ADDRESS
OF
Hon. Chas. E. Phelps
OF BALTIMORE, MD.,
BEFORE THE
Oxford Agricultural Society,
On Friday, October 7th, 1870.
ADDRESS

OF

Hon. Chas. E. Phelps

OF BALTIMORE, MD.

BEFORE THE

Oxford Agricultural Society,

On Friday, October 7th, 1870.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OXFORD, Pa., October 15th, 1870.

At the meeting of the Board of Managers of the Oxford Agricultural Society, on the 12th inst., a resolution of thanks to Hon. Charles E. Phelps, for his very able and highly practical address at the First Annual Exhibition of the Society, on the 7th, was unanimously adopted, and the Secretary was instructed to request a copy for publication.

From the minutes.

H. L. BRINTON, Cor. Sec'y

BALTIMORE, Md., October 18th, 1870.

REV. JOHN M. Dickey, D. D.,

Dear Sir: Your esteemed favor of the 17th instant, is received, enclosing a copy of Resolutions of the Board of Managers of the Oxford Agricultural Society.

I beg that you will take occasion to assure the Board of my very high appreciation of the compliment contained in their vote of thanks and request of a copy of the address delivered on the 7th inst., for publication, and to inform them that the manuscript is at their service.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES E. PHELPS
ADDRESS OF

Hon. Charles E. Phelps,

BEFORE THE OXFORD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7th, 1870.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: and the slopes of Gettysburg, must in all

A citizen of another State, and a future time answer for the fate of Mason member of another profession than that and Dixon's line. It is therefore with

of Agriculture, the honor has been as great propriety that your association signed to me of addressing the first an has, as I understand, extended its fra-

nual meeting of your Society. History temporal recognition and welcome beyond records that once there existed a line of the limits of Chester county to the far-

division between your State and mine, mers of the adjoining counties of Penn-

Upon the Pennsylvania side, agricultu-sylvania and Maryland. The climate ral labor was then as it is now, voluntary and the seasons with them, are the same and compensated. Upon the Maryland as with you. The natural capabil-

iteside it was to a considerable extent of the soil are without material differ-

compulsory, a lingering but tenacious once. The products of the soil are iden-

ties of by-gone barbaric ages and tical. The system of labor is the same, usages. Practically, Maryland, though there exists no longer even an imag-

slave state, was a stronger abolition inary line of political or social separa-

state than her free sister Pennsylvania. tion. Common interests, pursuits, ne-

Up to the war of the rebellion she had cessities, added to close neighborhood voluntarily emancipated more slaves than here along both sides of this old border Pennsylvania ever owned; and while State line, unmistakably point to a bet-

that war was at its most doubtful crisis, ter understanding and a closer union be-

as if to blow up with nitro-glycerine the tven the farmers of Pennsylvania and bridge between her and the belligerent Maryland.

and almost triumphant confederacy, The sphere of usefulness of your So-

Maryland with one constitutional vote society is plainly not to be circumscrib-

d the hoary fabric into ruin. by state or county lines. There is a

Upon the long list of casualties of significance in the very indefiniteness of the great war of the rebellion, no names its title, "The Oxford Agricultural So-

are recognized as more thoroughly dead, ciety." Here in this thriving, beautiful

than those of Mason and Dixon among borough, the seat of an Institution of the killed; and more completely lost, learning, the first of its kind not only in

than that of Mason and Dixon's line this country but in any country, here in

the heart of a land famous for its barns, among the missing.

Opinions may vary as to the precise its dairies, its cattle, its crops, you have
day or spot upon which they fell, but established the headquarters of the or-

none dispute the mournful fact that ganized agricultural interests. not of a they and their line are gone, and gone single county merely, but of a wide re-
beyond the reach of resurrection. gion. There is no limit to the benefici-

One thing is certain, their most mor-cent influences which are designed to
tal wound was received, as was right, radiate from Oxford as the selected seat in Pennsylvania's soil, and from Penn. and center of our efforts at enlightenment sylvania hands. Meade and Hancock, and improvement. And there is no reason
why this enterprise, so successfully inaugurated, should not continue year after year upon the banks of one of these Italian lakes, and died in ignorance of the fascinating lore secreted beneath its waters. No ancient chronicle, no legend, no travel of indiction from a continually expanding and extant in Pliny’s time, in the first and most distant field of experiment, exciting to the century of our era, could have suggested the faintest trace of these primate predecessors of the Gauls, Helvetians and Etruscans. They had long before his time perished from the memory of man.

