THE STATE RIGHTS DEMOCRAT.

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STATE RIGHTS DEMOCRAT.

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JAS. O'MEARA,

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[From the Missouri Republican.]

EMERSON ETHERIDGE TO THE PRESIDENT.

Why Emerson Etheridge was Arrested—Caustic Review of Andy Johnson and Parson Brownlow.

COLUMBUS, Ky., July 13, 1865.

To His Excellency, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States:

The Hon. Horace Greeley—the wisest and among the best of your present friends—once addressed your distinguished predecessor through the columns of his newspaper. He wrote in behalf of the "colored race." I am emboldened by his example to invoke your attention to the condition of the unfortunate whites. Besides, I know how you are surrounded by political and religious patriots, who daily approach the throne of Executive grace to assure you of their love of country and detestation of place; and to offer up their fervent prayers for the restoration of your health, and the prolongation of your invaluable life. Perhaps some one of these may see this communication and present it to the attention of your Excellency. In this press upon precious time, I make no estimate of the intervals you so cheerfully devote to the crowds of contrabands who constitute so much of the elite of the Capital.

I know the magnanimous nature of your Excellency, and I fear the sad announcement I have to make will prove injurious, if not fatal to the delicate sensibilities of your noble and generous heart. I was arrested at my home in Dresden, Tennessee, on Friday last, (hangman's day) by a detachment of armed soldiers, whose deportment and appearance would do honor to any service. They are known in the Army Regulations as "colored troops," but, to their shame be it spoken, your old friends still persist in calling them "niggers." They were commanded and directed by four or five white men, who arrested me as Mr. Adder-rig, from which, I infer, they claim a liger beer nationality. I deem it my duty to report that your old friends of the secesh persuasion still persist in the treasonable practice of calling the *personnel* of such expeditions, "d—d Dutch and niggers." You will doubtless be relieved to hear that the expedition was a success. Though I had timely warning of the approaching raid, I preferred surrender to hopeless resistance, and the command reached this city without material loss, treating me, since my arrest, with courtesy and kindness, for which I am grateful.

I have been here five days, and though I have not yet been able to obtain the names of my accusers, or a copy of the charges, if any, upon which I was arrested, I have obtained from other sources information upon which I rely, of the causes and motives of my arrest. I am charged with using treasonable language against the Government of the United States, and the Government of Tennessee, and with speaking disrespectfully of your Excellency and of the Right Reverend William G. Brownlow, who unmindful that the Constitution of Tennessee excludes all ministers from civil office, is now claiming to have successfully seized the office of Governor of said State. Further, and truly, that I have given a professional opinion, declaring that the slaves in Tennessee have not been made free by law. As I will no doubt be held a prisoner *until after the pending election farce in Tennessee is over*, I propose to indulge a portion of my leisure in giving you a concise statement of some things I did say, and the circumstances under which I have provoked the military displeasure of that Grand Army of which you are the Commander-in-Chief.

A public meeting of all the citizens of Weakley county, Tennessee, was called at Dresden on Saturday, the 1st day of July last, to consider the best course to be adopted for the interests of all. That meeting was very large, and was addressed by William P. Caldwell and myself.

On the following Monday, July 3, a very large meeting was held at Trenton, Gibson county, which I addressed for three hours. Isaac Sampson, one of Brownlow's newly appointed Circuit Judges, having, as he said, full civil and criminal jurisdiction to arrest and try all offenders, was present. He had one of Brownlow's Sheriffs and several of his Justices of the Peace present. And in their presence he addressed the multitude from the same stand I had occupied; yet he did not as much as hint at my arrest; he only threatened the people *with an invasion of Federal troops* (meaning negroes,) to deter them from voting for me. At the close of the meeting, resolutions precisely similar to those passed at Dresden were unanimously adopted. I was unanimously nominated for Congress, and the pretended Senator and Representative from that county was unanimously requested to resign.

