S
523
.W94

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Chap. S523

Shelf W94

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

AN ADDRESS

Imp. autog. on cover
DELIVERED BY

GOV. JOSEPH A. WRIGHT,

ON THE 6th DAY OF OCTOBER, 1853,

AT

LIVONIA, WASHINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA,

TO THE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

COMPOSED OF THE

COUNTIES OF WASHINGTON AND ORANGE.

INDIANAPOLIS:

AUSTIN H. BROWN & CO., PRINTERS.

1854.

8523
W94

9.9.3. m-26

ADDRESS.

Fellow-citizens of the counties of Washington and Orange:—

When the multitude shouted around Napoleon, on his return from the battle of Marengo, he exclaimed to a friend—"Bourrienne! Bourrienne! do you hear the acclamations still resounding? That noise is as sweet to me as the sound of Josephine's voice."

On that occasion the multitude, and the great soldier, were celebrating the triumphs of war, the glory of victories obtained under bloody banners. But, to-day, we have met to witness the peaceful triumphs of Industry; the success of Labor; and the evidences of increasing prosperity among the people of this portion of our prosperous State. This is a glorious sight—to see the people of all classes vying with each other in the arts of peace, rather than those of war and enmity. These popular assemblages, where the people bring into competition various productions of their skill and labor, are well calculated to advance the general prosperity of the State, and to throw around the labors of the agriculturist and the mechanic, an attractive interest.

The poet has beautifully and correctly said—

"Would you be strong? Go follow the plow:
Would you be thoughtful? Study fields and flowers;
Would you be wise? Take on yourself a vow
To go to school in Nature's sunny bowers.
* * * * *
Fly from the city—nothing there can charm;
Seek Wisdom, Strength, and Virtue on a farm."

When we shall be able to invest practical labor with an interest and a beauty that will cheer the hearts of wife, husband, and child, and thereby give to *Home* the grace, peace, refinement, and attractions that God designed it should possess, we shall have made one of the most important steps in the great cause of human progress.

The wise man has said : "*Moreover, the profit of the Earth is for all ; the King himself is served by the field.*" In this country we are all kings, priests, and layman ; citizens and rulers, are all served by the field. If, however, we do not first serve the field, it will bring forth nothing but briars and thorns. To make the field serve you, you must begin by serving the field. Hence, in this work, man has much to learn ; he must watch the progress and development of everything that surrounds him, in order that he may, in the way of improvement, accomplish something that will add to his support, and increase the amount of his comfort and happiness.

You have no right to treat your fields as you treat your stock. You have no right, by bartering, exchanging, and trafficking with your land, to deal with it as you do with your horses, cattle, stocks, and moneys.

The land is the gift of the Almighty, and yourselves, your families, your country, and your race, all have to draw their nourishment and support from it. It is your duty to leave this earth in as good a condition, at least, as it was when you found it.

The worst of all robberies are those which a man commits on his mother earth, when he abuses and destroys the land, either by his ignorance, or by his wilful neglect of the means that will improve and preserve it. It is a duty we owe ourselves, our children, our race, not to injure or impoverish the earth, the source of all life. We are mere trustees ; and, as such, will be held responsible to the Author of all good, for the manner in which we shall treat the soil. I have frequently thought that, if we keep on for half a century in the same mode of cultivation that some of us have pursued for the last few years, in some portions of the State, we shall not be able to raise a mullen stalk.

As our lands produce well, we persist in violating well-established principles of agricultural science, by raising, year after year, corn and hogs—not doubting, for a moment, that the constitution of the earth will continue good, and for all time to come, healthy and sound. In some parts of the State, we have continued so long in this system, that not unfrequently, in the fall, we find some very pale, shaking, and weakly looking corn.

The State of Ohio, (with double the quantity of cultivated land that Indiana contains,) does not produce more corn than we do ; and not as many hogs, by half a million. It was a singular fact that, according to the census of 1850, one half of the entire value of the live stock in Indiana, consisted of the value of hogs. We raise more corn than any other State in the Union, according to the quantity of land cultivated : and if we do not change this mode of farming, we shall soon be able to appreciate the force of the Belgian maxim—"No grass, no stock—No stock no manure—No manure no crops."

There was some excuse for the raising of corn and hogs by our people, some years ago, when the hog was the only article that would command a good price in the markets. But, with the prospects before us ; the immense demand for cattle and sheep ; the

demand for wool; the demand for stock on the Pacific coast; the increasing demand for home consumption; the improved facilities for taking our fine beef-cattle and muttons to the eastern markets, in so short a time, without any loss whatever,—all of these considerations should induce our farmers to enter largely into the growing of grasses, with the view of raising cattle, sheep, horses, mules, &c.

