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## Farmers' Department.

"SPEED THE FLOW."

DARIUS FORBES, Editor.

All the arts and sciences pertaining to life, are closely linked together, and are intimately connected with Agriculture.—A. W. R. C. C.

### Special Notice.

Agricultural Exchanges and communications for this department, should be directed to "Oxford Democrat," South Paris, Me.

### AGRICULTURAL ADDRESS.

DELIVERED BEFORE  
The West Oxford Agricultural Society,  
At Fryburg, Oct. 22d, 1857,  
BY N. T. TRUE, M. D.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Agricultural Society: I suppose that every farmer present, has come here with the expectation of learning something new to aid him in his arduous calling. Nor will it be time unprofitably spent during your session, if you learn as really useful ideas. While we would encourage every tiller of the soil to bring the products of his industry to your exhibition, yet there is a higher and nobler object to the farmer, far beyond the premiums that he may receive.

The man who unlearns to do what he should not have learned yesterday, will be the wiser to-morrow. The man, who, to-day, may see a better grade of stock, a new or improved kind of seed, fruit, or implement, or hear new and valuable ideas from his intercourse with his neighbors, will certainly go to his home with higher aspirations and more elevated views of his calling.

It is with this view that I propose to address you on The Relations of Science to Agriculture.

Now, Gentlemen, do not shut your eyes as well as ears, at such a high sounding subject, for you will find it made up of a thousand little subjects that daily present themselves or should present themselves to your minds, and as you have chosen me to address you, you must patiently hear what I shall have to say, and allow me to lay aside some of the rules of oratory, and in the first person singular, to address you in the second person plural.

That man who acknowledges no advantage from his fellow beings is the veriest fool in existence. He is but a hermit in his cell, knowing no favors, enjoying no favors, and bestowing none. A small may live alone in its shell—a silkworm may weave around itself its own shroud, and leave something by its labors where to benefit man; but he who acts independently of all progress and of all benefit from his fellow man, will die a pauper, and demand a burial at the public expense.

As with the individual, so with the nation. It is a distinguishing mark of a high degree of civilization when a nation is so situated as to secure to itself everything valuable from all other portions of the globe. An isolated nation is a degraded one. Everything that serves to expand and elevate the human mind is there unknown. It was a striking remark of Bishop Whately, "That no nation ever rises alone." It is a peculiarity of civilized life that science leads her aid to every department of human industry. Go to the South Sea Islands. The war ship of an island king is a long boat manned by thirty or forty men, each with paddle in hand, essentially the same as was used by the rude barbarian 1000 years ago. But let science step in, and these forty men could fit out and man a ship of 2000 tons, and load it with all the necessities of a long voyage.

Step into the humblest cottage in the land of civilization, and the first thing you see may be an almanac. The humble cottage may thus learn the changes of the moon, the eclipses of the year, the ebb and flow of tides, and the position of the planets, without ever thinking that it required the most scientific minds the world has ever seen to discover the laws of astronomy and bring them down to his capacity. There is in the hands of that cottage's child a spelling book, but he can not read, nor thinks of the many years of toil spent by the compiler of that book. Nor does he for a moment conceive the vast amount of thought necessary to invent a printing press which will strike out that book such as shall render its price within the reach of his limited means. He little thinks that he enjoys by the aid of science what even kings could not possess six hundred years ago.

Could you visit a New England farmhouse as it existed forty years ago, you would have found its inmates employed much the same as were the Egyptian women forty centuries ago, spending the long days, and nights, too, in wondrous toil, spinning and weaving where with to clothe the family. It was a painful labor, but science stepped in during the present century and showed the use of wheels and hands and levers, and the inventive genius of the mechanic takes out of the hands of women that tedious drudgery, and cards and spins and weaves by machinery at a cheap rate all the various fabrics in use. The mothers and daughters of the household are now left to indulge in labors more congenial with their natures, and in the refinements of society.

Science and art have indirectly lent their aid in improving and adorning the home of the farmer in the erection of tasteful and comfortable dwellings as a substitute for the cold and ill-shaded houses of a former generation.

Science has invented that common, though wonderful instrument, the mariner's compass. Not only the sailor is guided unerringly over the broad expanse of ocean, but the surveyor who searches for new homes

in the wilderness, depends on the direction of the north to lay out the farmers boundaries. But science is still further needed even here. Perhaps this town was surveyed 95 years ago. Its lots were numbered, and its angles measured and recorded, but the surveyor, who to-day goes to trace out those original boundaries, finds that the record does not agree with his instrument. The men of science modestly but confidently point out a law, that there has been for a century past, a variation of the needle to the west, increasing at a certain rate each year. This fact at once prevents a multitude of neighborhood quarrels and interminable lawsuits.

Science, by means of expeditions fitted out for scientific men, has explored the icy regions of the north, and established the Geography of our continent, and has told the sailor where he can go to catch the seals and whales worth while to supply our wants. It has brought to the knowledge of the farmer the various productions of other lands, and adapted them to the climate of his home. Though there be many experiments that fail, yet if one new plant one half as valuable to us as the potato, or Indian corn, can be discovered, it will add millions to the value of the country.

Science has explored the depths of the ocean, and told us where we can lay a telegraphic wire by which to connect the eastern and western continents. Yet these discoveries by science are usually slow and expensive. The steam engine was at first a mere toy, and it has cost more than any city in Maine is worth, to bring it to its present efficient condition. I well remember when a railroad was building from Baltimore to Washington, and it was thought a great improvement in transportation that one horse could draw a car loaded with 25 tons at the rate of 4 miles an hour. Steam Engines for that purpose were not thought of. The fluid we burn in our lamps, the India rubber shoes on our feet, the zinc point on our houses, the white paper on which we write, and even the pens are the developments of the sciences. We can scarcely think of any article of clothing, or any implement of labor on which is not stamped the development of some of nature's laws.