I was to have addressed a similar meeting at Paris, Henry county, on Saturday last, and would have done so had I not been arrested. As the offensive words are alleged to have been spoken in my Dresden speech, (they were substantially repeated at Trenton) I will give you, accurately and concisely as I can, what I said of you at Dresden. Indeed, I will give you the precise words of my exordium in which you were first personally alluded to. Addressing myself to the audience I said:

"You have witnessed the rise, culmination and overthrow of a rebellion, in all respects the most astonishing in the world's history; astonishing because of the numbers engaged, the resources it so suddenly improvised, and the duration and intensity of the conflict. It was only less astonishing than the numbers and resources it encountered. It has ended as all rebellions must end, when opposed by greatly superior resources and numbers. The rebellion is over. Its leaders are captives, exiles or supplicants for pardon; its armed adherents have saluted their flag for the last time, and its friends throughout the South have yielded the contest. Their submission has been graceful, unanimous, and in all apparent good faith. Not an armed Confederate is to be found within the limits of the State. The Federal Government professed to draw the sword only for the sole purpose of enforcing its Constitutional authority wherever it was opposed; it is this day supreme within the entire limits of the United States. No opposition is anywhere attempted; nor, indeed, can any be organized. Why, then, I ask, are we threatened with a despotism as inexcusable as rebellion? Why are free elections denied to the Union men and qualified voters of the State? Why have non-residents and loungers around Federal camps, without your knowledge or consent, and in defiance of your protests and appeals, been permitted to usurp the high and responsible places of power and declare themselves your oppressors and masters—and this, too, in contempt of that Declaration of Rights, whose sacred principles are inviolable, and by your Constitution 'excepted out of the general powers of Government?' Why are offensive rulers being set over the loyal people of the State by those who are jointly responsible for the war? Why are bands of armed negroes permitted to roam over the country, plundering and insulting the timid and defenseless? And more than these, why are you and I, whose souls are unstained by treason, compelled to drain this cup of shame at the hands of those who were the original instigators of the rebellion?"

I beg leave to assure your Excellency that, in using the words "ORIGINAL INSTIGATORS OF THE REBELLION," I alluded to *you*; further, that I spoke in no Pickwickian sense. And now that I may invoke your clemency, not for myself, but for those who listened to my remarks, I frankly confess that I submitted certain proofs of the truth of my charges. I told the people that the first time I ever saw you, you were haranguing the multitude to prove me an Abolitionist; that it was a somewhat "raw and gusty day," and that your vehemence in the open air caused you to contract a throat disease, from which, unfortunately for the country, you profess not to have recovered. I alluded to your early speeches in Congress, in which you resorted to the bitterest personal abuse of John Quincy Adams, because of his religious, anti-slavery opinions; to your reverential confession that God had killed off General Harrison because he was an Abolitionist. I also told the people that you had, in 1856, in the State of Tennessee, proposed that every Southern man should "join in one fraternal hug," and plunge into rebellion, if Fremont and Dayton were elected. In addition to this, I informed the audience that I heard you, in the Senate, in December, 1859, denounce Mr. Seward and the Republican party as wholly responsible for the murderous raid of "this old man Brown," whom you then stigmatized as "nothing more than a murderer, a robber, a thief and traitor." I said, also, that you not only supported Breckinridge, the candidate of the avowed disunionists, but that *after* the election of Lincoln, *after* the meeting of Congress in December, 1860, and only *one* day before the assembling of the Convention which declared South Carolina out of the Union, you had, in the Senate of the United States, made a labored speech, embracing a part of two days, in which you positively pledged yourself, in a contingency which has long since happened, to join these same rebels, "to perish in the last breach," to "burn every blade of grass," and to make your grave in "the last intrenchments" of rebel freedom. I told the people that I heard this speech, (during the delivery of which Jefferson Davis offered you a most unprovoked insult, the effect of which I will not now attempt to state,) and that every word of it was designed to convince the people of Tennessee that they were an oppressed people and you their champion; that their Constitutional rights were in imminent danger, and that they ought "to demand additional securities;" that you then and there submitted the following written "basis," upon which you declared an unalterable purpose "to fight the great battle for our rights:"

"*Resolved*, That we deeply sympathize with our sister Southern States, and freely admit that there is good cause for dissatisfaction and complaint on their part, on account of the recent election of sectional candidates to the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States; yet we, as a portion of a people of a slaveholding community, are not for seceding or breaking up the Union of these States until every fair and honorable means has been exhausted in trying to obtain on the part of the non-slaveholding States a compliance with the spirit and letter of the Constitution and all its guarantees; and when this shall have been done, and the States now in open rebellion against the laws of the United States, in refusing to execute the Fugitive Slave Law, shall persist in their present unconstitutional course, and the Federal Government shall fail to execute the laws in good faith, it (the Government) will not have accomplished the great design of its creation, and will, therefore, in fact, be a practical dissolution, and all the States, as parties, be released from the compact which formed the Union."