It is singular that our farmers have neglected the sheep. In some counties of Indiana there are, I believe, more dogs than sheep. When in New York, some weeks since, I was informed that good, fat sheep, were worth from six to ten dollars a head; and the demand could not be supplied. There is no prospect of supplying the market for wool for years to come. The sheep will pay better than any other article raised by the farmer. He never dies insolvent—his fleece will always pay his cost. The manure of the sheep is better than that of other animals. He destroys briars and thorns, and always exerts a good influence on the character of vegetation. All wild grass disappears where the sheep run.

We have, in many sections of the State, the very kind of land for sheep, from which nothing is now realized; the broken—the hilly lands; yet according to the census of 1850, we have not a million of sheep in the State; we ought to have ten times that number. The general government possesses a territory of three and a quarter millions of square miles, a territory ninety-five times as great as Britian—more than sixteen times as large as France—more than twelve times as large as all Germany; yet from these countries we import millions of pounds of wool every year.

Many of the Kentuckians who have settled in various portions of Indiana, are looking to their true interest. You will find them with their fields of blue grass, their herds of fine cattle; and raising but few hogs, and not much corn. They are not exhausting the soil of their farms; nor over-tasking themselves with labor: and yet they are making more money than many others who work much harder, and who, from year to year, impoverish their lands by raising corn and hogs.

The holding of land, without improving it, is a public injury. All our tracts of land, no matter how large, should, in some way, be made productive. The very fact of putting fields down in blue grass, creates a demand for labor, and benefits the poor as well as the rich. Indiana has, at this day, lying unproductive some millions of acres of land, which, if converted into meadows, would be sufficient to raise annually, for the market, an immense surplus of cattle, horses, mules, and sheep.

FLAX.

At the Wayne County Fair in 1851, I called the attention of our people to the cultivation of Flax. Subsequent examination, and

the improvements of the day in machinery, have convinced me that we are losing sight of our true interest, in neglecting its culture.

It is one of the most useful and ancient of plants. From it are produced linen, paper, linseed oil, and the oil-cake.

In the days of our fathers, in Indiana, we cultivated it much more than we do now. I remember a third of a century ago, in an adjoining county, the interest that was taken in the old practice of pulling, retting, and scutching the flax; and among the earlier scenes of 1819 and 1820, in the county of Lawrence, where mothers, sisters, and wives were engaged at the old fashioned spinning wheel, there is one fresh in memory. My father was asking the proper time to sow his flax, when a good natured neighbor remarked, that they always sowed their flax on *good Friday*; but one year good Friday came on Sabbath, and that year the flax was of no account.

But the cheapness of cotton and cotton goods, and our rich soil, upon which we raise hogs, corn, and cattle in such abundance, has turned our people away from this article, except in some portions of the State, where it is raised for the seed alone.

The improvements in machinery, the increased consumption of linen goods, the adaptation of our soil, and the certainty of the demand, at fair prices, are awakening our people to the investigation of this subject.

The whole amount of flax-seed produced in the United States in 1850, according to the census reports, was 562,312 bushels, and more than half of this was the product of North-Western States; yet we imported from abroad, the same year, of flax-seed oil, 2,818,344 gallons, equal to near two millions of bushels of flax-seed, which, at the present eastern prices would amount to more than two and a half millions of dollars, a sum equivalent to one-half of all the flour exported for the same year. The crop must be increased more than two millions of bushels before the home demand can be supplied, to say nothing of the shipment abroad.

In the great North-West, the past year, there were probably more than two hundred and fifty thousand acres in flax—eighty thousand acres in Ohio alone. In the counties of Wayne, Henry, and other parts of our State, flax is raised, all, with few exceptions, for the seed alone. It is said, that in Delaware county, Ohio, they have made a road for five miles out of the straw of the flax. With a proper use of the same material many more miles, and a far more preferable road, could be made.

The following exhibit has been furnished me by the Secretary of the Treasury, of the imports for the years 1850, 1851, 1852, and 1853, of the article of flax:

*Exhibit of the quantity and value of certain articles imported in 1850,
1851, 1852, and 1853.*

Years ending 30th June.	Linen black- ed and un- bleached.	Linseed or Flax-seed.		Linseed Oil.		Flax unmanufac- tured.	
		Bushels.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Cwt.	Value.
1850	\$7,063,184	667,060	\$321,811	1,513,117	\$548,672	14,474	\$128,917
1851	7,748,623	602,074	430,017	2,818,344	1,632,811	21,171	176,197
1852	7,603,603	885,007	589,749	1,583,012	779,054	28,234	175,342
1853	8,897,317	867,580	633,395	1,912,533	1,047,897	13,553	135,684

If to these we add the other products of flax, such as hosiery, articles embroidered, thread, netting, cordage, twine, &c., we will make the entire value of our imports of this article, annually, to reach the sum of at least\$13,000,000 00
Add for duties, freights, insurance, charges, and
commissions, 50 per cent. 6,500,000 00

\$19,500,000 00

The whole cost to our people of the products of flax, annually, is not less than from twenty-two to twenty-five millions of dollars. More than fifty millions of yards of linen goods were imported during the year 1853.