And yet we are as well assured that they existed, and yet we are certain of the existence of these enterprises of mankind, own grand-fathers. We have in our and of its dignity in the scale of human hands as convincing and conclusive evi- dent that they lived. But we know how they packed the materials for food and clothing. The science of archaeology has produced the entire frame of a mastodon, and we can see to-day the indelible vestiges in which they stored their milk, the farming, and gathered into barns, ages, and watered, and digged, and thrashed, and the sack into which they pressed before the Hebrew shepherd boy super- cessed his, the porkers from which they intended the colossal granaries of Egypt, took their soup. Weapons of war and of a vineyard was planted by the survivors, and they certainly possessed, buting Patriarch of the deluge. Very recent none have yet been discovered among the lakes of Switzerland, the relics of these primitive populations Italy and Germany, in the bogs of Ireland as murderous as the needle-gun, or the and the peat mosses of Scandinavia, have mitrailleuse with its forty death-dealing brought to light the rude implements of a barrel-butchering the gentle spirit of primitive agriculture, buried and forgot- modern civilization, inspired by the lessons ten, long before European history com- and examples of nineteen Christian menced. Fragments of pottery, hatchets, centuries.

skeins, sicles, horse-shoes, bridle-bits. The utensils of husbandry which have plow shares, grind-stones, the relics of plow are of various patterns, in shapes and periods as to which the oldest his- stone and metal. These of stone are as- tory is silent, have been within the last signed to the earliest period; those of ten years disinterred from beneath the iron, to the latest. The intermediate tombs of uncounted centuries. The skill period is called the age of bronze, and of the antiquarian has exhausted itself the implements belonging to it have been in vain in assigning to the successive found in a remarkable state of preserva- ages of stone, of bronze and of iron indi- cation. The composition of this metal is cated by the archaeological strata through copper and tin. No zinc is found in the which he has burrowed in search of these bronzes of this period. Utensils of horn mysterious relics, some known data by and bone, and earthenware are common which the latest of them could be con- to all these periods. Not only have these connected with the most ancient historical lost generations of antiquity bequeathed or traditional times. No author of antiquity to us their old farming tools and crock- nity refers to these relics, or to the gen- ery, they have left us samples of erations whose presence on our globe their bread. The bread has been kept they attest. An acute observer, and copy safe and sound through several thousand
years by being carbonized like the peat, tions for their subsistence.
in which it was found buried, but was re-
And this condition as necessarily im-
ported to be good bread, but somewhat volves the idea that the efforts of the
state, I have not heard that any modern husbandman have advanced beyond the
has been sampled as yet. With respect point of a mere provision for the wants
to the bread it is curious that the very of himself and his family, to the accumu-
*grain of which it was made has been rec-
lateration of a surplus wealth. With this sur-
ognized. Some has been found of millet, plus he feeds the city and at the same
and some evidently of wheat. The flour time gains an exchange in her markets,
being unbolted and imperfectly ground. Agriculture therefore must have become

