MANUFACTURES.

ON Thursday, the 12th of October, 1820, the AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER held their second Anniversary *Cattle Show, Ploughing Match, and Exhibition of Manufactures*. It was another "proud day for the County."

The interest excited on a former occasion was attributed by some to the novelty of the spectacle; and it was apprehended that when *curiosity* had been satisfied, the scene would lose its attractions; emulation, and, consequently, competition would cease; and the whole degenerate into a lifeless ceremony, leaving no lasting impressions, and producing none of the effects for which the Institution was designed. Far different has been the result. A livelier interest has pervaded and animated all parts of the County and all classes of the people. The *spirit of improvement*, which *last year* had begun, like the rising sun, to "crown our hill-tops and cheer our vallies," is now diffusing light and heat over the whole face of the land, and every heart is made glad by its renovating influences.

The Examination of Manufactures, by the respective Committees appointed for that purpose, took place on the day preceding the Publick Exhibition; and, by the rules announced by the Trustees, entry was to be made before 10 o'clock, A. M. on the day of the Examination. The inclemency of the weather for several previous days was unpropitious to this interesting part of the Show, inasmuch as it is thought to have prevented many delicate fabricks, and some large quantities of goods of a coarser texture, from being brought from a distance. The Exhibition however, was, upon the whole, satisfactory. The deficiency in *variety* and *quantity* of some of the articles was supplied by the excellence of the specimens offered for inspection. The Manufactures were exhibited to publick view during the succeeding day, and afforded much

gratification to numerous visitors. They occupied two rooms in a building belonging to the Hon. Levi Lincoln, in the centre of the main street, which were gratuitously appropriated by him for this purpose.

The weather was favourable on the 12th, and the town was thronged with people at an early hour in the morning. The previous arrangements for the accommodation of Stock of all kinds, were on an extensive scale; yet the number of entries so far exceeded anticipation, that it was found necessary to put many more animals into one pen (where it was practicable with safety) than was originally designed. The number of pens erected last year was less than 70; this year 88 were erected, and they were filled to overflowing. Beside which, 30 posts were provided for Working Oxen, and a spacious yard for Horses, all of which were occupied nearly to their full extent. By the certificate of Mr. *William D. Wheeler*, the Assistant Recording Secretary, it appears that the number of animals entered (exclusive of eighteen yokes of Oxen from Sutton, not exhibited for premiums, and also exclusive of those entered for the Ploughing Match alone,) were *three hundred and twenty*; of which *one hundred and sixty-six* were Neat Cattle and Horses, and *one hundred and fifty* were Sheep and Swine. A great proportion of the animals was pronounced by competent judges to be of the first order. The pressure of business upon the time of the Officers of the Society and the various Committees was great; and the manner in which it was all dispatched with so much regularity, and without hurry or confusion, in the space of a few hours, was a striking proof how much depends upon promptness and punctuality in the execution of publick arrangements, as well as in the details of private life.

The *Ploughing Match* introduced the performances of the day. In a few minutes after 9 o'clock, A. M. nine Ploughs, each drawn by one yoke of Oxen, with a Ploughman, who was also the driver, were on the field. The ground had been previously marked into lots, each containing $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an acre of land, 10 rods in length, by two rods in width. The soil was a stiff loam mixed with clay, and covered with a *tough sward*, which had been improved for mowing many years.

About 11 o'clock the Society moved in procession to the South Meeting-House, where the publick services were opened by a pertinent Prayer from the Rev. *Micah Stone*, of Brookfield. An appropriate Address was pronounced by the Hon. *Lewis Bigelow*, of Petersham. The names of the various Committees on Stock, &c. were then announced; after which, the procession made a circuit of the Pens, took a view of the animals which they inclosed, and was dismissed in the area between the Pens. The Committees then proceeded to execute the duties of their appointment. At half past 2 o'clock a procession was formed for Dinner, which was provided at the Hotel of Mr. *Eager*.

At 5 o'clock the Trustees assembled in the Meeting-House, and, in presence of a great number of their fellow-citizens, the several Committees made their Reports.