With these facts before us, the certainty of a full remuneration for all the labor we can bestow upon this article, the great improvements in machinery of which we will speak more in detail hereafter, and the well known and admitted fact that we have the soil and climate to produce the article to almost any extent, the prospects before us should urge to prompt action.

There is no article raised by the farmer, that is more sensitive, and that will pay so well for all the labor that may be bestowed upon the preparation of the ground. You cannot take too much pains in making the earth suitable for the seed. The roots penetrate almost as far downwards, as the flax grows upwards; hence the soils best adapted for its cultivation, are those of a deep free loam,—neither too wet, nor too dry; but such as may be rendered fine, very fine, by tilth. We have thousands of acres of such land in the valleys bordering upon our rivers and navigable streams, in addition to those large bodies of land, heretofore denominated *Black Swamps*, which by exposure to the sun, drainage, and cultivation, are made the very best in the State.

There is high authority for saying, that the best lands for flax, are those where water is found at a small depth from the surface. This is the case in Zealand, where they raise the finest flax. The soil is deep and stiff, with water almost everywhere, at two feet below the surface. The large quantities of swamp and wet lands

that we are now draining and ditching, in various portions of the State, are admirably adapted for flax. We have of this character of land millions of acres in Indiana, which I doubt not would produce the very best article.

The farmer in Ireland has turned his attention to the cultivation of flax, for the value of the fibre, and neglected the seed. This doubtless arose from the supposed fact, that the two objects were incompatible with each other. But subsequent experiments have demonstrated that this is a mistake. As early as 1844, the Flax Improvement Society of Ireland reported that during the season of 1844, almost every where through the country, a large portion of the crop of seed has been saved, and the flax fibre has been not at all deteriorated, where the operation was performed with care. Hence it seems that in Ireland, for a number of years five-sixths of the seed grown was wasted; while in this country nine-tenths, if not more, of the flax fibre was thrown away, and the seed alone preserved. It is a little remarkable that in our rich and fertile fields, we should cultivate quite extensively the crop of flax, for the seed alone, with great profit by the side of wheat and corn, yet in the old country, the laborer found a like profit over high rents, tithes, and taxes, when raised for the fibre alone. But as it is now clearly demonstrated that both may be preserved, it may with propriety be urged, that the crop will richly pay for all the labor bestowed upon its cultivation.

There is a strong prejudice against the cultivation of this crop, arising from the every day repeated story that flax exhausts the soil—that *it almost wholly impoverishes every inch of land that comes in contact with it*. We cannot tell from whence this view comes. It has not been proven by any experiments. It is not found in any of the agricultural works of the day. It is not sustained by a solitary report made to any of the thousand societies for the advancement of labor throughout the land. It is not authenticated by any man, be he farmer, professor, or divine, in any address, report, or trial. But to the contrary, you will find men all over the country who will inform you that in repeated experiments, where they have cultivated a few acres of flax, in some corner of a field, which during the fall following, has been put in wheat: and that invariably the very best of wheat was raised on that part of the field cultivated in flax, although the remainder of the field was idle
*at the same time.

We are not left, however, to conjectures and probabilities on a subject of such importance to the cultivators of the soil. The Belfast Flax Society, to whom this subject was referred, after a most careful and minute investigation, made the following report:

"The principle objection urged against the extended growth of flax is, that it exhausts the soil, without returning anything to it. But by saving the seed and the seed balls, and feeding upon them, the manure thus produced can be returned to the ground, and will supply most of the valuable constituents abstracted from it during the growth of the plant. The flax shaws from the mill, and the

putrescent water from the flax pools, should be fermented together and returned to the soil. The land would thus have replaced on it almost every particle of matter formerly abstracted by the crops, as it has been ascertained beyond a doubt by chemical analysis, *that the fibre for which the flax plant is cultivated, is produced entirely from the atmosphere.*"

Dr. Kane, one of the first men of Ireland, in a paper read before the Royal Academy of Ireland, fully confirms this report of the Flax Society, proving by chemical analysis, that while the woody stem of the flax plants, yields a considerable quantity of ash, consisting of inorganic compounds derived from the soil, the fibre is composed solely of organic matters derived from water and the atmosphere.

