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ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

MERCER COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

ON THE

TWENTIETH OF SEPTEMBER, 1853,

BY

JAMES GOWEN, Esq.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

PHILADELPHIA:

BROWN'S STEAM-POWER BOOK AND JOB PRINTING OFFICE, LEDGER BUILDING,
1853.

1873, May 3. Gift of
Horace B. Furness,
of Philadelphia. (H. B. L. 1854.)

At a meeting of the MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, held on their Exhibition Ground, the 20th instant, the following resolution was offered and unanimously adopted, to wit:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to James Gowen, Esq., for the able Address which he has this day delivered to us, and that he be requested to furnish the Society with a copy of the same for publication.

MERCER, SEPTEMBER 21, 1853.

JAMES GOWEN, Esq.—

DEAR SIR—In pursuance of the above resolution, permit me, on behalf of the "Mercer County Agricultural Society," to request that, at your earliest convenience, you will furnish the Society with a copy, for publication, of the excellent Address you delivered at their late Annual Exhibition.

Yours, very respectfully,

W. MAXWELL.

DEAR SIR—

In complying with the request of the Mercer County Agricultural Society, as I cheerfully do, permit me to hope that the Address, when published, will serve as a memento of the kind feelings reciprocated by the members of your respectable Society and myself, during my visit to your beautiful region, as well as, in some degree, promote the interests of Agriculture in Western Pennsylvania.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES GOWEN.

W. MAXWELL, Esq.

September 22d, 1853.

ADDRESS.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen, of the Mercer County Agricultural Society—

WHEN you did me the honor to invite me to address you, on the occasion of this your Annual Agricultural Exhibition, my engagements at home were so numerous and pressing, that it seemed almost impossible that I should be able to comply with your invitation. The little time, too, that was to intervene, until I should have to appear before you, affording but so brief a space for preparation, with the distance I should have to travel before I reached you; all tended to increase the difficulties of the case. These difficulties could only have been overcome by the devotion that has almost, I might say, become a passion in me, for the promotion of Agriculture—a devotion that neither years of labor in the cause, nor the disappointments that sometimes attended my best efforts, could either abate, or measurably subdue; and therefore it is that I am here—here, for the first time, in Western Pennsylvania.

Another reason why I could not refuse your request was, that I was, as many of you may know, among the foremost, if not the first, in calling the attention of the farmers of Pennsylvania to the necessity of organizing a State Agricultural Society, as a means of awakening every part of the State to a sense of the expediency of forming County Associations; for the purpose of eliciting and diffusing, mutually, the benefits to be derived from a combined effort in promoting the prosperity, intelligence and dignity of the Landed Interest—the much neglected, though most important interest of the country. Prominent then as I was, as a promoter of those organizations, it could not be, that when one of those societies, which had sprung into existence through my efforts, and in accordance with the hopes and anticipations I had cherished, called upon me to address them on the occasion of their Annual Exhibition, it could not be, I repeat, that either the fatigues of the journey, or home cares and engagements, could afford, to my apprehension, a satisfactory excuse for declining a task which a sense of duty so sternly enjoined I should undertake. How well or ill I may perform that task, as affecting your expectations, was not so much a question

with me, as that I should prove myself willing to do the best I could, for the cause I felt myself bound to serve and promote.

Agricultural Exhibitions have ever been with me a favorite expedient, whereby a laudable emulation and rivalry might be promoted among the tillers of the soil; and to serve as a rallying point, where, in the presence of each other, they might learn to have more confidence in themselves, and by emulating the progress of others, snatch a spark of that spirit and enterprise, so luminous now-a-days, in the track of the busy throng, that are pushing along and going a-head with rail-road speed. It grieved me to perceive that the farmers, as a class, seemed regardless of the position, however low or obscure, assigned to them; appearing ever content to labor unrequited and unhonored; complaining not, nor attempting to reverse the decree that fashion, folly and pretension had recorded to their prejudice. Such should not, I thought, be the condition of the farmer; his calling or profession is in itself so intrinsic and independent, that it seems strange (unless there is something in the soil with which he deals that deadens, or in the air he breathes, that bewilders his faculties), that he should not have the sense and spirit to stand more erect, and battle manfully for that lofty position, which is his rightful heritage!