On the spot where we now stand, three lived and roamed one hundred and fifty years ago, the red man. A powerful tribe of men, they were. As you plow the soil, occasionally is brought to light an arrow head, made of some hard mineral. I have looked at them with the eye of a mineralogist, and have wondered how they could succeed in bringing different kinds of minerals into such a similarity of form. I doubt if an American living could make one similar, without much practice. To make an arrow-head, a scalping knife, and a tomahawk out of stone, was the extent of their skill. The hand of science had then no aid. The skill and time expended in learning to make an arrow-head, could with the aid of science, have made a plow or a steam engine.

On the beautiful intervals of the Saco, that same red man cultivated a little corn. On the same spot the white man can do all science to plow his fields and reap and mow his harvests.

To the red man there was no architecture save in the humble wigwag. To the white man, there was the well-constructed dwelling with all the conveniences of life conducive to his comfort.

Nor need we contrast the red and the white man to prove our position. Shut out from the white man the improvements of the last 25 years in agriculture, and he would make a sorry farmer. The first class of farmers in our country, now have their plows constructed on the most approved pattern, and adapted to the various kinds of soil. The most labor has been submitted to the hands of the scientific man, and its form so constructed as shall offer the least resistance and best effect the object. The cultivator, as well as plow, has been constructed in such a way as to be light, effective and durable. The horse is now made to do much of the hard labor that once required the toil and sweat of the farmer. He not only plows his land, but sows his grain, hoes his corn and potatoes, mows his grass and rakes the hay, sows the grain and threshes it. But he could not do all this, unless science had stepped in and showed the mechanic how to arrange his wheels, and levers and hands to meet the desired end.

The next great step in human progress will be the introduction of the steam engine upon the largest farms in our country. It is not among the impossibilities, and if so, it is not among the improbabilities, and it certainly will be accomplished. In England this has already taken place to a certain extent, and I am sure that the restless disposition of the Yankees will not allow them to be behind their trans-Atlantic friends.

I will here, Mr. President, to illustrate what I conceive to be the relative positions of the scientific man and the farmer.

No scientific man on earth can take your land, and raise better corn than you, but he may be able to advance principles by developing the laws of nature that will serve to enlarge your own sphere of thought, and consequently of action.

It is absolutely necessary for the captain of a ship to learn the laws of navigation, but it is not necessary for him to be an astronomer, or an eminent mathematician, and make his own books on navigation. Not at all. Just so with you, gentlemen. The scientific man who studies the elements of bodies is a theoretical chemist, you who carry out the application of the laws which he establishes are every one of you practical

chemists, and it is not too much to say, that the really intelligent farmer has the richest, most interesting and instructive laboratory in existence.

It was a prevalent idea in the older portions of this country, not thirty years ago, that the soil was becoming worn out and must be abandoned. The Science of Chemistry sprung into existence within the present century, and has analyzed almost every vegetable, and shown what are its elements. It has analyzed the soils, and shown their composition. New ideas have been started. New modes of cultivation have been practiced, and now old worn out fields in Maine, and much more so in Massachusetts, and still more so in Virginia, are renovated. Land in this State which in your boyhood was considered as good for nothing but for juniper bushes, is now among the most valuable and productive in New England.

If we go back into the history of our world two thousand years, we shall find a singular exemplification of the truth here advanced. Palestine, at that period capable of supporting an immense population, is now mostly a desert land. Josephus speaks of the population around the little lake of Wennesaret as if it was almost literally covered with people. Now it supports but a miserable few.

But it is from the science of chemistry that we are to look for the greatest results. Not that this science will ever unfold any thing that will make the farmer suddenly rich. Its inducements will be slowly and silently felt. Chemistry unfolds everything material in nature. Did you ever, gentlemen, see a man from a foreign land, or even from a different State, or occupation, settle down to be a farmer? Did you not see how many mistakes he made in his calculations? How unlike in a thousand little things to the experience and practices of his neighbors. Well, it was because he did not know any better. Now, gentlemen, we must all place ourselves in the attitude of learners in this great world of ours, and the same principle will apply to you as to the navigator. It is not necessary that you be theoretical chemists, but you must, every one of you, be a practical chemist, to be a successful farmer at the present day.

Let me enumerate some of the questions that chemistry will solve. It will tell you why, and when to put ashes around your corn. It will tell you under what circumstances plaster may be used, and the reason why. It will tell you the composition and defects of all your soils. It will tell you the composition of all your manures. It will tell you the names of a dozen different kinds of manures of the greatest value, that were never dreamed of before chemistry investigated them. It will teach you better than to use manure on your lands in its raw state, and it will tell you on what lands you should not use it at all, for I believe here is something yet to be learned by the farmers of Maine. It will tell you the kind of manure best adapted to a particular kind of crop. It will tell you how to make manures as well as to preserve from waste those which are made. It will tell you the effect of manures in top-dressing, and when to use them in that way. It will tell you when to plow and manure deep. It will tell you how to make use of the atmosphere, of light, heat and moisture in their applications. You may reply that we know these things already. If so, you are intelligent and correct farmers. But let me tell you that the more you know of general principles, the wider your sphere of thought and action will be. The honey-bee, by instinct, can build a six-sided cell, and another, but did that bee possess reason and education, like you, it might build it a thousand ways. Says some writer, "Liesbig, the agricultural chemist, has enabled England to add millions of bushels annually to her crop of wheat." Should a farmer expend one thousand dollars in building a house, such as was built fifty years ago, his neighbors would pronounce him a foolish man, because houses are every where built at the present day warmer, much more convenient and durable than formerly, and all this in accordance with true science.