In commenting on the foregoing "*basis*" I said it proved that you did then "*deeply sympathize* with our sister Southern States;" that you particularly alluded to South Carolina, whose treasonable representatives were then assembled, and who, one day after, inaugurated the rebellion;" that you did then and there "freely admit * * good cause for dissatisfaction and complaint," because of the election of your illustrious predecessor and the Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, whom the Rev. Mr. Brownlow represented as a free negro. I said, also, that you were then only a *conditional* Unionist; that you declared yourself "not for seceding or breaking up the Union of these States UNTIL every fair and honorable means had been exhausted in trying to obtain on the part of the non-slaveholding States a compliance with the spirit and letter of the Constitution and all its guarantees. And I further stated that you, at the same time, had assured your rebel friends, with whom you did so "deeply sympathize," that "when this shall have been done, and the States now IN OPEN REBELLION" (meaning Vermont and Massachusetts) "against the laws of the United States * * shall persist in their present unconstitutional course it * * (the Government) will not have accomplished the great design of its creation, and will, therefore, in fact, be a practical dissolution of the Union." I repeat, I told the people that this speech, so made as aforesaid by you (assisted by Senator Latham, who was kind enough to read for you), was designed by you to foment rebellion among your constituents. I selected certain passages from that speech to prove the above general statement. I referred to that part in which you said "there is no power conferred upon the Congress of the United States, by the Constitution, to coerce a State;" I pointed to your "demand" for "additional securities" for slavery; to your statement that Vermont was, at that time, guilty of "nullification," of "resistance to the laws of the United States," which you pronounced "open rebellion." I commented upon your statement that the conduct of Vermont had been such that "the Government was at an end." Nor did I omit to tell the people that you then and there (18th and 19th of December, 1860) had submitted an opinion in regard to your general "complaint." I did not, like Beecher, pronounce you drunk, nor did I, like Wilkes, say you had been poisoned. I permitted you to speak for yourself by reading the following from your speech:

"We have complained that their intention was to hem slavery in, so that, like the scorpion, when surrounded by fire, if it did not die from the intense heat of the scorching flames, it would perish from its own poisoned sting."

You further promised your rebel friends what Tennessee should do, if new guarantees for slavery were refused. You said, "Tennessee will be found standing as firm and unyielding in her DEMANDS for those guarantees * * * as any other in the CONFEDERACY." I asserted, also, that you had declared the election of Lincoln and Hamlin "sectional;" that you avowed your purpose to PUT DOWN Mr. Lincoln and DRIVE BACK his advances upon SOUTHERN INSTITUTIONS;" that you had promised not to abandon your "Northern Democratic friends and leave all to Lincoln's *cohorts;* that you solemnly pledged yourself "not to permit Mr. Lincoln to come with his *cohorts*, as *we* consider them, *from the North, to carry off everything.*" All the foregoing, and much more, I charged upon you, and proved by your speech of the 18th and 19th of December, 1860.

Continuing my address, I said that if *you* were a credible witness—I beg you to believe I so regard you—I could prove that every political supporter and admirer of your Excellency, and every follower of the saintly Brownlow then and there present, was a *disunionist*. In doing this I read from a speech made by you, at Columbia, Tennessee, on the 2d of June, 1862. It was revised by yourself, and published in your own organ, the Nashville Union, of June 9, 1862, then edited by your friend Mercer, who is best known as "Quinine Mercer," because of his sympathy with the rebel sick, to whom it is alleged, he kindly smuggled that invaluable medicine while he sojourned within the Federal lines.

I read the following:

"Now, I will prove, very briefly, that a secesssonist is as great an Abolitionist as Sumner. Both the secessionist and disunionist are for breaking up this Union. I will state the arguments in a syllogism, thus: An Abolitionist is a disunionist: a disunionist is a secessionist: a secessionist is a disunionist: a disunionist is an Abolitionist: Therefore, a secessionist is an Abolitionist. There is not a particle of difference between them."