To the husbandman, under Providence, is committed the bounties of the field and seasons, and upon his management depends, not only the wealth of the nation, but the daily sustenance of every man whether rich or poor, high or low. Plenty and scarcity, fulness and famine, in a great measure depend upon the foresight, skill and energy of the farmer; he holds the veritable cornucopia, and so long as it is found in condition of teeming fulness, pouring out the invigorating comforts of sustenance, so long does the human family wax strong, rejoicing in the enjoyment of health and vigor! Let it give but a partial supply, or none, feebleness and languor, famine and pestilence, brood over all and enshroud every living creature! Is there a man so obtuse or insensible, whether mechanic or manufacturer, merchant or professional man, as not to perceive how indispensable are the functions of the farmer? Why should he not be held as ordinarily intelligent, with perceptions capable of penetrating the hidden operations of nature, so far as they lie within his sphere of action; profiting by all that is deducible from, or observable in her teachings? And is it not a reproach to us, farmers, if we do not establish our claim to this high consideration, and prove that we are

not the dull, unenlightened drudges we are supposed to be—good but so far as material strength may serve, to toil, with other working animals of the field!

Agricultural exhibitions are the precursors of improvement—they are eminently calculated to arrest the attention of the apathetic—to break in upon the dull monotony that pervades the locality where the fair is held. They are as interesting as they are instructive, and never fail, if properly conducted, of impressing a salutary and abiding influence upon the minds of all who have participated in their interesting display and innocent recreation. Within their enclosures are to be found the best specimens of farm stock, the choicest varieties of seeds, samples of the best crops, improved implements of husbandry, specimens of household manufacture, butter, cheese and poultry; all arranged for the inspection of the curious, and challenging competition. Who can look upon such a scene and not be struck with a deep sense of its utility, and what farmer, however enlightened, but may add something to his stock of knowledge, or have his doubts removed as to the excellence of some breed of farm stock, or the capability of some implement, which he had never used, for the work it was designed to execute? And who can be insensible to the advantages of such an opportunity for an interchange of opinion upon the theory and practice of culture and husbandry; upon soils, and the adaptation of crops and manures to each variety respectively? These, with the friendly greetings, the revival of old acquaintanceship, and the formation of new friendships, give to the scene a holiday freshness—a dash of rural felicity, that compensates for many a long and solitary day of toil upon the farm.

But exhibitions should be kept within their primitive and legitimate bounds. If they should be permitted to run into ridiculous frolic, fun and folly, then good-bye to all the hopes of improvement, cherished through their means, by those who labored sedulously to promote them. If mountebanks, vendors of nostrums, cute sharpers and monstrosities, with all their base and degrading concomitants, be tolerated, and their iniquitous jugglery be played off before the eyes of unsophisticated farmers and their families, it were better that agricultural fairs and cattle shows were abolished; for who can answer for the consequences of such demoralizing scenes? Visitors are liable to be drawn off from the real objects of the exhibition by the lures of those impostors, and made the victims of their heartless impositions. Some youth, perchance, may be taken with the spirit

of their adroitness and manner, and become affected with a moral leprosy that may cleave to him for the remainder of his days—a relish for their trickery will beget a distaste for honest industry, and lead him into the ways of the idle and profligate, the humbug or mountebank, the gambler or pickpocket.