There is hardly a domestic duty in the family in which you are not performing some chemical experiment. When you make your soap you put quicklime with your ashes. Chemistry tells you it is to make your lye caustic and capable of combining with animal fats. Common salt enters into the composition of our bodies. Hence we give it to our animals, as well as take it ourselves. You expose your sweet cider to the atmosphere to absorb oxygen, and it becomes vinegar. You place a pail or tub of cold water in your cellar to prevent it from freezing. Chemistry tells you that the water gives out heat. Experience shows that a soup tastes better the second day than the first, and chemistry tells you that repeated heating and cooling of animal matter renders it more soluble. The old couplet,

Bean porridge hot, bean porridge cold,  
Bean porridge best when nine days old,

was founded in truth on the same principle. You know that vinegar, put into a copper kettle generates a poison. You create a green chemical salt known as acetate of copper, a dangerous poison. You place plaster of Paris in your manure heap to arrest fermentation. Chemistry tells you that you save the ammonia, or hartshorn, that is most powerful part of manure. The churning of butter, the making of cheese, the smoking of your hams for bacon, and a thousand other little things of every day life depend on a knowledge of these sciences.

Did time allow, I could fill up the hour allotted me in noting the daily experiments in the household and on the farm. The truth is, you have been practising chemistry all your lives long, and just in

proportion as you think, so will you in truth become real chemists in everything.

The science of chemistry pointed out a pile of human bones on the battle ground of Waterloo, and shiploads were transported to England, and what were not suitable to grind into flour for the poor sailor's bread, were ground up into manure to enrich the wheat fields of Great Britain. It has shown the farmer the value of those immense piles of guano, the accumulations of thousands of years. It has brought to light immense beds of phosphate of lime, wherewith to renovate the worn out lands of New England. It teaches you that a block of granite well pulverized contains all the essential mineral elements of a good soil. It teaches you this very important law, that every good soil must contain a certain amount of dead vegetable or animal matter. It will teach you what was never thought of a century ago, that a large portion of the woody fibre of plants is obtained from the atmosphere. It teaches you how to arrest fermentation in your manure, and how to promote it whenever necessary. It will teach you when to make use of old and well rotted manures, and when green manures. It will unfold to you the laws of rotation of crops, a most important subject and one in which much is yet to be learned. It will point out to you most beautifully the laws by which your animals are fattened on particular kinds of food.

The old adage, help yourself, and Heaven will help you, is true in chemistry. A healthy growing plant will not only make use of the manure placed beneath it, but will absorb with true chemical zeal the gases that escape from a neighbor's manure heap. Chemistry wastes nothing. These old bones now lying by the fence will make phosphate of lime, and if you cannot conveniently dissolve them, you can put them beneath an apple tree, or a grape vine, where they will serve a useful purpose.

Among the apparently trivial subjects that should more engage the farmer's attention is the study of the habits of the various destructive insects. It is a noticeable fact, that they become more annoying from year to year, while there is a profound ignorance of their habits, or of the best methods of getting rid of them. The science of Entomology has been studied as yet only by the scientific man, and the results of his labors have not yet been but little told by the farmer.

I have met with many men who did not know where to look for the borer in his orchard, and yet on examining the stocks near the ground, found them in some instances nearly destroyed. I have had two large apple trees in this County literally eaten off by them so as to fall down. I would simply add here, that if any of you on your return home, should find, on examining your trees near the ground, a quantity of dirt resembling sawdust, that the borer is there, and that the jack-knife and wire should at once be made to attack him in the rear and rout him from his unlawful possession, and the ground be kept clear of grass and weeds around the trunk to prevent their future depredations.

There is still another more aggravating pest called by altogether too good a name, I mean the curculio. Many a farmer has pointed out to me his plum trees, and told me despairingly, that although they blossomed well, and the plums set well, but that after they had about a quarter grown they all withered and dropped off. Should any of you be troubled in that way, if you will take the pains to look at your plums the next year, when about two weeks out of blossom, you will find every plum with one or more circular cuts through the skin. In that, an egg is deposited, which soon develops itself into a worm that eats into and destroys the fruit. If you watch carefully in the morning, you may see a black, pin-point looking fellow, busy at work puncturing the plums, and depositing his eggs. That man will confer a great blessing who will devise some remedy against their ravages, for the indications now are, that we shall lose our apples as well as plums by their depredations.

A neighbor of mine tells me that he finds the leaves of his cabbage and turnip plants cut off, and wonders how it is done. This morning one leaf is cut off, and to-morrow morning another, until the plant is destroyed. I tell him to dig around the plants with his hands and he will find a lusty looking worm, who in the night appeared above ground, made his meal and retreated, to be repeated the following night. This is the cut-worm, and a knowledge of his habits may often be the means of saving a favorite plant.

A knowledge of the habits of the weevil, has enabled the farmer in a measure to avoid his ravages, but still much is yet to be learned even there.

Then there is the wire-worm, which is usually found very destructive to corn plants on land that has recently been broken up. So little is known respecting the habits of insects and the best methods for avoiding their ravages, that newspapers have not yet settled down on the first lesson of boyhood—how to destroy a caterpillar's nest in an apple tree.

It seems to be a law of instinct, if we may be allowed the expression, that many of the most common and destructive kinds of insects deposit their eggs in unfertilized matter, so that as fermentation goes on, they may be hatched by the heat generated during this process. The gardener may therefore derive a hint, not to make use of unfertilized manures in the cultivation of such plants as are liable to the attacks of insects.