There are many parts of the earth an art before cities were possible.
where the art of agriculture to-day is: Commerce has been frequently called
very little advanced beyond the point the great civilizer of mankind. It is
attained in those pre-historic ages. I certainly difficult to over estimate the
have myself seen in the plains of Lom-importance of this noble department of
bardy, a man ploughing with a sin-human industry. Whether foreign or
gle beast, harnessed before a crooked inland, by caravan or trading ship; by
stick, which appeared to tickle the earth’s trireme or steamer, by conestoga wagon
skin about hard enough to make it or railroad, it has in ancient and modern
laugh. In the same classic region, not times diffused among mankind the com-
far from the banks of the Ticino, where forts and appliances of an improved life,
Hannibal after his descent from the Alps, stimulated industry and enterprise, com-
first encountered the Roman legion un-
municated knowledge, enlarged and lib-
der Scipio and routed them in a pitched era
dized the intellect. More than all this
battle, I saw with my own eyes, a man, the crowning glory may probably be as a
woman, and several children in a field cribbed to commerce of having given let-
by the roadside, driving a cow round ters to the race, and made thought and
round over what looked like a large genius immortal. The Phoenician mar-
sheet spread upon the ground. Upon men and merchants who were the photo-
quiring the meaning of the singular neers of coastwise and ocean commerce,
exhibition a sort of one cow circus. Learning memory too short for their multi-
ed that it was an agricultural family of plied transactions, committed them to
of the period engaged in threshing out symbols which are still perpetuated in
their crop of rape seed. These people the alphabet of Homer, Shakespeare and
and their predecessors have been plough-schiller,
ing and threshing in precisely the same. But though commerce has done all
way, upon the same spot, from the time this and more, though she has found of
Hannibal’s invasion, and doubtless the magnetic needle, colonized old and
long before.

As Agriculture is the most ancient of has given to science that magnificent
of arts, so it is the chief of youngstone of revelation of the true form and motion
Civilization. This statement may pos- of the planet that has led to the astound-
ibly at first sight seem too broad, and in ing discoveries of Newton, Kepler and
conflict with the terminology of the word La Place, she is after all but the com-
“civilization” itself, which as well as the mon carrier of agriculture. The raw ma-
kindred term “urbanity” appear to im-
terial and the manufactured fabric which
ply a contrast between the polish and are the interchange of commerce, are
refinement attributed to the populous to a very large extent the direct product
life of cities, and the rustic isolation and of the soil, or else that product combi-
independence of the fields. A moments ed with skilled labor, which though not
reflection, however shows: that even agricultural depends immediately upon:
from that point of view, the position is agriculture for support.
well taken, and literally correct. With: From this casual reference to manu-
out agriculture, and indeed an advanced factures, it is natural to pass to a some-
stage of agriculture, there could be no what closer attention to the relations
cities, no towns.

Their very existence necessarily im-one which it is the object of your Society
plies a systematic and provident culture to foster. To prepare the soil for the seed,
of the surrounding country upon which it must be broken up. A repeated stirring
they can depend with unfailing expecta-
of soil is required to keep down the
weeds. The matured crop must be cut, threshed, and hauled again. It was stated in the outset, that agriculture is one of the oldest and the meris helpless. Hence the dependence newest of the arts. Within the last fifty years, it has made more progress than ever before. Culture here spoken of is the progress of much of this intensive art practised by civilized men, and so that it is indebted to the wonder of the mere manual drudgery of extensive mechanical inventions that have dis- ing a simple subsistence from the soil tinguished this half century beyond any by those who manufacture the clumsy other period of history. Men are now tools they till with. In that phase of living, those who have seen the old strap plow, agriculture which preceded the division of labor, when the husbandman made his own plow out of a root or branch hardened in the fire, and his own spade or hoe the cultivator. Since the organization of the Patent Office, more than a thousand in the Indian mounds of this continent, have been issued in America for his own sickle out of the same rude improvements in plows and cultivators material, or from the more artificial implement. Very few of this number it true tallic composition of which specimens have been generally approved, and most have been found amidst the relics of the of them are practically worthless, ex- age of bronze, the husbandman might count as approximations and suggestive with- strict propriety be called independent possibilities which only await the operator, and it is in that step in the march of inventive genius to sense alone, the agriculture may be regarded as new and brilliant conquests of the most independent pursuit. But it is mind over matter. It is to this transition when most independent, that husbandry period that we must for the present ass and the husbandman are in the most ab- sign the idea of the steam plow, as prac- tical condition. After expending much more labor, he cylinder, give place to machine reapers finds those contrivances so imperfect and mowers with self-raking and binding that with all his diligence in their use no auxiliaries, to threshing machines, with fruits of his industry result beyond a separators, winnowers and straw carriers, meager sustenance. It is only when the These cunning combinations of wheel skilled artisan begins to make the farm- lever which subsidize the muscle of er dependent upon him for time-saving the animal creation and substitute brute and labor-saving utensils, that agricultural power for its equivalent in human labor, ture begins to advance as an art, with are mainly the inventions of American capacities for indefinite progress and machinists, and within the last quarter perfectibility. The use of these improved of a century have revolutionized the sys- appliances, enabling the farmer to make tom of agriculture not only of our own twice the crop in one half the time, not country, but of the civilized world. There only gives him leisure for reflection, obser- were according to the census of 1860, vation and comparison of experiences two and a half millions of farmers in the with others similarly engaged, and oppor- United States, employing nearly 800,000 tunities for projecting new modes of culti- farm laborers. It has been estimated, vation, but provides him with a surplus and in my opinion the estimate falls consi- capital on which he may venture to make derailed below the truth, that agricultural experiments, acquire additional land, hire machinery has added the labor of a mil- the labor to till it, contribute his lion more able bodied men. What a quota to the defense of the state, the mendous reinforcement to the military maintenance of public order, and the power of a nation, this substitution of na- support of religion, and finally to sur- chiasm for muscle, has been illustrated round himself with those comforts and by the late civil war, which withdrew from embellishments which tend to dignity, industrial pursuits, chiefly agricultural in elevate and adorn the social and civilized the northern states alone, nearly two
millions of men; and yet more acres were filled, and more bushels were harvested by the farmers who staid at home than in years of profound peace.