It is well known that when lands are for many consecutive years cultivated in wheat or corn, that they fail to produce full crops, unless they are renewed by manures suitable to the character of the soil, and adapted to the crop proposed to be raised. This failure, however, does not arise from the fact, that the "*humus*," or carbonaceous portion of the soil is exhausted, but from the fact that the soluble silex which gives the glazed, shining, varnishing covering to the stalk or stem, by being so repeatedly extracted, that it is so far exhausted that a perfect and well-formed stalk or stem cannot be produced—and without a strong, perfect stalk no well developed grain need be expected. Professor Way, of the Agricultural Bureau of England, gives, as the average of sixty-two analyses, 121 pounds of silex in each acre of wheat, and corn doubtless consumes more than wheat. It is with a full knowledge of this fact, that every prudent farmer, with the view of accumulating sileceous matter in a soluble form, turns his attention to the raising of crops with unglazed stems, clover always among the first. There is, perhaps, another reason for the clover, that for every tun that he takes off from his land, he can turn under about half the same, in weight, of the roots of the crop to replenish and sustain the soil. Flax partakes of this class to a great extent, and certainly exhausts the soil less than either corn, wheat, or oats; and, when the stubble is ploughed in, supplies the organic element expended in producing the crop.

We have abundance of evidence that the crop is profitable. W. Newcomb, of Pittstown, New York, in 1847, estimates his profit per acre, at fifty-six dollars. Valentine Simpson, of Preble county, Ohio, during the year 1850, produced 105 bushels of seed from a little over 5 acres of ground, making a net profit per acre, of sixteen dollars on the seed alone. John Pauly, of Warren county, Ohio, raised in 1850, sixty-five bushels of seed from five acres of ground, where the quantity of seed sown was but three bushels. George Brown, of Brownville, New York, realized a net profit of twenty dollars per acre, on a crop of 25 acres. Major Kirby, of the same place, realized a profit of thirty-three dollars per acre, on a crop of 6 acres. Benjamin Akin, of Rensselaer county, New York, in 1851, exhibits a net profit of fifty dollars per acre, and in these cases the old system of dressing was adopted.

I hail among the favorable signs of the times these very assemblages—these collections of the people all over the land—this mingling together of all classes of our people, for the purpose of improving their condition at *home*—thus interchanging views and opinions, and making experiments, trials, and tests upon the various branches of industry.

Let not the charge be laid at our doors that was brought against the ancient Romans, which was, that they made a country desolate and, called that a peace. May it be ours to boast that we found a wilderness, and converted it into fertile fields; and, that, by our policy, we have covered over this continent with a prosperous, happy, and intelligent people actively engaged in the pursuits of life.

To accomplish this, we should remember that it behooves us to do all within our power to give beauty and dignity to the pursuits of those who toil, and thus to make labor *attractive*. At the base of the prosperity of any people lies this great principle, *make labor fashionable at home*. Make it an essential part of the primary education of every youth of the land; and, above all, bring, by every means within your reach, the undivided and united action, the whole strength, talents, energy, affections, motives, and power of the people to bear upon *home policy*.

We have been looking in the wrong direction for the sources of individual, township, county, State, and even national prosperity. Take your stand at the capital of the nation; contemplate the vast machinery of the National Government; see for yourself the growing interest which is manifested in the management of national affairs—the great expenditures made for the improvement of public buildings, the increase of offices and officers, and the vast increase of general and specific appropriations of the public money. View the crowds that are pressing for Executive favors, great and small, and then turn to the States of this Union. What a contrast! If you were a stranger to our institutions, and were to form your opinion from the interest that is taken in the national government, and the almost utter neglect of the State governments, you would suppose that our fathers designed that the legislation, favors, and strength of the Republic which they founded should be centered in the capital at Washington.

The evidences of the interest manifested by politicians, presses, and people, in national affairs, over those of the State, county, or township, are before us every day.

It is a rare sight to witness the people holding primary meetings to discuss the merits of the school law—the provisions of the code that affects property, character, or life—or the law that governs and controls your estate at the time of your death. These are minor considerations in comparison with the great questions as to who shall fill the vacant seat in the Cabinet at Washington, or discharge the duties of Collector at some port of entry on the Atlantic. Public meetings are held all over the country, approving or disapproving of the appointment of this or that man to office: but

Courts, Congress, Legislatures, and Governors may do acts that seriously affect the peace, happiness, and prosperity of the people, and yet such acts do not seem to make even a ripple upon the surface of public opinion.

The truth is, we must *talk more, work more, act more, and think more* on questions relating to *home* and *Home Policy*.

We have, at home, many subjects of vast interest that must not be neglected, and this is a proper and legitimate occasion to call your attention to some of them.

The wealth of an agricultural State, like ours, is not found alone in rich and productive lands. We have other elements. Our mineral wealth, and our manufacturing wealth, are parts of the great resources of the State; and no community has discharged the duties which it owes to itself, until these great elements of wealth have been developed and rendered available, under the combined action of the capital and labor of the country.

Indiana, this day, is not selling two millions of bushels of coal per annum. She should sell twenty millions. We can furnish, at the Balize, the government vessels and the steamers of the world with coal, at a cost of three dollars a tun for carriage. The rock and the marble are all around us, suitable to build the custom house at New Orleans; and if these materials were used for that purpose, thousands of dollars would be saved to the treasury of the nation.