It is peculiarly discouraging to the farmer to find his corn and grain destroyed by so apparently insignificant creatures, and

he will be a great benefactor to his race who shall introduce an easy and effectual remedy for these evils. Scientific men have already classified them and named them, and it only becomes the sharp-sighted farmers of the present generation to study their habits and devise the much coveted means for their riddance.

The cultivation of that valuable esculent, the onion, has almost entirely been abandoned in this State because of an insignificant looking insect that deposits its egg in the tender plant. Possibly not a farmer present is familiar with the insect that does the mischief. I have yet to confess my ignorance, but I can tell you how to avoid its depredations. As soon as they make their appearance, dig the earth entirely away from the bulb until their ravages are over.

Then there is the black knot on your cherry and plum trees. It is still an undecided question whether it is a specific disease, or the result of the ravages of some insect.

Most of these insect depredators have not been known in this County but a few years, but the loss to this county the present year to our fruit crop alone by one insect family can be estimated only by millions of dollars.

From what has already been said you will perceive that it will not do for the prosperous farmer to imagine for a moment that he already knows enough, nor will it do for the farmers of Oxford County to suppose that all wisdom is now living, and will do with them. Oh, no! It is well sometimes to define our position by comparisons. You live at the base of the White Mountains. The most of you can hardly conceive of a mountain much larger than Mount Washington. It is large enough to pierce its head among the clouds, but shows its feet at its base and places another of its size on its head, and then put Mount Jefferson above them both, and it would scarcely reach the top of the highest peak in the Rocky Mountains. Or, if that will not do, pile four Mount Washingtons above the other, and you will have a South American mountain. Or, to finish the climax, take all the different peaks of the White Mountains and pile them above each other, and you would not exceed the highest mountain in Asia.

If such be the differences in the natural world, it would be well to look abroad a little and ascertain what others are doing more than ourselves. I have long thought that farmers did not take sufficient pains to visit each other's farms, and especially of those who have become eminently successful in their calling.

Let a consideration of these things serve as hints to you to expand your views and give greater scope to your range of thought in your calling. It is a pointed remark of some one, that no one can ever make much progress by copying himself as a model, and no man will it apply more closely than the farmer.

But I wish to say a word on a subject nearer to your homes. As I travel over your County and call on its enterprising farmers, I find large numbers who with commendable pride point out to me a few acres of land in the highest state of cultivation. It is in corn, it is rank and heavily eared. They tell me how they prepared the ground. What pains was taken in plowing, harrowing and manuring, and in planting too. No one thing in this County interests me more than this. I have occasionally (I wish I could say often,) been surprised at the vast amount of produce that can be obtained from one acre by deep plowing, or what would be better, if it could be done as cheaply, by deep sowing. A farmer told me this present year that he secured the last year at the rate of forty two tons of parsnips to the acre. I say, gentlemen, you are going on in the right direction. In all most all parts of this County, the soil is strong and deep, and you need not fail to plow it a good depth, provided, you can secure a proportionate amount of manure. I believe there is not a farmer present who does not feel stimulated by the impulses of science to greater skill in the cultivation of his soil. All through the winter months I find that the farmers are anxious to know what varieties of corn are the most profitable. What kinds of wheat may best resist the weevil. What potatoes, the rot. What breeds of stock are best adapted to this climate. This is what I call true science. "A question asked," says Lord Bacon, "is half answered in the asking," and when this spirit of enquiry is aroused, correct results will sooner or later follow.

In this connection let me suggest to you, what I believe might and should be formed in every town in this County, and that is, Farmer's Clubs. I will tell you how it may be done. Let two individuals in a town resolve that they will meet once a week for twelve weeks through the winter, at each other's houses, whether others will meet or not, and you have a society with a back bone in it. Do not depend on lawyer A., nor Rev. Mr. B., nor Dr. C., to lead off merely because they can talk, but take your wives with you, and make a visit, and introduce some subject for conversation. Ask questions of each other for information. Carry with you some choice fruit, or seed, that may be of interest. At the close of each meeting, let your host bring on his best apple and nothing else for your entertainment. Some of your neighbors may sneer at your efforts, but that is of no consequence, labor on. Others will be induced to join you. Make a few bye-laws, the fewer, and simpler, the better. At first you may feel a little awkward in your efforts, like a boy with his first new coat, but you will soon have a spirit of enterprise around within you, and a determination to do better than you have ever done before. I will remember, that when a club was

formed in the town where I reside, it was thought that we should exhaust all the subjects worthy of consideration in a few evenings. Instead of that, every succeeding year brings out new subjects of increasing interest, and far more numerous than we can find time to discuss. A healthy spirit of rivalry exists among the members to do, at least, as well as their neighbors, and better if they can.

As you go to your homes in your respective towns and neighborhoods, talk this matter over with your neighbors. Act on the principle that in council two heads are better than one, and you will be benefited as well as delighted with your efforts in that direction. The exercise of plain common sense in connection with all that you can learn from books or from your neighbors will prevent you from doing a thousand little things of which you will afterwards be ashamed. The man with a witch-hazel rod will not be consulted to locate a well, nor the charmer to draw out the rheumatism from your shoulder, nor will you look to the moon to see when you should sow your peas to avoid the pea-bug, or to kill your pork for fear of shrinkage. Poor farming will always make pork shrink; good farming, with a plenty of common sense, never. A thousand foolish notions have been swept away from the minds of farmers, by the light of science, and every improvement in agriculture is now eagerly sought after. A very little science will teach any man that oats will not become barley, nor barley, oats. Nor will you be foolish enough to procure the services of the most ignorant man in town to cure your sick cow by pressing down her throat cold salts by the quart, or putting a quid of tobacco into a fresh wound to heal it, any more than you would, as I have known elsewhere to be done, employ the man whose intellect is so weak that you would not rely on his judgment to appraise the value of a pig, to doctor your sick child merely because he accidentally found something in the woods that would operate as an emetic. Cows may give bloody milk if you kill a swallow, and they will give bloody milk sometimes if you do not kill one. Some members of a family may die before the year is out if you kill a fish-bawk, and they may die if you do not kill one. Heliothes of the sun or moon will not now frighten farmers with the idea of cold seasons, nor should a comet suddenly make its appearance would you fear from the impositions of those who suppose that all wisdom and power are locked up in their hands.