But after all, important as is the art of the mechanic to agriculture, there is one thing even more indispensable. Armed and equipped as the farmer is with the caloric and electric vibrations, have might be with all the appliances and through an infinitely varied series of enginery of mechanical skill, he would be most helpless of beings unless bread sitions and recompositions, supplied the were in his soil; for if bread is not in the material for all the generations of vegetable, no invention that human ingenuity table, animal and human life. Not an can devise can get bread out of it. In atom of them is lost, nor its place unheld, the economy of nature there is no waste, no destruction, no annihilation of elements, but a constant flux and reflux.

Let us consider this for a moment. There is no species of property, which we are accustomed to regard as so peculiarly, so exclusively and so indefeasibly our own, as the property we hold in the flesh that covers our bones.

We commonly look upon it as personal property of the highest order, and yet it may be logically and philosophically demonstrated that no greater fallacy could possibly be entertained, and that our individual tenure of that identical flesh, and of the bones of nature ever since and long before inside it, so far from being a fee simple, Isaiah wrote "All flesh is grass." But undivided interest, is not even a life it is no part of this inexorable law that estate out the merest temporary tenancy, the second crop of grass shall necessi- and that upon very transient leases, by grow upon the same spot with the Pythagoras held the doctrine of the first. It is just as likely to sprout up on transmigration of souls, the fundamental the opposite circumference of the globe, error of which, doubtless, was a heathen-or to waste its verdure upon some unnish confounding of the material with the peopled isle in mid-ocean. The labor spiritual part of man. Had Pythagoras of man is necessary; that labor at once stopped at the transmigration of bodies, provident, intelligent and unceasing, to his philosophy would have been nearer control these accidents of nature, and to the literal truth. These mortal vestments guide its dissolving fluxing and fertili- of ours, are but the cast off clothing of zing elements to their proper destina- other men and animals, both the living tions, and the dead. Of them we might say "The principle that underlies and reg- with quite as much sincerity, and proba- dates this effort, is the simple one of bly as much truth as the arch hypocrite, justice. It recognizes in nature, not the lago, said of his purse—"'who steals my" slave of man bound to yield at his su- flesh "steals trash. Twas mine, 'tis his prense mandate its unearned bounties, and has been slave to thousands." These but his ally and copartner, requiring atoms and particles of carbon and hy- only the simple justice of an equivalent drgen and oxygen and nitrogen in which for what she yields him.