Your pig iron is taken from Vermillion and Greene counties, manufactured abroad, and brought back to you, and sold at high prices. The very stones, now almost in sight of us, are taken from the rich quarries of Orange and Martin, polished by eastern labor, and then returned and sold to you as Turkish oil stones. Walnut knots, taken from our forests, are, by the labor of others, polished and used in making the most valuable furniture. The timber upon our hills and in our valleys affords superior varieties for the building of steamers for rivers or oceans. Indiana has water power equal to that of Connecticut or the Merrimac, though scarcely known beyond the sound of the falling waters. Yet, thus far in our history, no effort which has been made has succeeded in laying fairly before the capital and labor of the world these great elements of our wealth; and at this day less is known abroad of the resources of Indiana, than of those of any other State of the confederacy.

If your representatives at Indianapolis will not send out competent and scientific men to explore our hills and valleys, and lay bare the now concealed wealth, consisting of iron, coal, salt, rock, &c., you must imitate the example of the good people of Evansville, who, I am informed, some time since, sent out at their own expense the practical geologist, David Dale Owen, on a visit to the county of Greene, to examine the rich iron mines of that county.

The old world manufactured for the new for a hundred years. New England has manufactured for us for nearly half a century.

A change must take place. We must, if we pursue our true interests, engage in manufacturing articles, not only for home use, but for exportation.

Indiana is one of the central States of the Union, with advantages equal if not superior to those of her sister States. She is in the very heart of what is destined to be a great agricultural and manufacturing region—a region known as the valley of the Mississippi—the population of which, if they faithfully pursue a true *home* policy, will soon be able, not only to feed, but also to clothe, Old as well as New England.

But turn in another direction. Look at our township, county, and State governments; and you will find that they are overshadowed, and almost lost sight of, in the unceasing contests growing out of national subjects. We shall never arrive at that form of government so much desired by our fathers, until these questions, at home, are made the subjects of engrossing interest.

By the form and structure of our government, the little local communities at home, from school districts to townships, counties, and State, are all made, as it were, part and parcel of the machinery that moves and regulates the action of our republic.

Visit that township, district, city, or county, where the citizens are alive to its internal management, and you will find a people prepared to make a step forward in any movement that is made to better the condition of society. Have you not noticed, in our own State, that, in counties where there are even a few enterprising, active men, who take an interest in organizing schools, and in promoting other local interests, that those counties are always the foremost in every movement that elevates the character of the people? And you have no doubt noticed the reverse—that, in those counties where the engrossing subjects of agitation are those connected with national policy, and where State policy is lost sight of, the people are invariably the last to follow in any such work. It is idle to expect any people to make any permanent advances, in the way of improvement, where there is an entire neglect of their local and Home Policy.

I call it local and Home Policy. I mean by this, that these subjects enter into and form the very heart, life, and strength of the body politic.

In a government like ours, scattered over such an extent of territory, embracing such a variety of interests, combining every kind of character and people, and with such a growing diversity of materials, how is it possible that we can preserve our institutions, if there shall continue to be, as there has been, a ruinous neglect of what I denominate the local and Home Policy.

Can you expect the heart of this republic to be free from corruption and fraud, when the little streams and rivulets that nourish that heart are neglected and become impure? The fountain heads and springs of this nation—the people of the several States, in their primary organizations, in their local policy, their laws, cus-

toms, and manners—are the sources from which the national government must derive, politically, whatever of virtue, or wisdom, or strength it may possess.

When we shall live up to our privileges as members of our happy form of State government, and discharge our whole duty in the small circle in which we move; when we shall adapt our laws and institutions, which affect us every day in all the relations of life, and in all our intercourse with each other, so as to make each man feel that upon *him* rests a portion of the responsibilities of life; when we shall come up to that full standard of State *pride*, State *ambition*, State *rights*, that our forefathers designed we should occupy, it will make but little difference what three hundred men at Washington do, or whether this or that act of Congress shall pass. *The top may tremble and agitate, but the base will be immovable—the foundation will be secure.*

For the success which has attended our progress as a nation, we are indebted, not only to the power and influence of our laws and form of government; but, also, to the number of true, resolute, thinking, and intelligent men, found in every part of the confederacy—and, moreover, for our success, we are materially indebted to the existence of the great truth that, under our government, man, *in his individual capacity*, is entrusted with rights and privileges which, when properly used, enable him to aid in advancing the welfare of the community in which he lives.

That community where the individual man is respected and admired—or the reverse—on account of his conduct alone, exhibits a strict regard for the observance of every principle that elevates the man, the masses, their laws, customs, &c. Precisely in proportion as the people of any community lose sight of these principles, and the central influence takes their place, will such community degenerate.