I repeat, I read the foregoing, after which I was so irreverent as to say, in regard to your syllogysm, that I could find the *sylly* but not the *gism;* but you were distinct and positive in the allegation that "*aw Abolitionist is a disunionist.*" All this, and much more did I say, may it please your Excellency, for the many pious purposes hereinafter enumerated; chiefly, however, with the design of quieting the hearts and consciences of a few of your old rebel friends, office-holders and Trade Agents, who desire to join you in your late, but earnest championship of the rights of the colored race. Having always been rebels at heart, they dislike suddenly to become Abolitionists, fearing they may be required, in following your illustrious example, to deal harshly with those who, from a false sense of shame, are still unwilling by turning Abolitionists, to incur the rebel reproach of apostacy. They urge that they dislike to be called Judases; and yet, they "wish to be with *you* and at rest." Hence the struggle between their old party and rebel pride, and their *love for you;* their dire necessities and love of cash. With all such I adopted this mode of reasoning: That the popular judgment is often wrong, and traditionary or hereditary prejudices rarely right. For example, I would take two celebrated cases, those of Pilate and Judas; that the Christian world affected, nay, felt great horror of their names and characters, that they were associated with the murder of our Saviour, and, therefore, no one supposed it possible to find anything in their natures to extenuate the severe judgment of mankind; whereas, in fact, Pilate was was bitterly opposed to our Saviour's persecutions and ignominious death, and protested he "found no fault in Him," while the mob, (may Heaven protect your Excellency from all mobs,) hurried him away to execution; without even the dignity of a military arrest; that Judas, from all we had been able to ascertain in regard to his character, was a very unobtrosive, reticent man, better fitted by nature for a trade agent or a contractor than a Disciple; that, though he "turned his back upon his friends, nay, "*betrayed* them," he was neither the first nor the last who had yielded to temptation; that *his* reward was *hard money*—thirty huge pieces—and long before Chase had inflated the currency, or California had augmented the coin; that he was a man of sensibility; that he repented, and so suffered from remorse that he burst his bowels. I assured the secessionists and office-seekers, however, that they need not wait for quarantine before joining the army of Sumner and John Brown; that you had done so, turned your back upon them, betrayed them, and that, although the official health bulletin represented you in a precarious condition, I had yet seen no mention of a morbid distension of your bowels. Nor did I fail to remind the audience of the radical change in your opinions of John Brown and Mr. Seward, since you denounced the one as "a murderer, a robber, a thief and a traitor," and the other as his political tutor. I pointed to the remarkable ease and elegance with which you now fraternize with the original Browns; how you now piously regarded his gallows as only less sacred than the Cross of Christ; how benignantly you smiled at his apothesis, and how divinely you could sing—

'John Brown's body lies mouldering in the dust.'

In the foregoing I can give you only a brief outline of that portion of my speech which was devoted especially to yourself. I rose doubtless "to the full height of the great argument," and many of your old secesh friends pronounced my speech truly eloquent and convincing. Several are known to have declared positively for you and Brownlow, while, among the office-seekers, trade-agents, and those who have "lost fortunes by the war," there seemed to be a general inclination to join the grand army of universal freedom, so bravely led by yourself. I found none reluctant to do so except a few original Union men, who still declare themselves ardent supporters of "THE Union of the Constitution." Ordinary compassion requires me to say, in their behalf, that they read but few newspapers, and do not know that that old fogy parchment is wholly "played out."

Now for this eulogium upon your life, character and public services—and because the Union men of that portion of the State in which I live have nominated me for Congress—I am held, like Napoleon, a prisoner of State. Napoleon at Helena! Ad-der-rij at Columbus! How history will repeat itself! For the benefit of subsequent travelers who may visit this classic city in search of relics, I will here state that I am at the Columbus Hotel, room No. 1, directly opposite a butcher's establishment, where thirteen chained dogs, hundreds of unchained contrabands, and millions of mosquitoes nightly mingle their music to lull me to repose.