we robe ourselves to-day in all the pride. There is neither magic nor mystery in and plenitude of personality, have come good husbandry. There is simply the down to us from ages far beyond the plain downright justice of giving back flood, each with its own unconfused to the soil the fertility of which it has identity and distinct biography. been cropped. The best of farmers is

Hoary with an antiquity of unrecorded, he who takes heavy crops from his broad centuries and cycles past the power acres, and leaves them better than he of numbers to compute, yet fresh from tommel them.
It is in this aspect especially that agriculture, within a recent period, has offered for successful competition, been elevated from an art, and has attained have become the great rural exchange ed the proportions and dignity of a science of our people. There have sprung up in

Science has to deal with facts—with frequent meetings for interchange of truths—with the confirmed results of ob- serve, comparison of experiences, and investigations and experiments; and from formal discussion of matters connected to a patient, methodical classification and with their profession. Some of these clubs analysis of those results, to rise to the are kept up with so much interest and investigation and discovery of principles spirit that their proceedings are regular-and laws. Without facts to start with, by reported for the public press, and established facts, facts varied and qualitatively with eagerness and profit, by intel- lied by every possible condition and ligent farmers throughout the country. mode, facts tested and multiplied by ev- Such associations are of the highest possible experiment, there can be no value, and ought in every way to be en- generize, no induction, no discovery couraged. Like everything else of real law and consequently no prediction worth, they are not to be had without of science. Agriculture for several thou- effort, nor properly sustained without sand years has made but little progress continued exertion. They do not come as an art, and as a science has only be- of themselves. Farmers are not natur- gun to exist within the memory of liv- rally gregarious. The very necessities ing men; and why? Because the contri- of their occupation tends to scatter and butions of new facts were few or none isolate them. Deployed over the face at all; because there were no organized of the earth at distant intervals, each systematic efforts to elicite such contri- one finds sufficient employment for his butions or to collect these results, be- attention upon the acres that surround cause each successive generation plod- him; and the farmer’s work you all know ded on in the beaten path marked out is never done. It is true that occasion- by its predecessors, and rode to the mill all they are drawn together by law, with grain in one end of the bag and a politics or religion, but neither the church, stone in the other to balance for no bet- the barbecue nor the court house can better reason than because somebody’s be converted into schools of agricultural grand-father had always ridden in the improvement. Agricultural colleges same way before him. The first with experimental farms attached, have step in the direction of elevating been recently established, but they can agriculture to a science of discovery accomplish no more for this special de- and prediction was taken when the first partment than any other college. for any agricultural society was organized. other learning which they teach; they There are now nearly 1400 agricultural can lay the foundation for one education, and horticultural societies, state and lo- not complete it. This is pre-eminently cal in correspondence with a depart the age of co-operation. Everybody ment of the National Government at else is combining, organizing, disciplin- Washington specially dedicated to the ing and drilling.