Your community is not declining, if the press and people notice and observe the charities and benevolence that belong to man, as much as they do the kindness and sympathies of associations. Nor is the community going backward when individual actions are left free to perfect the improvements of the country without looking to the aid of laws and government to press them forward.

If we shall keep on in the movement we have been making for the last half century, in destroying the individuality principle, in the destruction of all lines of State policy and local interests, we shall not be able, after the lapse of a short time, to build a mill, construct a bridge, or erect a temple, without the help of associations, or governmental aid. The interests of the district, the township, the county, and the State will be neglected; but the general government will continue to increase in power, in influence and in the number of its offices.

The age is one of promise. The world is full of hope. Improvements are making in every thing that tends to lessen the labor of man, and to advance his comfort and happiness.

But, there are other influences at work in the nation. Events

are taking place around us, and before our eyes scenes are transpiring, to which we cannot, dare not, be insensible, and which loudly demand our attention.

A quarter of a century ago, Tobias Watkins, who held a small office in one of the departments at Washington, was charged with a fraud, involving a sum of less than four thousand dollars; and upon this single instance of faithlessness in a public officer, the whole people of the Republic were aroused, and thrown into a state of excitement. But now, in these days, millions are charged to be fraudulently obtained from your treasury—committees are sitting in the vacation of your National Legislature, to ferret out the truth—your President asks for an additional criminal code against bribery and corruption—and the public press, politicians, and people, seem to feel not half so much interest in the result of these investigations and recommendations, as they do in knowing who shall be a minister abroad, the collector of customs at some port, or the postmaster at some village or cross roads.

Fifty-one years ago, Mr. Jefferson, in writing to his friend Albert Gallatin, on the subject of making appropriations for a light-house, said, "The utility of the thing has sanctioned the infraction. But, if on that infraction we build a second; on a third, &c., any one of the powers in the constitution may be made to comprehend every power of government."

In our day, it seems that he who takes the greatest interest in obtaining the expenditure of millions by the general government, even for local objects, is to be regarded as the successful statesman, and most worthy of popular applause.

A change must take place. The public mind, and the influence of popular opinion in communities, States, and the nation, must be turned in another direction. The prospect brightens, and good results will follow these agricultural and mechanical exhibitions, now being held all over the country. One fourth of the population of our own State, will attend the State or County Fairs, during the present year; and five thousand volumes of agricultural and mechanical works will be distributed among the people. We are beginning to cultivate the roots, and not the tops. May we continue to press forward in this work. May we make the family government, the school, the farm, the church, the shop, the laboratories of future greatness. We must educate our sons to be farmers, artisans, architects, engineers, geologists, in a word, practical men. Their eyes must be turned from Washington to the State, county, township, district, home. This is true patriotism; and the only patriotism that will save the nation.

With a territory stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and with sea-coasts more than five thousand miles in extent, we have almost all varieties of soil, climate, and productions; and consequently we have, within our boundaries, citizens of every kind of pursuit and occupation. The world never witnessed such a busy, bustling, energetic crowd of human beings, scattered over a territory so vast, and living under a government supported by their own

will. Farmers and planters, mechanics and manufacturers, merchants and traders, miners of iron, and gold, and silver, and copper, and coal; men of labor, and industry, engaged in business in town and country, on the oceans of the world, and on our lakes and rivers—all of these while they constitute the strength of the confederacy, have, in their various pursuits, their own peculiar customs, habits, manners and tastes; yet their constitutions and their laws protect their rights, *individually*, and recognize their political equality. In this consists the strength and the beauty of our form of Government.

We require, we must have the full grown policy of each of these pursuits, with the thousands of others that will naturally arise, in a government whose interests are so diversified as ours; each of these should be left free to arrive at full perfection, without the influences of a great overshadowing, central, consolidated government. We want no *Rome*, no *Paris*; but we should seek to make our great center in each State, county, township, district, and *Home*.

APPENDIX.

Since the delivery of the foregoing address, before the Agricultural meeting at Livonia, I have received the following letter from THOMAS KIMBER, Jr., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. KIMBER is a gentleman who has traveled extensively in Europe, for the purpose of acquiring information of the best modes of raising and manufacturing flax ; and he is now engaged in the manufacture of that article, as one of the firm of the AMERICAN LINEN COMPANY.

LAFAYETTE, IND., 11th Mo. [Nov.] 21, 1853.

To the Hon. Gov. Joseph A. Wright,

President of the State Board of Agriculture :

"ESTEEMED FRIEND : I have received with much pleasure, the Report you were so kind as to send me, of the proceedings of the State Board of Agriculture for the year 1852. I avail myself of this occasion to call your attention more earnestly to one subject, intimately connected with your agricultural industry, and highly important to the interests of the State of Indiana, as well as to those of the whole Northern section of our country. I allude to the question of the proper culture, preparation, and manufacture of Flax.