A few words more and I will suspend all further recital of those afflictions which I am sure will greatly affect your Excellency's compassionate heart. I am very unhappy here. "The noblest river in the world" lies just before me; its waves dance merrily and unrestrained. Unbleached ladies and gentlemen crowd the streets, moving with graceful and elastic tread, while arrayed in robes of lovliest blue. The air is fragrant with the sweet odor which only they can exhale, and all around is gaiety, happiness and FREEDOM. I alone, of all the denizens of this great emporium, pine in captivity. Do not forget, I pray you, that our foreign relations are in a most critical condition. A blunder may not only prove fatal to your Administration, but it may light a torch to set the world on fire. Though I am personally friendly to Mr. Maximilian and his schemes, still I am fully advised of the embarrassments he has caused to yourself and Cabinet. Remember, it is the last hair that breaks the camel's back. Will not my arrest cause a sensation at St. James, St. Cloud and St. Petersburg—indeed, throughout all Europe? Will not the sublime Porte be aroused? And will not those great powers, who so anxiously await a pretext to interfere in behalf of Maximilian, be urged to extreme measures when informed that his chief American ally is under arrest? I will no further enlarge upon the danger: a wise statesmanship can alone save your Administration, and what is of the first importance to every office-holder, secure your re-election. I suggest this expedient as the best: Brownlow has any number of courts in Tennessee. His Judges (although our Constitution requires that they be elected by the people,) have been appointed by himself. They are true as steel to you and your glorious Administration. Their jurisdiction is co-extensive with their own wishes, and Brownlow's necessities. They are all sworn to execute his pious will. Besides, you have Federal Courts in full operation all over Tennessee. Courts are regularly held at Memphis, Nashville and Knoxville, for the Judicial Districts, which embrace the State, in each of which District Attorneys, who are good Abolitionists, reside. The Judge, Hon. C. F. Trigg, is your friend, and was appointed upon your and Brownlow's urgent recommendation. He voted for you. I never belonged to "the land or naval service," and I suggest, with great diffidence, it is true, that, by transferring me to one of these many tribunals for a "speedy trial," the sensibilities of the legal profession will not be shocked beyond recovery. Failing in this, am I asking too much when I avow myself willing to swallow a dose of that universal panacea for all doubtful cases, Military Commission at Washington? Doubtless it has jurisdiction of my case, as I am accused of conspiracy. I know it is competent to inflict that punishment which many of your old rebel friends say I deserve—hanging—as it has recently hung a woman. Don't fail to write soon. Direct your *private* letters to Paducah, Kentucky.

May our Heavenly Father speedily restore your Excellency's health, enlarge your already powerful judgment and understanding, save you from being again *poisoned*, as on the 4th of March last, and finally crown you in Heaven with "the old man Brown," and all the mighty hosts who await you there.

Your Excellency will again accept renewed assurances of the high consideration in which you are ever held by your very humble servant, sincere admirer, and affectionate friend,

EMERSON ETHERIDGE.

Present Condition of Mount Vernon.

The National Intelligencer gives the following account of the condition of the Washington home and grounds of Mount Vernon:

The library room, in the south end, is occupied by Miss Tracy, the accomplished and faithful agent of the Mount Vernon Association. A bust of Washington, cast in plaster by Houdon, and another of Lafayette, facing each other high on the walls, are the only observable relics. The book-cases, built into the walls, with glass doors, fully occupy one side of the large room. Over this apartment, in a small bed-room, the great and good man died. A bedstead, said to be the exact copy of that on which he died, is the only article in the chamber. The family pictures were nearly or quite all at Arlington, and were taken to Richmond by Gen. Lee. The celebrated pitcher portrait, upon the back of which was inscribed the beautiful eulogy, and left in the mansion by an unknown hand, was carried away by John A. Washington, and is in the possession of that family. The long row of brick quarters still stand as they have for 30 or 40 years, since they were partially destroyed by fire. In this row Washington had his blacksmith and carpentering establishments, and here now live the two old colored servants of whom mention has been made, as the servants that came here 60 years ago, with Anne Blackburn, the wife of Bushrod Washington.

The "Ladies' Mount Vernon Association," it is well known, made their purchase in 1858, and had made the last payment of $2,000 upon the eve of the rebellion. The association had expended also $20,000 in improvements, in addition to paying the $200,000 purchase money. Much still needs to be done, and the large amount of funds at this time accumulating from the throngs of visitors, who pay an entrance fee each of twenty-five cents, will do much for putting the national shrine and preserving it in proper condition. The scourge of the rebellion stayed its desolating tide at the confines of these sacred acres. The tomb of Washington was held sacred on both sides. Pohick Church, where Washington worshipped till the close of the Revolution, has not escaped so well. The last discourse in this church was a tempestuous disunion harangue by an itinerant Methodist preacher on a Sabbath, near the opening of the war. The ancient edifice is now a shell; not a window, door, nor the smallest fragment of the pews, pulpit, nor floor are to be seen. It was used early in the war by soldiers for shelter, and later was turned into a stable. The ancient tombstones of the abandoned graveyard are lying and leaning around, and desolation is painted in all its saddest forms upon the scene. The old Pohick Church was erected near this some 150 years ago. This was erected in 1772, and Washington was the chief contributor in its erection. To this church, Washington for years regularly repaired, some seven miles, allowing no company to keep him from the Sabbath service. The pew doors of Washington and the great George Mason had been carried away as relics before the war. The brick walls alone now remain.