agricultural interests of the country. The farmers must do the same thing. Journals and periodicals devoted to the or they will be left behind, imposed up- same interests exclusively, now circulate on and victimized. Without these ad- a number of copies larger than the ag- vantages of mutual aid, organized and gregate circulation of all the newspapers disciplined movement which character- of every kind printed at the commence- ize the age we live in, the farmers while ment of this century. Besides the agri- they imagine they are only attending to cultural Journals proper, nearly every their own business, and letting well newspaper printed in the city or coun- enough alone, will by and by discover try, whether daily or weekly, habitually that they are being driven, and sold, and assigns a liberal and leading place in its fleeced like their own sheep. Take your columns to agricultural topics. In addi-great railway corporations for instance, tion to the state and local associations They are really dependent on agriculture whose annual exhibitions of cattle and for the life blood that feeds them. Their horses, sheep and hogs and poultry, lucrative freights, the enormous profits and of farm and dairy, orchard and in which their bond and stockholders
participate, are nothing but the coined middle-men are as fairly entitled to their sweat and toil of the farmers. But what reasonable profit as the farmer to his, has combination done for these great? It is only when the miller, the merchant lines of communication? It has made and the broker from capitalists become them practically masters of the situation, speculators, and from speculators. Though the farmers out number and conspirators to take advantage of the might out vote all other interests combi-necesities of both the producer and con-ned yet, because they have neglected to sumer, that a disturbing and dangerous concentrate their strength, they are element is introduced, which affects most bound hand and foot all along the lines disastrously the agricultural interests of of these gigantic corporations, which ex- the country. There is a class of opulent tinguish all competition, silence all farmers whose accumulated wealth en-oppositions, control the legislation bles them to hold back their crops, and of great states, and in some instances who are thus beyond the reach of the the administration of justice itself, unprincipled intrigues. But the great. The struggles of these great rival majority are not capitalists, they are lines to secure the contested through fighting the battle of life with all their traffic, and thus make their monopolies forces in front, they have no reserves to still more complete and crushing, are call into action, or to fall back upon, carried on in merciless and arrogant dis- when the pressure of onset is felt. No pain of the hapless way-freighters, at matter at what sacrifice, their crops and whose cost the unprincipled war-fare is their cattle must move to market, forced waged. The time has come for the far- down artificially though it be by the man-mers of the country to organize in self-palations of confedrate speculators, or defence against the ruinous tactics of visions of judgments, mortgages and the these audacious coalitions. It is time sheriff’s hammer, haunt their dreams like for them to understand and assert their spectres. Their humble barns are empower, and with all the force of their tied sadly, mournfully and with tears, at numbers’ intelligence and influence coin prices which bitterly suggest the unre-bined in disciplined and persistent enquieted toil, hazard and privation of the fort demand the necessary legislation to year’s labor which keep the children at remedy these abuses of monopoly. If home from school, and the mother in state legislatures are powerless to cor her old dress and bonnet. His little rect the evil, then let Congress exercise crop has gone into the plethora ware its constitutional power, over commerce house of the speculator who can afford to between the states, and enact a uniform award his own time and price, and his cat-tariff of freights, so much per ton per mile are the property of a ring of monopolm the whole country over, and thus oists. Bread and beef are still dear to put local and through freights upon the the consumer, though the farmer has re-same equitable basis, and let through altered but little in producing them, freights find their natural outlet over. Here is a problem which legislation the shortest routes. But there are other combinations al-centuries, and has at last given up in most equally formidable and oppressive despair. The old common law mise-to the farmer. although not legislated meanor of forestalling and regrating into the shape of bodies corporate. Why have long since become obsolete. Wri-is it that there are times when the con-ting more than a century ago, Blacksumer has to pay extravagant prices for stone informs us in this connection that: the necessities of life, while for the same "Combinations among victuallers or arti-stales the farmer, who produces them acres to raise the price of provisions, or can barely get a living price for his la-ny commodities, or the rate of labor, bor, and sometimes not even that? Let me are in many cases severely punished by not be misunderstood, I am about to particular statutes, and, in general, by make no onslaught upon the great tra-statute 2 and 3 Edw. VI c. 15, with the ding classes of the country. The con-forfeiture 10 l. or twenty days imprisonmission merchant is as necessary to the ment, with an allowance of only bread farmer as the mechanic, as necessary as and water for the first offence, 20 l. or the railroad. The farmer cannot be his the pillory for the second and, 40 l. for own huckster, he must reach the consu-the third, or else the pillory, loss of mer through middle-men, and these one ear, and perpetual infamy.
In the same manner, by a constitution Other features might be unitcd in this of the Emperor Zeno, all monopolies plan, such as that of a Mutual Insur- and combinations to keep up the price of ance company, and a Mutual Building merchantize, provisions or workmanship, Association. Mutual Insurance Company were prohibited upon pain of forfeiture panics have long been established and of goods, and perpetual banishment. + are well known in all parts of the coun- try. Building, Benefit or Homestead Societies have been recently multiplied in cities and towns to an astonishing ex- tent. There are several hundreds of them in the city of Baltimore alone, in which all classes of the community are more or less interested, but principally mechanisms and working men. They are based upon the same principle as the co- operative societies or unions already re- ferred to, and result in making the ten- ant his own land-lord. The system by which this is accomplished is a very in- genuous and artificial one, too elab- orate in all its detail to be explained at length without tedious prolixity, but sim- ple enough to be perfectly intelligible to the plainest understanding.