The State Societies are obnoxious to those objections; their exhibitions seem to be held more with the view of drawing together a monstrous crowd or multitude, to put money in the purse and to gain popular eclat, than to promote, earnestly and appropriately, the cause of agriculture. Farm stock, implements, &c., are, it is true, in abundance; but then, where is the chance of fixing the attention of visitors upon these, or of holding discussions on their qualities, when along their borders and within their very grounds are to be seen the flaunting signs of mountebanks, offering to show wonders and sights unparalleled, and tricks incomprehensible, for a “leven-penny-bit”? While a dozen of throats at a time rise above the ordinary noise, vociferating at the highest pitch recommendations of the infallible nostrums they are vending to credulous crowds gathered around their stands; and ever and anon, thimble-riggers and pickpockets are plying their nefarious trades, undetected amid the general confusion of this disgusting Babel! Another great source of evil springs of necessity from, or is incidental to, the inordinate desire for Monster Exhibitions, and that is, they must be held at or near to cities, in order that lodging may be had for the multitude, and in order to obtain the largest sum possible from the inhabitants, by way of bonus, for the favor of the Exhibition, to aid in defraying the expenses of the show. Such places seldom fail of having their due share of rowdies and ruffians, and these are sure to precipitate themselves upon the exhibition grounds, and, if not restrained by an overpowering police, will perpetrate various outrages, still further disgracing and deepening the disgust which such a spectacle, take it all in all, cannot fail to produce.

These scenes are not imaginary—they are founded in fact, and are pointed at through a sense of duty, and under deep concern for the influence they may exert upon the public mind, especially upon the rising generation. If instead of presenting, as naturally they should, so interesting and respectable an assemblage as this now before me, with nothing to offend against propriety or good taste, but all in harmony with the peaceable and honorable pursuits of agriculture, they exhibit scenes of depravity, wild and vicious incongruity, they

must be regarded as dangerous nuisances, that should be abated, for the same reasons that placed horse-racing under the ban of public opinion. In this connection I observed recently, that among the premiums offered at a forthcoming Exhibition, east of us, were several to young females, under a certain age, for the best performance on horseback, or the best *female* horsemanship. Now, in the name of sense and propriety, what have such feats to do with Agriculture? If it were to train up candidates for the circus or hippodrome, the race-ground would be a more fitting arena for the purpose than the enclosure of an Agricultural Fair and Cattle Show. And how must the modesty of a young girl be outraged, if she be subjected to the vulgar gaze and comments of the crowd, and her sense of delicacy blunted, if she receive a pecuniary reward for the exhibition of her person and prowess! What should fathers, mothers and brothers think of the consequences likely to ensue to a daughter or sister thus tempted to forego the native delicacy and bashfulness inherent in the gentler sex?

Of the popular improvements agitated of late, Agricultural Education has claimed, as its importance deserved, a due share of consideration; its benefits have been freely discussed and enlarged upon by the Agricultural Press. Inferences have been drawn and illustrations given, of the utility of the system of training practised in the Agricultural Seminaries of Great Britain and Ireland, and other parts of Europe. Enlightened and patriotic travellers from this side the Atlantic, while sojourning abroad, have visited those schools, and have borne unqualified testimony in their favor; among these, I may mention Professor Bache, now the head of the Coast Survey, who, when appointed President of the Girard College, visited Europe for the purpose of looking into educational systems and training, bearing semblance to the institution over which he was to preside; and here I may say, that it was a misfortune greatly to be deplored by the orphans of Pennsylvania, that the pecuniary embarrassments of the city of Philadelphia, involving the College Fund, suspended the opening of the College, which lost to it a President, whose profound scholarship and enlightened philanthropy so pre-eminently fitted him for the station, that never perhaps again will it be the good fortune of the College to possess his equal. This feeble tribute to a good and gifted man cannot be considered out of place here, when it is understood he was not unmindful of the interests of Agriculture, but labored in its behalf. He visited Agricultural Schools

abroad, took notes of their workings, and brought home special reports of many of them. He did more; he collected, in farming districts abroad, a large collection of seeds, which must have required much time and pains; among them, the greatest and best varieties of wheat, put up in phials, sealed and labelled, that were ever seen before or since in this country; they would have proved of incalculable value, and through recurring harvests have made the name of Professor A. D. Bache as familiar among husbandmen as it is among men of science and learning of the present day; but unfortunately the City Councils, in whose custody the seeds were, neglected to distribute them until the weevil had entirely destroyed them.