The Committee on *Neat Stock and Swine* consisted of Hon. *Silas Holman*, of Bolton, Chairman; *Mr. Oliver Munroe*, of Northborough, *Nathaniel Jones, Esq.* of Barre, *Capt. Joseph W. Hamilton*, of Brookfield, and *Mr. John Temple*, of West-Boylston.—The Committee recommended the following Premiums:—

To Cheney Reed, Esq. of Brookfield, for the best Bull, not less than one year old, - - - - -	\$10:00
To Mr. Eli Stearns, of Lancaster, for the next best Bull, - - - - -	7:00
To Col. Andrew Smith, of Rutland, for the best Bull Calf, from four to twelve months old, - - - - -	5:00
To Jotham Bush, Esq. of Boylston, for the next best, - - - - -	3:00
To Mr. Job Ranger, of New-Braintree, for the best Milch Cow, not less than three years old, - - - - -	10:00
To Ward Nicholas Boylston, Esq. of Princeton, for the next best, - - - - -	7:00
To Col. Andrew Smith, of Rutland, for the next best, - - - - -	5:00
To Stephen Williams, Esq. of Northborough, for the best Heifer, from one to three years old, with or without Calf, - - - - -	5:00
To Mr. Asa Rice, jr. of Shrewsbury, for the next best, - - - - -	3:00
To the same gentleman, for the best Heifer Calf, from four to twelve months old, - - - - -	4:00
To Mr. Paul Dudley, of Douglas, for the next best, - - - - -	2:00
To Capt. Lewis Barnard, of Worcester, for the best Ox, fitted for slaughter, - - - - -	10:00
To Mr. John Rich, of Sutton, for the next best, - - - - -	7:00
To the same gentleman, for the next best, - - - - -	5:00
To Messrs. Abel and Jonas Chase, of Millbury, for the best pair of four years old Steers, broken to the yoke, and kept for labour, - - - - -	10:00
To Col. Seth Wyman, of Shrewsbury, for the best pair of Steers, three years old, broken to the yoke, - - - - -	8:00

To Thomas W. Ward, Esq. of Shrewsbury, for the best pair of Steers, from one to three years old, broken or unbroken,	\$7:00
To Mr. Asa Cummins, of Sutton, for the next best,	5:00
To Mr. Nathaniel Dodge, of Sutton, for the next best,	3:00
To Mr. Lyman Warren, of Westborough, for the best Boar, not exceeding two years, and not less than six months old,	5:00
To Jonathan Davis, jr. Esq. of Oxford, for the next best,	3:00
To Mr. Jacob Hinds, of W. Boylston, for the best breeding Sow,	3:00
To Mr. Simon Gates, of Worcester, for the best weaned Pigs, not less than three in number, of the same litter, and at least four months old,	3:00

The Committee on *Working Oxen* consisted of Gen. Salem Town, jr. of Charlton, Chairman ; Col. Stephen Hastings, of Sterling, and Maj. Alpheus Baylies, of Uxbridge.—This Committee recommended the following Premiums :—

To Mr. Jabez Brigham, of Worcester, the first premium of	15:00
To Mr. Alanson Bates, of Dudley, the second do.	10:00
To Col. Daniel Clap, of Worcester, the third do.	8:00
To Salmon Hathaway, of Grafton, the fourth do.	6:00
To Mr. Silas Dudley, of Sutton, the fifth do.	5:00

The Committee on *Merino, Mixed, and Native Sheep* consisted of Bezaleel Taft, jr. Esq. Chairman ; Col. James Wilder, of Sterling, and Mr. James Wolcott, of Southbridge.—The Committee recommended the following Premiums :—

To the Hon. Levi Lincoln, of Worcester, for the best Merino Ram,	7:00
To Mr. Ezra Bigelow, of West-Boylston, for the next best,	5:00
To the Hon. Aaron Tufts, of Dudley, for the best lot of Merino Ewes,	10:00
To Mrs. Martha Lincoln, of Worcester, for the next best,	5:00
To the Hon. Levi Lincoln, of Worcester, for the best lot of Merino Wethers,	4:00
To Mr. Moses Howe, of Rutland, for the best Native Ram,	3:00
To Mr. Nathaniel Gates, of Worcester, for the next best,	2:00
To Mr. Joseph Patch, of Worcester, for the best lot of native Ewes,	6:00
To Mr. Lovett Peters, of Westborough, for the best lot of Mixed Sheep,	5:00

The Committee on *Horses* consisted of Hon. Thomas H. Blood, of Sterling, Alexander Dustin, Esq. of Westminster, and William Eaton, Esq. of Worcester.—This Committee recommended that Premiums be given

To Mr. Lewis McNear, of Petersham, for the best Stud Horse, of four years old,	15:00
To Mr. Elisha Sumner, of Rutland, for the best Mare, of four years old,	7:00
To Mr. Archelaus Thomas, of Western, for the next best,	5:00

The Committee on the *Ploughing Match* consisted of Hon. Levi Lincoln, of Worcester, Chairman ; Col. William Eager,

of Northborough, Mr. John Batchellor, of Grafton, and Gen. Jonathan Davis, of Oxford.—The Committee adjudged

To Silas Dudley, of Sutton, the *First Premium* of Ten Dollars for the Plough, and Five Dollars to the Ploughman.