Such ideas as were once prevalent I need not try to refute before an intelligent audience as the present, and I only allude to them that you may be reminded by a comparison with the past of the progressive condition of society, and place yourselves in the best possible position for still greater improvement.

It is said that the Jews were always unwilling to step on a piece of paper lest the name of God should be written upon it, but, gentlemen, you are at every step treading upon more of his laws than have ever been written. It has been said by a distinguished man, that if the human hand be spread on any spot on earth, there is enough beneath it to occupy the attention of the most scientific man for a lifetime. The shrewd, intelligent farmer will always be the man of the age, or perhaps a little in advance of his age, to seize upon, and make use of those laws by which he shall in the best possible manner, reap an abundant harvest.

Why, gentlemen, I do not believe that our Creator intended that every occupation under the sun, even the very meanest, should be left to drag out a hard life without its blessings. I do not believe that the telegraph was made to benefit the merchant alone. Nor do I believe that the steam engine which in England alone is now doing the labor of one hundred millions of people in other occupations, shall yet be dragged into the immediate service of the farmer. The bolts and bars that kept enclosed within heavy walls the truths of science for nearly 6000 years have been snapt asunder one after another, and you with all others, are at liberty to step in and take advantage of the treasures there so ready to be lavished upon you. I am not willing to give up the cherished thought that the farmers of New England are yet to be surrounded with more of what constitutes real happiness than any class of men on the face of the globe.

As I look over our own State, I unconsciously picture to myself each farmer's home as some little Eden where simplicity of manners, intelligence and religion dwell. One of the finest pictures ever drawn by the pen of inspiration, is that where our parents "heard the voice of the Lord God, walking in the cool of the day." Nothing hinders you from surrounding your homes and filling your gardens with trees and shrubbery where you may, without the necessity of hiding yourselves, find a retreat from the noise and tumult of public life, and secure to yourselves that quiet and happiness which such a garden can always give to the humblest citizen.

Many a time have I been led to exclaim, as I have compared the tumultuous and uncertain condition of other pursuits with that of the skillful and stable farmer. You do not know how well situated you are. There may be, and no doubt are exceptions, but I have yet to see the first man that has left a good farm and gone out West, who has in subsequent years returned to the home of his youth in any better circumstances than he would have been, had he remained at home. To a young man without a family the case may be different, but to a man once settled down on a farm, a removal out West, with a family, is a worse calamity than if a fire levelled his buildings to the ground.

I am so hopeful as to believe that these valleys of the Saco, as well as the hillsides all over this good county of Oxford, will yet, by the aid of science and skill, add at least one fold more to the products of industry.

Any man among you, who may have no small a farm, may find another one directly underneath the old one. Plow deep, manure deep, pulverize well and deep, and you have embodied in a single sentence the substance of all that constitutes good husbandry. I can already see in this county evidences of a marked improvement in the cultivation of the soil, in a better grade of stock, in the introduction of more and better fruit, in embellishing and rendering your homes more comfortable, convenient and attractive.

I confess to a feeling of pride in everything that pertains to the health, wealth, intelligence and moral standing of my native State. I have resolved to resist the allurements of a distant land, and to spend my days in Maine. This resolution made twenty years ago, I have not yet once felt like breaking. We are capable of sustaining a greater population than ever Greece or Rome could support. Her villages are becoming centres of little and great cities. Her seacoast extends for hundreds of miles, and is indented with bays, rivers and harbors. In a single year, the State of Maine could fit out a fleet of ships equal in tonnage to the whole navy of Great Britain. Scarcely a township exists in which may not be found an abundance of waterpower, while timber and fuel are actually growing faster than we can consume it.

Railroads are fast extending into every portion of the State, and rendering available what before was of no value. The swamps are fast becoming fertile meadows. By reason of steamboats and railroads and mechanized industry, commerce is extended and the farmer realizes prices in cash such as were never known before, in time of peace.

Smart and enterprising boys and girls are found in abundance all over the State ready to peddle tin ware, or practice law; ready to cut logs for the mill, or to engage in logging; ready to teach the oxen how to draw, or to teach the younger boys and girls how to read; ready to play on the piano, or to make bread; ready to swap horses or be a doctor; ready to make money anywhere, or to get married. If an Englishman wants a steamboat, he draws his plans, and makes all the mathematical calculations necessary, with scientific exactness; if a Yankee wants one, he takes his jack-knife and whittles it out, and if it will not go as fast as the Englishman's he will make it go as fast as he can. It is this versatility of talent that enables the New England farmer to do almost all kinds of work on his farm and buildings without depending on his neighbor.

In connection with the leading topic of this occasion, permit me to suggest subjects for your consideration, so that you may be thinking as well as working men.