WOMEN'S WORTH.—I presume it will never cease to be a matter of dispute what is the rightful sphere of either sex, in the economy of life, or how far the one sex exceeds the other in the faithful performance of peculiar duties. It seems to me, however, that, in humble life especially, woman far excels man in the careful discharge of domestic obligations. Granted that they both have had about equal advantages of education and discipline, woman will be found to be far superior to man in a nice appreciation of what is due to herself and those around her; and, in respect to the exercise of the virtues of forbearance and self-sacrifice, all will readily admit her pre-eminence.—[Rural New Yorker.

PLANTS IN BEDROOMS.—It should be known by all persons, that to have plants in a close bedroom at night is a practice detrimental to health. Even plants not in flower, without smell, injure the air during the night, and in the absence of the sun, by impregnation with nitrogen and carbonic acid gas.

ANNUAL ADDRESS

BY

JAS. H. DOUTHIT,

PRESIDENT

OF THE

LINN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Delivered at the Eighth Annual Fair, Tuesday, September 19th, at Boston Mills.

MEMBERS OF THE LINN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The appointed time for holding the Eighth Annual Fair has arrived, and this is the hour fixed by our regulations for the usual Address.

In undertaking to deliver it myself, perhaps I should say that I do so in obedience to the Constitution of the Society, and the request of some of the members, and also believing that as this is intended to be more especially an exhibition for the benefit of the laboring man's skill and industry, that one following a like occupation should if possible do the speaking of the occasion; though it may not be done, in so stylish a manner as if done by an educated professional talker; yet the desired object may be as fully accomplished. Annual meetings of any kind, or for whatsoever purposes have their interest. But the Annual Fair, of Agricultural Societies, when viewed in their proper light, have more interest than any other. They not only represent the toil, the skill and the labor of the country, but the prime necessaries of life, without a sufficient supply of which anxiety and despondency would be depicted upon every countenance, whilst a plentiful annual yield of the product of a country creates gladness in the land, and should cause true thankfulness to the Supreme Ruler of all things, for causing the earth to bring forth sufficient for the wants of all.

Notwithstanding this and like organizations are called Agricultural Societies, the great object aimed at, as I understand it is to promote the general interest of the country, and that each interest, occupation and trade, should, and is expected to be, here represented, and the products of each on exhibition as far as practicable. The interest of the farmer is so interwoven with every other branch of industry of the country, that it is out of the question for them to prosper, unless the other likewise prospers. But the occasion and time alotted would not permit me were I ever so able, to discuss the different interests that the country now has, and its wants demand.

Then, perhaps, my remarks should mostly be confined to the Agricultural branch, and its wants, and the duty in some measure of laboring men.

The absolute necessity of labor, and the decree having been made by our Creator, that in the sweat of our face should we eat bread, (and there is no avoiding it by all,) we, as honest men, intending to do right, and comply with the requirements of our Heavenly Father, should with cheerfulness obey His Word, and not even desire, much less endeavor, by management or otherwise, to get our bread without working for it. Unfortunate though it is for our race, that there has always been, and still is, too many who apparently cheat or get their living out of the labor of others, and avoid obeying the decree of their Maker. How much better would it be for the world of mankind, if each individual would obey their God, and do their part of the labor, necessary for the welfare of the whole.

All must admit that the foundation and the very existence, if I may so speak, of civilized Society, is based upon the Agricultural interest, and industry of the country. Then it is all important to this country or any other alike situated, that this interest be well cared for and well attended to in all its parts. In order that this be done successfully, after having the soil and suitable climate, (both of which we here have already furnished by the Good Being,) we must have good working, thinking men—men that love their occupation and are contented with, and will steadily pursue it. But, then, they must have the required implements that they may operate well and to advantage. Then the mechanic of every trade must be here; the manufacturer of the different kinds that the country is adapted to, and its wants demand; the trade to take to market the surplus products, and exchange them for such articles as are needed, that is not, or cannot, be produced here; the school master and mistress, teaching the young, that they may grow up to usefulness and honor; the printer, furnishing the news of passing events, and telling us where we can sell and buy to the best advantage; the commercial and transportation men must be at their business. So with many others that I might name. And while we violate God's law—the laws of our nature—and are subject to disease, and accidents befall us, and we violate the laws of the land, we must have the learned professions. The true and faithful man in every calling is essential to the well being of a well-to-do Society, and consequently there should be a united harmony, each doing his part with contentment, and upon the principle of living and let live. A clever portion of all these we already have. We want more laborers it is true. More mechanics, more manufactors would be very advantagous. Of traders we have plenty, and to spare; teachers baerly enough to meet the wants of the country; printing establishments, of the kind, perhaps too many; yet one devoted entirely to griculture and its varied interest, is much needed; the sacred profession an abundant supply; doctors fully enough for present wants and good of the people; the legal profession amply supplied, rather too many for a fat living for them all; politicians and gentlemen a great surplus, and the peculiar misfortune about them is, we cannot use them to profit in any other calling.