The late Mr. Coleman, an intelligent and devoted Agriculturist, during his Agricultural Tour, paid particular attention to these schools, and speaks of them in terms of commendation; but there the schools are in charge of well-bred men, men of education, trained and educated for the proper discharge of duties so important to the community. Normal schools are founded for the express purpose of training Teachers and Assistants for the Agricultural Schools. Indeed, no one would pretend to offer himself as a Teacher unless he could produce a diploma or certificate from some accredited institution. Such qualifications as these we do not possess here, nor can we have them, unless suitable persons are sent abroad to study a course of Scientific Agriculture at schools such as Temple Moyle, near Londonderry, or Glasnevin, near Dublin, in Ireland—either this, or procuring the services of some experienced Professors from abroad, to take charge, for a time, of a College, will be necessary, should we be able to found such an institution. "Begin right," is a good maxim, and I am sure there is nothing that would require the exercise of more caution, more discretion, than (what would be proper to observe) in the choice of a Principal of an Agricultural College or School, upon the good or bad management of which such vast interests depend. We have, it is true, many able chemists, botanists, geologists, &c., but these, however clever in the abstract, would make but indifferent Teachers of systematic, practical agriculture.

If your Society should deem it expedient to establish an Agricultural School, I would advise, as the best that could be done under circumstances, that you devote a farm and suitable buildings to the purpose, and engage the best practical farmer available, to instruct your youths in the most approved methods, known to him and

you, in the practice of culture and husbandry—to provide also a good schoolmaster, capable of instructing to the extent that is embraced in our Grammar Schools; the whole to be under the supervision of a Committee, who should visit weekly, at least, to witness the operations, suggest improvements, correct abuses, and encourage merit. On this farm, experiments could be made in tillage, manures, seeds and crops, that would, if properly conducted, be of lasting benefit to the country, to an extent that could not possibly ensue from the efforts of any one individual on an isolated farm. The different breeds of cattle could likewise be experimented upon, and the best established. Simple nurseries of fruit and ornamental trees might be profitably propagated, while the students, by alternately working on the farm, garden and nursery grounds, and studying in school, would be confirmed in proper habits of industry and economy, and become respectable husbandmen and intelligent citizens—gratefully retrospecting with the poet—

"Thanks to their friends for their care in their breeding,
Who taught them betimes to love working and reading."

The products of the farm, the trees and cattle raised, with the income for tuition, to say nothing of the improved condition of the land, would, in a few years, leave a balance in favor of this experimental farm and farm-school. But should you entrust its management to some cute, unscrupulous, self-styled Professor of Scientific Agriculture, who will presumptuously overwhelm you with strange terms of Agricultural Chemistry, taken from Liebig and Johnson, of which he knows not their import himself, and astonish you with strange implements, in no wise useful but in the line of humbug, then will you have to deplore the credulity that led you to trust to the prospectus of a quack, with its array of ill-gotten and ill-used names, endorsing his pretensions. Better than thus to experiment that you had never heard of Scientific Agriculture. The science that is substituted for honesty, whether in agriculture or any other culture, is a villanous science!

The little knowledge I have of the soil of your county, being a perfect stranger to it, or the practice that obtains with you, the crops usually cultivated, their culture or rotation, or the character of your husbandry, will not enable me to address myself so especially to your condition as otherwise I certainly would, in all frankness, be inclined to do, even to the rebuking of your practice, did I know

aught of it that was prejudicial to your own interests or the cause of agriculture in general. I can but remark on things deemed applicable as I imagine them to be, in a county rather remote from a market, and where, owing to a sparse population, land is cheap, and farm hands proportionately scarce and dear, leading to a not very close or careful practice in culture, lest the time and labor bestowed in cultivating would be disproportioned to the value of the crop raised.