"I am aware that this subject has claimed somewhat of your notice, and that you alluded to it forcibly in an address recently at Livonia, before the District Agricultural Society.

"But having spent a great portion of my time, for several years past, in investigating the various processes of the Flax culture and manufacture, both in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe ; as well as in the endeavor, since my return, to introduce on a large scale, the manufacture of Linens, and the growth of Flax in this country, perhaps it would not be uninteresting to you to hear some of the results of these enquiries and exertions.

"Finding that the importations for the United States of Linen goods exceeded fifty millions of yards annually ; and that even the universal home manufacture of flax which was customary among our ancestors—and which though small in detail, was yet great in the aggregate—had almost entirely disappeared, the question naturally arose, how this great change had been brought about. So far as the latter subject was concerned it was at once evident that in all purposes of ordinary household use, cotton had driven flax from the field ; and that the farmer had found it cheaper to buy calico and corduroy, and to grow wheat and corn, than to employ his time in spinning and weaving linen fabrics for his household consumption.

"As regards the vast increase of importations of linens, it was to be attributed to the growing wealth and luxury of our country, more especially in the great cities, which are springing up with magical rapidity to the very shores of the far off Pacific ; and which gather around them all the refinements of an older civilization.

"So much for the vast and greatly increasing demand ; as to the supply, it became evident that this was maintained with unfailing and equally rapid increase, by the introduction of steam machinery in every part of the process of the linen manufacture, which, until recently, was altogether the result of hand labor.

I therefore determined to make a vigorous effort among our capitalists to establish this profitable manufacture in this country ; and with the aid of the firm of which I was a member, (Hacker, Lea, & Co., of Philadelphia,) succeeded in interesting some of our most influential eastern friends in the enterprise, and in establishing a large manufacturing company at Fall River, Mass., under the title of the American Linen Company. This company is incorporated with a capital of \$500,000, and of this sum \$350,000 have been already paid in, and invested in buildings, machinery, and other preparations.

"Having said thus much, as briefly as possible, by way of explanation, and in order to detach entirely this enterprise from all connection with the Flax Cotton movements of the day, in which we are not at all interested and have no confidence, I may proceed to the more immediate object of troubling you with this communication.

"We expect to consume in the ensuing twelve months, over *six hundred and fifty tons* of Flax fibre (1,300,000 lbs.) and when in full operation, shall consume annually over one thousand tons, or two millions of pounds. Being about commencing operations, we have already been obliged to import from abroad over one hundred tons, at an expense of more than \$30,000.

"Now in passing through your State and that of Ohio, in company with my friend, Chas. Hartshorne, who has also paid considerable attention, abroad and at home, to the flax culture, we have found that many thousands of acres of flax are grown for the seed alone; the stalk and its fibre being entirely wasted and thrown away. And my object in addressing you is to ask your earnest attention to this great and important error, in the agricultural management of this part of the country.

"It seems to me that such exertions on your part can be appealed to no less in your position as President of the Agricultural Board, than as Governor of the State of Indiana—for the subject is of equal importance in its bearings on the commercial, as on the agricultural interests of our country, and of every portion thereof.

"We have found that the farmer, on an average, obtains about ten bushels of flax-seed to the acre, which has yielded him from 90 cents to \$1.25 per bushel, and often a much less price. Now in the first place this is hardly a *half crop* of the seed. In Great Britain and Belgium they obtain from 20 to 25 bushels of the seed, besides saving the fibre. The secret lies in the *proper preparation of the ground*, before sowing the seed.

"If the farmer would give the land a Fall ploughing, (it is not too late to do it yet,) and leaving it over the winter to mellow, then plough it deeply again in the spring, reducing it as fine as possible without too much labor, he would, on good ground, average 20 bushels of seed to the acre. The flax plant is peculiarly sensitive to such attentions, and amply repays them; the roots striking downwards almost as deep and straight, where the ground is open and mellow, as the stalk shoots upward. It is not too much to say that, taking into consideration the increased seed as well as the fibre, every dollar spent in ploughing and pulverizing the ground would yield ten-fold in the harvest gathered.