But, notwithstanding we are under-supplied in the most important branches of industry, there is a marked improvement going on in the material interests of the country. Every year there is more and more land brought into cultivation, and is better cultivated, new workshops established, and perhaps a better quality of work done; each year adds to the number of manufacturing establishments; our towns are improving, and the means of transportation increased fully up to the wants of the country; the mining interests with which we are almost surrounded, and on our outside new channels of commerce, and points of trade established, all tend to increase the interests of the farming community.

Then, gentlemen, I think we have much to encourage us in view of the prospect of the future; and in estimating the probable results of the same, it would be well for us to examine for a moment the past: but a few short years ago, say twenty, this county was not inhabited by perhaps a dozen white men, if any at all; and only a short time before was any portion of the State settled by a farming community. Of this you all are familiar. And then, considering the fact that this was a new and peculiar country and climate, with varied soil, different in many respects from those we left, and our population coming from every portion of the country—from the frozen north and from the sunny south, and many from the States of Europe, all having the peculiar notions of farming, stock raising, &c., that we had been accustomed to, but pretty much all alike ignorant of the best mode of procedure here; and again, the most of us possessed of but little means to operate on or with. Perhaps this may have been no disadvantage after all, for necessity being the great motive for action, we may have been forced along by it a little faster. With these disadvantages, and many others that I might name, the development of this county commenced, having the soil and seasons to learn, the adaptation of the different products necessary to the sustenance of the population, and purposes of commerce to find out, I might say by actual experiment and trial. And, let me ask you, to-day, in what condition do we find the county in relation to all its material interests? Your answer I know must be: "Prosperous beyond the most sanguine expectations, and especially of those who built the first log cabins and broke the first ground in the country." Instead of an unbroken soil, and not a cabin to denote the presence of civilization within our present limits as a county, in twenty years we find the same very well improved, with the principal elements of convenience and comfort all around us, with a large, a happy and contented population, and probably an aggregate wealth of over three millions of dollars. Then, with the results of twenty years' labor and experience, I do think we should be satisfied. And not only that, but highly encouraged for the future; for, having the advantages of past experience, with the improved machinery and implements of husbandry to aid us, much more may be accomplished with the same amount of labor bestowed.

That farming has been, and will be remunerative in this country there can be no doubt, provided, always, that it be perfectly done. Though we do not expect that men will, in one, two or more years make large fortunes; yet, by a close application of time and labor, with economy, the farmer sooner or later is bound to get well off to live at his ease. One thing we all should consider, that it is the surest and most certain of any occupation, though it may seem a little harder than some others; yet it is the most independent, and clearest of embarrassement and vexation. One thing I am certain of, that it is as honest and honorable, if not more so than any other; and then we have the satisfaction of knowing that we eat our bread in accordance with the mandate of High Heaven.

Then, to farm properly and make it profitable, is the main question with us all. I am aware that there is a prevailing opinion that anybody can be a farmer, and that where a man is fit for nothing else, he can go to farming. Some think that all that is necessary is to have the farm and the necessary implements, and then go at it. This, unfortunately, is too much the practice. It is true that most men can do something at farming. So can almost any man do something at the trades, and still not be a mechanic. So with the professions. Some try doctoring, law and preaching, and make awful botch-work. So all have their quacks, and we—botch farmers.

To be a good farmer, in my judgment, is quite a different thing. It must be a man of sense and reflection; he must have method, and have his plans laid from year to year; he must understand, to some extent, the nature of the soil he works, its adaptation to the growing of the product he proposes to raise upon it, &c.