Assuming, then, that this is *prima facie* the case, as the lawyers would say, yet perhaps a closer investigation might reveal, or lead to a different conclusion, as to practice. I shall, however, attempt to enforce the rule, that "whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well." First, then, is not the land your own, and must it not be conceded, that whatever tends to enrich or promote its fertility, enhances its value, and makes you the richer? It might happen, that though a good crop produced through thorough culture would not in itself compensate for the expense incurred in producing it, yet the Farmer, in the long run, might be largely the gainer from the improved condition the land was left in, by reason of the pains and labor bestowed upon it while cultivating the crop. It is not altogether to the market value of the one, or first crop, that the farmer is to look for remuneration, but to regard also, as an item of profit, the facility in producing, and the abundance of the succeeding crops, through having well and wisely broken up or prepared his land for the first or former crop. I need scarcely illustrate this farther, for every farmer, of ordinary experience, may calculate the profits and advantages, that follow in the train of one well done job in this connection on the farm. One good deep ploughing, removing stones and other obstructions, though consuming a little more time at first, will render that operation ever after of easy execution, so that in the end, much time shall have been saved, to say nothing of the fine crops that shoot up luxuriantly ever after, from the well prepared mould, in which their roots repose and feed, by reason of the comfortable provision the thrifty and skilful Husbandman provided before committing the seed to the ground.

Now, let any one compare this with the wasteful, careless and unprofitable practice of skinning, not ploughing, the land, leaving stones and impediments to be met with in cross-ploughings and after-ploughings, to jolt and throw out the plough. Manuring and seeding after such a preparation, is but a mockery, a thriftless labor, that dooms

the land to barrenness and its owner to poverty! Crops, thus produced, can never remunerate—land, so treated, must ever deteriorate.

Take, for instance, a piece of meadow land, surcharged with moisture, sending up nothing but sour grass, unwholesome herbage, and weeds; is it wise or economical to be mowing, year after year, the heterogeneous and noxious growth of such an acid, damp and ill-conditioned piece of ground—wasting time and labor in curing such a product? And then the folly of calling it hay, and cheating the poor dumb animals, who know it is not hay, but will reject it, except compelled through sheer starvation to eat it; and if they should eat it, in the shape of hay or pasture, are sure to sink their calves, or take disease in different forms from such unwholesome, poisonous provender. Would it not be better economy, cheaper and more profitable, to ditch and drain such land, even at the expense of weeks' or months' time and labor—correct its acidity by a good dressing of lime or ashes, after it has been drained, and realize the profits and advantages of wholesome, sweet hay, and of rich and nutritious pasture of white clover, blue or green grass, that will tell profitably in the fine condition of the cattle, their beef, milk and butter? Will not every good farmer—and I doubt not but there are many such present—agree with me, that the greatest waste of time and labor is that bestowed hastily and sparingly upon farm land. Want of time, want of means, are the ever ready excuses of the negligent, the slovenly and unthrifty. They have not time to clean the cattle or stables—they have not time to secure the manure, or keep the manure heap in order—they have not time to put the implements in their proper places out of the weather, nor to mend the gearings, the wagons, &c., until, by neglect and exposure, rust and decay, they are beyond repairing—in short, they never have time to do anything well—are always doing too much, and never doing anything as it should be done!