There is an inquiry as to the kind of corn best adapted to our latitude; to the best methods of avoiding the potato rot; the draining of meadows and lowlands; a subject that has yet to engage the attention of farmers in some portions of our State to a great extent. Then there is that noble animal, the hog. I question much whether you have yet begun to realize the profits of this animal, not in raising pork for sale, but in the quantity and quality of manure he makes. It is the only animal that can furnish you phosphate of lime in large quantities. There is a rapid change going on in this State in regard to the kinds of stock best adapted to the wants of the farmer. Farmers do not want more fancy stock any more than they want fancy horses to do their work. As a general rule, great size in stock will not be found the most profitable trait. Our younger farmers would find it interesting to examine into the chemical composition of different kinds of roots for stock, for chemistry as well as the experience of the best farmers will tell you that some kinds of food will put on flesh, while others will put on fat. Then if we turn to our more staple crops, you should be led to enquire what you are taking from your soil every crop you remove. Let me illustrate. In every ten and a half of potatoes, you take 12 lbs. of phosphate acid, 7 lbs. of sulphuric acid, 6 of magnesia, and 58 lbs. of potash and soda, elements the most important to the growth of vegetables. Let us take clover, one and three-fourths ton of clover will take 18 lbs. of phosphoric acid, 7 of sulphuric acid, 70 of lime and 77 of potash and soda. A good crop of beans may take 20 lbs. of phosphoric acid from one acre. I give you these figures not for exactness, but as indications to you of what you may investigate. A knowledge of these things will lead you better to understand the rotation of crops, a subject, I think, pretty well understood by farmers in this County in practice, if not in theory. It would not be an unprofitable question to ascertain what per cent. of our manures might be saved from waste, and to learn also what elements are lost by rain and what by fermentation.

Every intelligent farmer among you is aware that soil taken from beneath a building contains a large amount of nitre. It is an interesting question what an application may be made of this fact to the management of soils. You may ask the question, how it is that a best seed scarcely weighing a grain, can be able to produce in a single season 25 lbs. of vegetable matter. It would be well to ask yourselves the question, why a well pulverized soil is so beneficial to the growth of plants, whether it is not for the purpose of admitting air into the soil in addition to other reasons. You might inquire whether the rats, hogs and other turnips would not be the cheapest and on the whole



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Book and Job Printing  
PROMPTLY AND NEATLY EXECUTED.

## The Kansas Contest briefly Reviewed.

To spread and perpetuate African slavery, Franklin Pierce and his northern conspirators against liberty, as tools in the hands of southern slaveholders, repealed the Missouri restriction. It was not only done to extend the area of human oppression, but to nationalize it, and involve us as a nation in the guilt that attaches to it. Thirst for political power was another element in this atrocious act. It was done. Although the north had become accustomed to the aggressions of the slave propagandists, and had acquiesced in many outrages upon her rights, this act, this unprincipled breach of good faith and fair dealing, waked up a spirit of determined resistance in the minds of a great majority of the people of the free States.

In order to carry on this crusade against liberty more successfully, the old whig party in the South abandoned their party organization and a majority of their members went over to the democratic party, in order to unite all the Southern people so far as possible, to make one great sectional organization. This sectional party under a popular name, was to be directly used to accomplish a single purpose. To aid it in its treason, the Douglas faction of the north were to be marshalled under the same name, to give "aid and comfort" to the slave power. Kansas was thrown open to emigrants from all parts of the country. The freedom of the North with all that vigor and energy which everywhere characterizes their movements, rushed into the territory to clear their lands and make them homes, and thus determine the future domestic character of the new territory.

It was an open field, free to all who chose to cast their lot in that wilderness region. In the race between slavery and freedom, the latter got ahead. The south resorted to, to carry out their original designs, to plant the institution of slavery in Kansas. The infant territory was three times invaded by armies of border ruffians, who by violence and fraud wrested from the bona fide settlers their elective rights. The National administration, both of Pierce and Buchanan lent the whole force of the general government, both civil and military, to sustain these frauds. Both sent out a set of unprincipled scoundrels, to cooperate with the drunken pirates who were sent there by the negro drivers to crush out by force the spirit of liberty, to act in the capacity of government officers. But we will not enlarge upon this point, because our readers are already familiar with the long string of aggressions practiced upon the people of Kansas by the black democracy.

In this great contest between freedom and slavery, Kansas by force of circumstances, became the battle ground. It was the field upon which the contending armies met in deadly array. It was a point, when once settled, the momentous questions involved in the controversy. Both the north and the south so understood it. The south calculated their chances; they clearly saw future events foreshadowing their destiny. If Kansas could be subdued to slavery, then the "Rubicon would be passed," if on the other hand they should fail to accomplish their infamous designs in this respect, then Missouri would throw off her chains, Nebraska would be free; a light would be kindled upon the plains of Kansas, which would radiate in every direction, and eventually shed its benign influence all around.

The whole contest seemed to be narrowed down into the simple propositions of *slave Kansas, or free Kansas.* For the foregoing reasons, to which might be added a long list of others of a similar character, the most intense interest was manifested by both parties as to the results of the recent election in that territory.

The free State men went into the fight with everything against them, but a good and righteous cause. Nearly one half of their number were cut off by the six months clause. The polls were in the hands of the vilest border ruffians. The territory had been gerrymandered and divided off into election districts, to defraud the free State men in a manner perfectly villainous. United States troops were ordered into the territory to overawe the Republicans; in a word everything was done that could be, by the black democracy to cheat the free State men out of their constitutional right.

But the result, the great and glorious result settles the question, at least as to Kansas. It makes but little difference what the usurping, drunken ruffians who have recently been in session, calling themselves a Constitutional Convention do. Three-fourths, at least of the people of Kansas are Republicans, and it cannot be made a slave State. They will soon be strong enough to take care of themselves. As a dernier resort, it is now well known, they are determined to fight, and the fight once begun would not stop in Kansas, and the black democracy know it.