To Rufus Porter, of Worcester, the *Second Premium* of Eight Dollars for the Plough, and Four Dollars to the Ploughman.

To Jabez Brigham, of Worcester, the *Third Premium* of Six Dollars for the Plough, and Three Dollars to the Ploughman.

To Simon Plimpton, of West-Boylston, the *Fourth Premium* of Four Dollars for the Plough, and Two Dollars to the Ploughman.

The Committee on *Cotton, Woollen and Linen Cloths* consisted of Hon. Aaron Tufts, of Dudley, Chairman; Mr. Samuel Plant, of Lancaster, Esek Pitts, Esq. of Mendon, Capt. Cyrus Gale, of Northborough, and Capt. Charles Parkman, of Westborough.—They recommended the following Premiums:—

To Asa Goodell & Co. of Millbury, for the best Broadcloth,	\$10:00
To the North-Brookfield Manufacturing Company, for the next best,	6:00
To the Wolcott Manufacturing Company of Southbridge, for the best Kerseymere,	6:00
To the same Company, for the best Sattinett,	5:00
To Mr. Lovett Peters, of Westborough, for the best Household Cloth,	8:00
To Capt. Samuel Dadman, of Rutland, for another excellent piece,	4:00
To Mr. Payson Williams, of Fitchburg, for the best Coating,	6:00
To Mrs. Martha Lincoln, of Worcester, for the best Flannel,	6:00
To Mr. Payson Williams, of Fitchburg, for a fine piece of Flannel,	3:00
To Col. Nymphas Pratt, of Shrewsbury, for the best $\frac{3}{4}$ Carpeting,	5:00
To Mr. Gideon Delano, of New-Braintree, for the best 4-4 do.	8:00
To John Clark, Esq. of Ward, for the best Woollen Coverlid,	4:00
To Miss Elizabeth Denny, of Worcester, for an elegant Hearth Rug,	3:00
To William Denny, of Spencer, for the best Socks,	2:00
To John Slater & Co. of West-Boylston, for the best Cotton Bleached Shirting,	3:00
To Simeon Draper, Esq. of Brookfield, for the best Linen Diaper,	4:00

The Committee on all other articles of *Domestick and Household Manufacture* consisted of Nathaniel P. Denny, Esq. of Leicester, Chairman; Joseph Bowman, Jun. Esq. of New-Braintree, and Col. Jacob W. Watson, of Princeton.—The Committee recommended Premiums as follows:—

To Col. Stephen Hastings, of Sterling, for the best Butter, not less than 50 lbs.	5:00
To Dea. Isaac Davis, of Northborough, for the next best,	4:00

To Mr. Job Ranger, of New-Braintree, for the third best,	\$3:00
To the same gentleman, for the best Cheese, not less than 100 lbs. in quantity,	5:00
To Mr. Elisha Matthews, of New-Braintree, for the next best,	4:00
To Mr. William Tufts, do. for the third best,	3:00
To Col. Joseph Davis, of Northborough, for the best Sole Leather,	5:00
To Mr. Francis Davis, of West-Boylston, for the next best,	3:00
To Col. Nymphas Pratt, of Shrewsbury, for the best Manufactured Calf-Skins,	5:00
To Mr. Reuben Wheeler, of Worcester, for 27 nice Skins of Morocco Leather,	7:00
To Maj. Lemuel Healey, of Dudley, for 2 lbs. of strong, well coloured, and beautiful Sewing Silk,	3:00
To Miss M. Prentiss, of Petersham, for a Bonnet, equal to the most beautiful Leghorn,	5:00

The Reports of the various Committees were accepted, and the Premiums recommended were awarded by the Trustees.

