

## FARMER'S SON DESCRIBED

"Phoebus angustis animosus atque  
Fortis appare. Non, si mate' nunc, et olim.  
Sio ent. --' Hor. Car. X

His has never been a bed of roses. Like the plough he guides which makes its progress through stubborn places full of roots, and endures unnumbered rubs & thumps from unessential rocks that oppose the advancing furrow; so he must proceed through many difficulties with which selfishness has endeavor to obstruct his path, and come in collision with the rocks which disregard has tumble in his way. He is praised for the strength of his body, and not for that of his mind. What do people think him good for? To dig manure, hoe & shovel, moved hay, dig potatoes, & c. For what is he esteemed? Not for fine clothing; indeed the richly dressed are found in costly mansions & promenading, fashionable streets. Not for wisdom; no the wise inhabit cottages, and are employed in high offices. The dandy passes him by with contempt, the learned man views him with indifference, and he is unnoticed by the rich man as he rides by him in his Lordly carriage. As the hog never looks up to him who shakes the acorns down, so these self-exalted personages never cast a gracious look on honest toil that grows the luxuries, which regale their appetite, which they obtain for a paltry sum of their usurious gold.

But thanks be to God, who has awarded to honest labor a contented, cheerful heart, and a sound & healthy body. Regardless of contumely, whistling his favorite tune he hies him across the adjoining field, or ploughs the fruitful soil. While the joyful birds pour forth their song, the quiet cattle ruminates in peace beneath yon shady tree, the growing verdure waves before him, and descends upon him the sweet influence of the blue expanse above.

The disregard of those above mentioned he himself can disregard; -- but what mortifies him most, is that the fair sex are apt to avoid him as a toad does a snake. Is it because he cannot shake his toe in the ball-room like the whiskered dandy? because he is temperate industrious, and substantial? because his name is inseparably connected with the kitchen & the dairy? If such is the answer, -- it is well for him that they him shun, and from them he should run. What if farmers' should resolve to produce only enough for their own consumption; -- How soon would the contempt of the dandy be changed to humiliation, and he fain would fill his belly with husks, as that prodigal of old; -- how long before the Greek and Latin of the scholar would produce his starvation & the golden treasures of the rich man be a millstone around his neck? And as for beauty how quickly she would surrender at discretion. Thus he is esteemed of no importance, not only by those who live an easier life, but even by his relations. A young man who has now obtained ~~at~~ his majority who has ever worked upon his father's farm from the day he could lift a chip & who has learned to read and write at the winter terms, may here be mentioned as one among the many examples of the lamentable effects of selfishness & disregard. He went to the winter school, -- but he was required to work so hard and so constantly, that what he there would learn, was worn away, as the edge of an axe that is rubbed against the stones. Now he is a man yet ~~his~~ propositions are incomprehensible to his ill developed mind, and his stunted body testifies, like the soldier's scars how he has been employed. Mr Ed. is this the design and destiny of human's existence? Was it intended thus that life should pass the important period of youth, like the talent hidden in the earth? Is this the career of man, proud man, whom "God created in his own image", and made but little lower than the angels, and crowned him with

glory & honor? Made him to have dominion over the works of his hand; and has put all things under his feet?"

And on whom does the enormous burden of culpability rest? Is it not upon the heads of his predecessors? It was the duty of the past to provide for the present; as it is of the present to prepare for the future. Long ago King Solomon instructed unheeding parents in their duties to their children & demonstrated the inestimable value of wisdom, and the vast importance of properly educating their offspring. Sallust in his admirable history has drawn an elegant parallel between cultivating the soil and the mind, and has discriminated with impressive earnestness in favor of first cultivating the mind. And Lycurgus, the famous Spartan Lawgiver, sensible of the magnitude of this subject, declares & Aristotle reiterates the same in express terms, that the education of children ought to be directed by the state, and should not be left to the humor and caprice of their parents, who generally thro' selfishness permit them to grow up in ignorance; or through indulgence, and mistaken tenderness spoil at once both the bodies & minds of their children." Such is the wisdom of the past, and it is the duty of the present to perform. Should not agriculture, which is the foundation of the nation, on the success of which every other interest depends, should it not have appropriate schools supported by the state wherein the worthy sons of toil could be competently educated?

The consummation of this desideratum would be the development of the golden rule of reciprocity. Replie an exemplary man, who was asked by the baker, why three loaves of bread each day he bought, -- one I lend, one I eat, and one I pay away. Then did the baker marvel. Thus you do dispose of thm, how may this be said he? That I let my children have I lend; one I eat myself that I may life; the 3d my parents have who fed me when a child.

Such is the harmonious operation of the devine rule. Under its generous influence farming would be elevated to the dignity which its nature deserves as an employment; and instead of being avoided it would be solicited as the most desirable occupation of life. The diffusion of knowledge would ameliorate many of its hardships, and by introducing greater skill, would make the business more lucrative. The farmer's son would then no longer like the gifted Bloomfield surnamed the Farmer's Boy, be obligated to struggle thro difficulties as huge as mountains arrive at age ignorant of his business, disgusted and discouraged with it, abandoning it for other more alluring ~~that~~ uncertain pursuits, but qualified for his position, he would continue to cultivate his patrimonial fields. While the unbounded wealth & beauties of nature array themselves before him. While the domestic font daily announces an accession to his store; the busy bee goes forth to collect him honey, the useful cow grazes in the pasture to afford him milk, and the patient oxen & the noble horse attend obsequious to his will. While the thrifty fruit trees fill his vision with their glorious florigage: preparing the delicious fruit to regale his appetite & replenish his purse. Then as he is engaged in his duties in his mind entertaining thought revelye [?] and new discoveries arise. Here he observes the botany of the plant that blooms beneath his tread, there discovers the Chemistry of a substance which attracts his view; anon determines the geometry of some surface, or solid, at time, he investigates the geology of the hillside; or the valley, and examines the philosophy of the amusing phenomina which surround him. Daily labor strengthens his body; daily study ennobles his mind; and both increase his skill in geoponics. O inexampled prosperity, acme of sublunary fruitions, state most desirable state most practicable, full of contentment, healthy and competency; whence ~~would~~ arise blessings on himself, on his fathers and his progeny, blessings on his country, blessings drawn from the regions of grace; and accepted with paeans and orisons of gratitude. "The world thenceforth becomes a Temple and life itself one continued act of adoration."