"The land best suited for flax is an open, rich loam, with a clay subsoil (if possible). In the next place for the fibre: If the farmer would sow 2 bushels or 2½ to the acre, on rich ground so prepared, he would, while obtaining 20 bushels of seed, also obtain two tons to two and a half tons of flax straw per acre. At present, with the poor preparation and thin sowing, not over one or one and a quarter tons are obtained on an average. Every ton of straw yields three hundred pounds of flax fibre, so that he would then obtain, if he chose to rot and prepare it, as was done in the days of our grandfathers, about six hundred or six hundred and fifty pounds per acre of flax fibre rotted and scutched. For this fibre we would gladly contract for two years to come, at the rate of 12½ to 15 cents a pound (\$250 to \$300 per ton) according to quality. It costs us this price, cash, to import it, and we should much prefer paying it to our own industry. If, however, the farmers preferred to sell the straw, and would grow and prepare it as above, there are parties who would purchase such straw so grown and prepared, of good length and not injured in the rippling, or removing the seed, at the rate of five dollars a ton for the straw. This would give, by the slight addition of Fall ploughing, enriching, if the land needs it, and, after sowing, a light *brush* harrowing or rolling, a great increase of profit to the farmer. He could then get, say

20 bushels of seed at \$1 00.....	\$21 00
2 tons of straw at \$5 00.....	10 00
Gross returns per acre.....	\$30 00

"Even if he sold his straw at the above price. If he occupied his leisure hours, and those of his family, in rotting and scutching the straw, he would obtain vastly more, by selling the fibre at 12½ cents a pound.

"That these are no chimerical figures, I now lay before you, as evidence, the first agricultural authorities in Great Britain and in Europe. And I appeal to your well known philanthropical disposition, to lend your influence to all proper endeavors to promote and improve this great industrial interest. We might have flax as cheap as cotton, and linen goods nearly as cheap as cotton goods, if the exertions of the farmers would second the improvements of machinery.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"THOMAS KIMBER, JR."

The foregoing letter contains many suggestions which are worthy of the attention of the Indiana farmer. Accompanying the letter, I received from Mr. Kimber, samples of Russian, Irish, and American flax, which may be seen in the Agricultural Room, at the State House.

In connection with this subject, I deem it proper to publish a diagram of the machinery used for the purpose of separating the flax from the stalk; together with a description of the improvement and process. The description is from the pen of John Wilson, a very distinguished gentleman, who is President of the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, and who attended the

Chrystal Palace, at New York, as one of the commissioners from England.

It seems that the merit of practically employing heated water for the purpose of preparing the flax in a short time, belongs to Mr. Shenck, an American, who obtained a patent for his process, in 1846. Improvements were made upon Mr. Shenck's mode, by Mr. Watt's; and afterwards the principle was further improved by Mr. Buchanan. In reference to this latest improvement, Mr. Wilson says:—

"In this the steeping is effected by *repeated immersions* in a tank of heated water, arrangements being made by which the temperature is never allowed to exceed a certain degree—a point of great importance, both as regards the abstraction of the azotized extractive matter, and also the quality of fibre produced. It is well known that albuminous solutions, containing even a very small proportion of albumen (1 in 1000) coagulate at a temperature of 180 degrees, and then become insoluble; and it is always considered that fibre is more or less injured if exposed beyond a certain high temperature. These two important points have been taken advantage of in Buchanan's process; the temperature of the steep liquor is kept within a certain range of temperature, and the operation, both as regards time and produce, more satisfactorily performed. The process is quite automatic, thus saving labor and the risks consequent upon carelessness; and the mechanical arrangements by which it is effected, are very simple and inexpensive. The accompanying diagram, will, I hope, make the process clearly understood. The flax straw is placed in an open vessel (No. 3) termed the steeping vat, having a false bottom (*i*); a boiler (No. 1) generates the steam required; and between these two is placed a suitable vessel (No. 2), the condenser, of about the same capacity as No. 3, and communicating with that by the hot-water pipe (*b*), and with the boiler by the steam pipe (*a*). This center vessel or condensing chamber is filled with water from the cistern (No. 5), and steam is then blown in from the boiler. When the latent heat of the steam is absorbed, and condensation no longer takes place, the hot water is driven over into the steeping vat, and completely immerses its contents. The overflow pipe (*c*) then conveys a portion into the bucket (No. 4), which, overpowering the balance weights (*gg*) descends, drawing the chain (*cc*), which, being attached to the pulleys (*ff*) fixed on to the cock of the steam-pipe (*aa*), and of the condensing pipe (*h*), reverses their action by cutting off the steam and turning on a charge of cold water into the condenser. The steam in No. 2 is then rapidly condensed, and the liquor drawn back from the steep vat into which it had previously been forced. This completes the operation of immersion, which recommences immediately;—for as soon as the overflow bucket (No. 4) has reached a certain point in its descent, it strikes against a pin, having a screw adjustment, which causes the valve (*d*) at the bottom to open and discharge its contents into the discharge pipe (No. 6). The bucket, then relieved of its load, resumes its original position, the balance weights (*gg*) act on the pulleys (*ff*), which again reverse the cocks, cutting off the cold water sparge, and turning on the steam to No. 2. This is repeated as often as may be required.

"So far as the experiments have gone, it has been found that by ten such immersions the whole of the coloring matter of the flax has been removed. These in practice would not occupy more than three or four hours."

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

00027440034