The *Committee on Agricultural Improvements and Experiments, and Original Inventions*, consisting of Stephen Williams, Esq. of Northborough, Chairman; Gen. Thomas Chamberlain, of Worcester, Mr. Charles Leland, of Grafton, Mr. Lovett Peters, of Westborough, and Joel Crosby, Esq. of Leominster—met on the 1st of December, and recommended the following Premiums:—

To Payson Williams, Esq. of Fitchburg, for the greatest quantity of Potatoes on an acre of ground, being 614 bushels,	6:00
To Joshua Richardson, of Templeton, for the best sample of Potatoes raised from seed-balls.	5:00

The Society was honoured by the attendance of a delegation from the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, consisting of *Gorham Parsons, Esq. Elias H. Derby, Esq. and Hon. Richard Sullivan.*

The most remarkable regularity prevailed; and we think that in no part of the country could such a multitude of people be congregated with less confusion, disorder or indecorum. The Founders and Patrons of the Worcester County Agricultural Society have every reason for congratulation in the eminent success which has crowned their exertions. Where is the individual who now doubts that the tendency of this Institution is as beneficial as its purposes are pure and patriotick?

OFFICERS

OF THE

WORCESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

ELECTED APRIL, 1820.



HON. DANIEL WALDO, PRESIDENT.

THOMAS W. WARD, Esq. }
STEPHEN WILLIAMS, Esq. } *Vice-Presidents.*

THEOPHILUS WHEELER, Esq. *Treasurer.*

HON. LEVI LINCOLN, *Corresponding Secretary.*

EDWARD D. BANGS, Esq. *Recording Secretary.*

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Hon. Seth Hastings, <i>Mendon.</i>	Seth Lee, Esq. <i>Barre.</i>
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Col. Reuben Sikes, <i>do.</i>	Jacob Fisher, Esq. <i>Lancaster.</i>
Mr. Benjamin Thaxter, <i>do.</i>	Perley Hunt, Esq. <i>Milford.</i>
Gen. Thomas Chamberlain, <i>do.</i>	William Eager, Esq. <i>Northboro'.</i>
Capt. Lewis Barnard, <i>do.</i>	Simeon Draper, Esq. <i>Brookfield.</i>
Hon. Silas Holman, <i>Bolton.</i>	Seth Field, Esq. <i>do.</i>
Hon. Stephen P. Gardner, <i>do.</i>	Daniel Tenney, Esq. <i>Sutton.</i>
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Gen. Jonathan Davis, <i>Oxford.</i>	Aaron Peirce, Esq. <i>Millbury.</i>
Gen. Salem Town, jun. <i>Charlton.</i>	Adolphus Spring, Esq. <i>North-bridge.</i>
Bezaleel Taft, jun. Esq. <i>Uxbridge.</i>	Nathaniel Crocker, Esq. <i>Paxton.</i>
Hon. Thomas H. Blood, <i>Sterling.</i>	Ward N. Boylston, Esq. <i>Princeton.</i>
Hon. Lewis Bigelow, <i>Petersham.</i>	Zadock Gates, Esq. <i>Rutland.</i>
Mr. John Warren, <i>Grafton.</i>	Hon. Jonathan Russell, <i>Mendon.</i>
Jonathan Wheeler, Esq. <i>do.</i>	Nathaniel Jones, Esq. <i>Barre.</i>
Mr John Batcheller, <i>do.</i>	Joseph Estabrook, Esq. <i>Royalston.</i>

NAMES

*Of Members who have been admitted since the last publication,
together with a few then accidentally omitted.*

Nahum Andrews.	Jonathan Wilder.	Nathaniel Gates.
Daniel Williams.	Charles E. Knight.	Simon Plympton.
Elijah Holman.	Caleb Lincoln.	Darius Putnam.
Horace Warner.	Joel Wilder.	Silas Jones.
Benja. Read, <i>Worcester.</i>	Matthew Wood.	Ebenezer Gates.
Luke Aldrich, jr.	Benja. Read, <i>Templeton.</i>	Nahum Nurse.
Samuel Stowell.	Rev. Reuben Holcomb.	Samuel Graves.
Daniel Bellows.	John Slater.	Leonard W. Stowell.
Augustus Emerson.	Algernon S. Foster.	John B. Nye.
Jerome Gardner.	Jedediah Estabrook.	Joseph Green.
John Pond.	William Lincoln.	George Day.
Denison Robinson.	Skelton Felton.	Samuel Henry.
Moses Smith.	Alpheus Freeman.	Joshua Richardson.







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