But the present state of this question, presents another plan, to which we would call the attention of our readers. Gov. Walker for refusing to sanction the villainous frauds perpetrated in the last election, is to be deserted by the south, and eventually by the National administration. The black democracy of Georgia have already spoken in thunder tones of condemnation. It has

now become a part of the democratic creed to commit the most gross and infamous frauds and then sanction them. No man can be a democrat in good standing with the leaders of the party, unless he became a party to these frauds; hence the denunciations against Walker.

But the thing is not to stop here. The southern fire-eaters will come up in a body against Walker. It will cause a rupture in the black democracy—a division which may split the parties into two separate, hostile wings. There are breakers ahead. This miserable National Administration, which was conceived in iniquity and brought forth in sin, is to be rent asunder. It needs no foreign power to break it down, for it has the elements of its own destruction in its very midst. The black democracy have already fought like a band of freebooters about the spoils,—but this is not the worst of their condition. The fire-eaters and rank disunionists in the black democracy control the party. They had their own way all through Pierce's administration. They hold Buchanan by the foretop, and the dishonest old fogey has no more will or mind of his own, than the automaton who dances by the working of the wires behind the curtain.

This fight in the border-ruffian ranks will in our opinion break out at the opening of the next Congress; and notwithstanding that party have a large nominal majority in both branches, it would be nothing strange if they divide off in the organization of the House. We shall see. The black democracy as a party are infamously corrupt and dishonest. This party is too vile to live long—it will eventually die, from its own poison.

## Thirty-Fifth Congress.

The first session of the Thirty-Fifth Congress will commence on the first Monday of December next. The elections of new members have all taken place, and its political complexion will be as follows:

|                 | Dem. | Rep. | K. N. |
|-----------------|------|------|-------|
| Maine,          | 6    | 0    | 0     |
| New Hampshire,  | 0    | 3    | 0     |
| Vermont,        | 0    | 3    | 0     |
| Massachusetts,  | 0    | 11   | 0     |
| Rhode Island,   | 0    | 2    | 0     |
| Connecticut,    | 2    | 2    | 0     |
| New York,       | 12   | 21   | 0     |
| New Jersey,     | 3    | 2    | 0     |
| Pennsylvania,   | 15   | 10   | 0     |
| Delaware,       | 1    | 0    | 0     |
| Virginia,       | 13   | 0    | 0     |
| South Carolina, | 6    | 0    | 0     |
| Florida,        | 1    | 0    | 0     |
| Arkansas,       | 2    | 0    | 0     |
| Missouri,       | 4    | 1    | 2     |
| Illinois,       | 5    | 4    | 0     |
| Iowa,           | 0    | 2    | 0     |
| Wisconsin,      | 0    | 3    | 0     |
| Indiana,        | 6    | 5    | 0     |
| Ohio,           | 8    | 13   | 0     |
| Michigan,       | 0    | 4    | 0     |
| California,     | 2    | 0    | 0     |
| Texas,          | 2    | 0    | 0     |
| Kentucky,       | 8    | 0    | 2     |
| Tennessee,      | 7    | 0    | 3     |
| North Carolina, | 7    | 0    | 1     |
| Alabama,        | 7    | 0    | 0     |
| Georgia,        | 6    | 0    | 2     |
| Mississippi,    | 5    | 0    | 0     |
| Maryland,       | 3    | 0    | 3     |
| Louisiana,      | 3    | 0    | 1     |
|                 | 128  | 92   | 14    |

The democrats have now a clear majority of 22 over both Republicans and Americans, and this will soon be increased by the addition of three members from Minnesota, when that State shall have been admitted.

The Senate will stand, 35 democrats to 25 opposition, and 2 vacancies. The vacancies are in the States of South Carolina, caused by the death of Senator Butler, and in Texas, caused by the suicide of Senator Rusk. These will, of course, both be filled by democrats, giving them a majority of 12 in the Senate.

These majorities are sufficient for them to carry any party measure they may wish to accomplish, without embarrassment, and makes them directly and solely responsible for all the legislation of the ensuing Congress. The present financial condition of the country has been seized upon as a favorable subject by which to divert attention from the great issues upon which parties are now made up. There seems to be nothing for the Republicans to do in the matter, but to sit quietly and let the Southern democracy have their own way, and assume the whole responsibility.

**WELCOME TO NEAL DOW.** The citizens of Portland gave a public reception to Mr. Dow, at Lancaster Hall, on Thursday evening of last week. B. D. Peck, Esq., was President, with a large list of Vice Presidents, among whom we notice the Hon. Sidney Perham, of Oxford County. An address of welcome was delivered by Rev. Mr. Pratt, to which Mr. Dow responded. Speeches were made by several other gentlemen present, after which the audience partook of a substantial supper prepared by R. L. Robinson, Esq. The occasion was one of great interest.

We observe in an exchange, an anecdote of Mr. Dow, which may not be out of place in this connection. While journeying by railway to London, the luggage on the top of one of the cars, on the train in which he was traveling, took fire. In England the cars are locked up, while the train is in motion, so that the passengers had no means of escape. Mr. Dow observing the helpless condition of the inmates of the car, climbed out of the window while the train was in motion, and made his way on the side rail of the cars nearly the whole length of the train to the engine driver. Before reaching him, however, the fire was seen by some workmen on the road, who gave the alarm by placing detonating signals on the track, and the train was stopped and the passengers rescued. The incident well illustrates the devotion of the man to the welfare of his fellow men.

Cox and Wilson, the murderers of the officers of the bark *Albatross* were arraigned before the U. S. Court in Portland, at its November term, and plead not guilty. The second Tuesday of January is assigned for their trial.