It is true of this country, as yet, that there is too little known by the best of farmers in relation to many points of interest, belonging strictly to the farmers' business. The reasons are obvious. A sufficient time has not elapsed since the country has been settled to find out all about our soil and climate. The former being so varied, will require years of study and experiment. But our interests and duty lead us directly to the investigation of all of these points, and we should make it a part of our study and business to arrive at them in the shortest time; and from each other we may obtain much useful and profitable information in regard to the whole management of the farm, and stock growing.

It should be the main object with each member of this Society, at each of its Fairs, to learn from his brother farmers, or the laboring men in attendance, some useful lesson appertaining to his occupation. Unless this is done our Fairs are worse than useless, and our time and money badly spent, unless we regard it as a kind of a past time affair for pleasure. As I have already intimated, much of the useful information of the world, not only that connected with agricultural pursuits, but of everything else, is obtained by experiment and trial, and it is not possible in the nature of things, that any one man will or can originate and learn all that it is profitable for him to know, unaided by others—and there is none so unfortunate as the man that will not try to gather useful ideas from his fellow man, or the one that thinks he knows so much that none can learn him. Then, for instance, a fine sample of wheat (it being our staple commodity, we should give it particular attention) is offered on exhibition, we should make it our business to learn all about its production; the kind of wheat, the time sown, the kind of land sown on, the manner of preparing the land, the condition the ground was in, and the mode of putting it in, &c. So with every other product of the farm and garden. And with stock we should be as particular, for stock-raising, in connection with farming, is an important interest, and very profitable. It aids much in making up the balance sheet of cash accounts at the end of the year. Sheep should have our careful attention. In my judgment, there is no stock that pays better than they do, for the capital invested, time and feed required, in their rearing.

The Ladies' Department should have special attention. All should remember that their part of profitable farming is no mean and small one. Many of them make more clear cash off of their butter, cheese, chickens, eggs, &c., than do their lords off the farm. And I know that some of them here to-day can impart much useful knowledge to some of their sisters in the management of the dairy and kitchen, for all of them do not make good butter and cheese, nor bake good bread and pies. I will say, further, that every successful farmer that I ever was acquainted with had a good managing wife; and my experience in life has been, that a good, prudent, careful managing woman seldom fails to have a good living made by her lord, it matters but little what the occupation. Then, ladies, much, very much, of success depends upon you.

I have thought, my friends, that the organization of a Farmer's Club, in connection with our Agricultural Society, having stated meetings, for the interchange of views and discussion of the various subjects connected with our farming operations, might be the means of accomplishing much good, and we become more interested in the welfare of each other; for individual prosperity depends in some measure upon the general good; and we should never lose sight of this one great idea, that our own welfare and happiness often depend on the welfare and happiness of those around us.

The importance to society at large, and especially to the laboring classes of every occupation, of a more general diffusion of practical learning, is obvious; not only a thorough knowledge of their own chosen calling, but laboring men should make themselves acquainted with the institutions of their country—its government and laws, and everything that has a bearing upon their rights, interest and duty. While they feed, clothe, and keep the world moving, they exercise but little influence in the destiny of things, or the controlling of the public interest of the country. It has become too much the case, even in our own country, for the laboring portion to give up the management and control of all important affairs to those who have but little interest or sympathy in common with them, and frequently in the hands of those who have no settled interest anywhere. I might say with a great deal of truth that nearly the whole control of this great nation is, and has been for years, in the hands of professional politicians, who have but little association or sympathy with the masses, given by the many without a murmur, and assumed by the few as a kind of matter of course—God-given right.

Notwithstanding Agriculture is the all powerful interest of the nation, moves and keeps moving everything else, if it has one single direct representative in its councils, I am not aware of it; and I do not think there is. And why is it? It cannot be because its importance does not demand it. The main reason must be that there is none qualified by education for that purpose. If this is so, what a crying shame it is upon us, that such an important interest has no one engaged in its pursuits competent to represent it in the councils of the nation. How important, then, for laboring men to qualify themselves sufficiently to serve their country in any capacity. And I tell you, to-day, it is my deliberate judgment, had there have been, for the last twenty years, a controlling majority in the councils of the nation, and heads of departments, of well qualified, intelligent farmers and working men from the trades and manufactures, who eat their bread by Divine command, we, to-day, would not be mourning over the blood of our kindred and countrymen spilled upon a thousand battle-fields, nor groaning under the weight of billions of indebtedness, nor beholding a despoiled country in any of its parts, but instead thereof prosperity and happiness, harmony and peace, would reign triumphant throughout our broad land.