The sum and substance of it is to en- able the stockholders by the payment of small weekly sums, not larger than the amount he would otherwise pay for the rent of his dwelling house, to re- deem at the expiration of a term of success, carried on co-operative stores years the mortgage held by the company from which they draw their family sup- plies at fair prices, and realize the pro- fit upon their own custom in the shape of handsome dividends. Not only stores, but large manufacturing enterpris- es have been established, and success- fully worked upon the same principle, the laborer and the capitalist being uni- ted in the stock holder. Following out the same idea it would seem practicable for the farmers of a neighborhood to start a co-operative ware-house with verts hundreds of thousands of dollars sufficient capital to make advances upon from the corner dram shops. They are produce deposited in pledge, which in fact the best Temperance Societies, would give the farmer the benefit. There is no reason why the advanta- ge of the rise in price when he should ces of such a system should be confined choose his own time to sell, and at the to the city or to the mechanics, and in- same time, place him in funds to bridge deed it has already begun to be introduce- over the anxious intervals. The inter- ces, large loans with storage and Maryland. Through such agencies, far- profit would pay all expenses if honestly farmers of moderate means might be en- and judiciously administered, and yield ed to put up improvements on their a moderate dividend. A good Board of land of a better class than they would Directors of the most substantial and otherwise attempt. Their application reliable farmers in the concern, a to the condition and necessities of the best inspection and audit of accounts rural districts would of course involve and frequent meetings of the stockhold some modification of details, which are ers would secure both an honest and ju- arranged with special reference to the licous administration of the funds, dwellers in towns, but the underlying
practical and results would be the same chain is only the strength of the weakest and the outlines of the system identical. link in it, and if only one link in his

I have one more suggestion to make chain of title can have a flaw picked in of a practical character before I con- it by a lawyer, the farmer will find a chide. I take it for granted that in se- Bill in Chancery or an Ejectment suit lecting for your orator on this occasion, going through his possessions not quite a member of the bar, you have not ex- so quickly as a steam plow, but a good pected to be enlightened much on the deal more effectually. subject of farming. As every man in Seriously, however, my friends, the America is a natural born statesman, so remark with which I conclude is the every man thinks he is a born farmer, close and intimate communion with na- and no matter what his occupation may ture in all her aspects and phases and be, expects some day to retire from bu- phenomena, by which the cultivators of business and run a farm by way of recrea- the soil are favored beyond all other tion. But I can assure you that so far classes of men, and which ought to in- as I am concerned, I have not come spire and teach to look “through Nature here with the slightest idea of instruct- up to Natures God.” The man whatever ing you as to the proper rotation of crop his occupation may be, whose highest or of teaching the ladies of Chester Co., aim is to feed and fatten his mortality is how to put up butter. I have nothing not fit for an agriculturist, except in that to say about manures, soils, plows or sense in which swine are agriculturists. With him, as with them, it is simply root pig and die. The profession of the husbandman is a favored one, its tenden- cies are naturally, to him who remem- bers that he has an intellect and a soul, elevating and noble. From that profes- sion, more than all others combined, are drawn the rich imagery, the similes, the illustrations, the parables of Holy Writ. I feel that I cannot more profitably part credit to myself for their force, and some modesty in having refrained, on so eligible an opportunity, from en- larging upon the indispensable impor- tance of the legal profession to agricul- ture. I think it could have been made clear that farmers, so far from being the independent persons they are sometimes supposed to be, are in fact wholly de- pendent upon courts and lawyers, and of the flesh reap corruption; but he that courts are only lawyers sitting down in- soweth to the spirit, shall of the spirit stead of standing up. The strength of a reap life everlasting. Gal. VI—7—8.