In Elmira, New York, recently, the telegraph line could not be made to work, and on examination, it was found that at a railroad crossing, where the wires were near each other, a spider had spun his web from one wire to the other, and this becoming wet completely cut off the circuit.

## Fall of Delhi.

We have, by the last foreign arrival, the news of a most important triumph of the British arms in India,—the fall of Delhi. We copy from an English paper the following account of its capture:

Delhi, the famous city and arsenal has fallen, and the rebellion of the Sepoys has received its death blow. Delhi was assaulted on the morning of the 14th of September. The attack was made in four columns, of which one, composed of the Cashmere Contingent, sent to our assistance by the late Gholab Singh, was repulsed. The others were successful. An entrance was effected at the Cashmere gate, to the north of the city, in the neighborhood of the Magazine, the Residency buildings, and St. James's Church, and not far from the bridge of boats across the Jumna. Here their assaults made good their ground, with comparative little opposition. An advance was made along the ramparts to the Calcutta Gate, on the north-west. Here the resistance of the mutineers was obstinate, and our own loss severe. It was not until the 16th that the Magazine was stormed. On the 20th our troops took possession of the town. Our loss in killed and wounded was 600 men, including 50 officers. Of the latter, the names of six are given as having been killed in the assault, and four in the operations preceding it. The Calcutta despatches left Delhi some time before the 20th, for, at the moment it was sent off, our troops were gradually advancing within the city, the enemy retreating across the Jumna. One sentence in the despatch will create great anxiety. It is stated that the loss of forty officers and six hundred men took place on the 14th. We know there was six days' fighting subsequently, and it may perhaps be inferred that the commencement of the assault was not its bloodiest stage. If this statement should unhappily prove the correct one, our losses will, we fear, be found to have been far greater than the first despatch led us to expect. We must wait the arrival of the next mail for more detailed information on this point, in the meantime hoping the best, though the interval will be one of sickening anxiety in thousands of British households. The slaughter among the mutineers was no doubt very great. A large number escaped over the bridge, and among them the King of Delhi and his two sons, disguised in women's clothes. The loss of our troops, in any case, has indeed been severe. The casualties among the officers have been particularly heavy. But the effects of the capture of Delhi, will, we no doubt, immediately and completely, the neck of the rebellion is indeed broken. The capital towards which the mutineers flocked from every quarter, the rendezvous to which they were evidently directed to repair, the chief city of the Mahomedan dynasty, and the residence of the mock King who had ruled in trembling state during the past four months, is now in the power of the foreign race whose expulsion was the end and aim of this plot, the roots of which have struck so deep. To the utmost extremities of India will the news be borne, how, after standing their ground for months against an overwhelming array of native forces, the islanders assaulted a city containing two or three times their number of enemies, and carried it after a stout resistance, destroying or driving out the army which held it, and sending the King to wander a fugitive until the hour of retribution comes."

These were cross actions. Varnum vs. Patten, was an action of assumpsit on a note of hand, made by the defendant, and payable to the plaintiff. The note was not produced at the trial, and the plaintiff introduced testimony tending to prove that it was negotiated by the plaintiff, but subsequently came back into his possession and was afterwards lost.

The action, Patten vs. Varnum, was brought to recover for money alleged to have been paid to Varnum, and endorsed, or to have been endorsed on said note. After the testimony was out, both cases were withdrawn from the jury and referred to the Court.

Judgment in the first for plaintiff, for the amount of the note after deducting the amount paid to be endorsed. In the second action, plaintiff nonsuit.

Robinson and Gerry, for Varnum. Gibson and Howard, for Patten.

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Action of assumpsit, on account annexed. Verdict for Plaintiff. Damage \$68.67.

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The Piscataquis Observer comes to us with more bear stories. Mr. Joseph Houston and Mr. John Bradley have been absent from Dover, hunting on the Sebasticus river, about four weeks, and during that time have killed nine bears, for which they have received a bounty of \$18. The skins of these animals will, on an average, now bring in the market \$6 apiece.

the best food for your hogs in their growing state.

Judging from what I have seen and heard in different parts of the State, many of you might find it as convenient and as profitable to have a cranberry patch as it is to have a garden. Why should not every orchard have attached to it at least a dozen trees of sweet apples? Every farmer in good circumstances should make arrangements to have something from his garden each day in the year, if necessary. These little things that come from the garden enrich one's table wonderfully. From experience I find that I can commence cutting from my garden a supply for the table on the first week in May. Let us see the order. First, from a row of cives, second, from asparagus, third, from rhubarb, and onions, fourth, from currants, after which an abundant supply may be obtained from various sources.

Another index of progress in the right direction is an improved pasturage. Plowing up and improving old pastures where it can be done, will do much to improve the condition of stock, and especially of the dairy.

There is a certain limit to all vegetable and animal products, but you are to aim at the greatest degree of development in every vegetable and animal, having a due regard to the cheapest mode of production.

I have thus thrown out these hints for your future contemplation, nothing doubting but that some of them will engage your attention.

In this connection I would suggest to you, as a matter of economy, the importance of having at least rooms in your houses made as warm as possible for winter. It is all nonsense to talk about two warm houses here in the country, provided the means of ventilation be at hand. I know many a farmer who will spend all his winters in preparing firewood, and yet you can put your fingers between his window sash, or through the bottom of his doors which a very little attention would prevent. I have no doubt that one third of the wood and labor might be saved in this State among our farmers by a little attention to this point.

Secure double windows to your kitchen and sitting room, as well as double plaster them, and you will not produce an involuntary shudder in every member of your family at the thought of winter. A current of cold air passing beneath the doors from warm dorm