Another prevailing error is, the proneness to till or cultivate too much land, where the article is plenty and cheap. To cut out too much work at seeding is a dangerous practice, and is sure to end in waste and disappointment in harvesting. Better, by far, to measure the breadth of land to be seeded by the means certain, the number of hands available, with proper allowance for contingencies of bad weather, so that all that is seeded has a fair chance of being gathered and securely harvested. Would it not be well to reflect how dis-

proportioned is the scanty crop, taken from a large breadth of ill-prepared land, to the labor of ploughing, harrowing, hauling, spreading, with the quantity of seed wasted on such a space? And would it not be better to break up less land, affording it a chance of being well manured—abridging the labor, and reaping an abundant crop—leaving so much of the land, at least, in such order as one need not be ashamed afterwards to meet its reproachful looks, in the beggarly uniform dress of briars, thistles, dock and mullen, that cover it, as rags patched together may serve to cover the nakedness of the sluggard, but unerringly reveal his unhealthy, poverty stricken condition!

To exemplify the mistake of running over too much land, a little farther, let us suppose ninety acres devoted to the barbarous inflictions of skinning and starvation, compared to thirty acres, treated with civilized skill and christian generosity, and see how these two pieces of ground, individualizing them, will work for their owners. Or, suppose we say nine acres and three acres. Nine acres say in with wheat, with only about as much manure as would be sufficient for three acres. Ploughing, hauling on manure and spreading it, over so large a space, seeding and harvesting, would cost eighty dollars. Then suppose twelve bushels to the acre—more than an average of half the grain growers in this, or I might say any other State in the Union—equal to one hundred and eight bushels, at one dollar per bushel, is one hundred and eight dollars; from which deduct cost of labor, &c., eighty dollars, leaving twenty-eight dollars to be passed to the credit of the nine acre patch—a fraction over three dollars per acre for the use of the land and manure. Is not this a poor rent or interest Mr. Nine Acres has made for his owner? But little as it is, I could easily show it to be “beautifully less,” as wags sometimes say; nay, instead of the paltry balance shown by the figures, *prove* that he has made a loss—if you will excuse the bull—by the condition in which he left the land after growing this wretched crop. Now let us see what Mr. Three Acres has done? Why he has made forty bushels to the acre, equal one hundred and twenty bushels, at one dollar per bushel as above, is one hundred and twenty dollars; from which deduct proportionate expenses, say twenty-seven dollars, we have a balance of ninety-three dollars to place to the credit of the three acres—equal to thirty-one dollars per acre; but this is not all, the fine heart the land is left in, with the heavy crops of grass which may be expected to follow,

maintaining its rateable superiority, for a series of years ever after, over the nine acres, must be taken into account also. In making this comparison, much detail has been omitted that may be supplied by any one conversant with the capacity of the soil, when properly tested, my object being to shadow forth the advantages of the close, earnest and common-sense practice, in reference to producing, and keeping land in proper condition, and the disadvantages of the loose, thriftless, unmeaning plan of working and seeding, to reap nothing but disappointment and poverty.

Though raising of grain may not be considered a profitable business, at present prices and a distant market, yet even under these circumstances, if forty bushels of wheat and eighty bushels of corn can be raised to the acre, with oats and roots in proportion, there can be little doubt but such crops would be highly remunerative. The farmer who has the intelligence, spirit and perseverance to pursue a rational course of cropping and culture, can, on ordinary good land, realize these yields, while he will find the value of his land increasing and increased. It is pleasant to contemplate the position of such an one, with well filled barns, fertile fields, and fine flocks and herds, constituting a capital that places him in the enviable rank of a wealthy, independent Pennsylvania Farmer!

Now it requires no witchcraft, or science, so called, to produce such results; all that is required is the intelligence to judge between a good and a bad practice, and the resolution to adopt the one and avoid the other—to discriminate between a ridiculous theory, and a rational system founded on facts and observation; between old prejudices and new notions; adopting those that bear the genuine impress of utility, and rejecting those that are mere counterfeits, of which there are so many put into circulation of late, that it might be supposed some new Pandora's Box had been opened, specially to torment, fleece and plague poor farmers! We of the old school—the old guard—are generally found well fortified against the attacks of the Magicians and Don Quixottes of Improvement run mad; though some of us, to my certain knowledge, have been badly taken in. But there is as much danger in resisting innovation too obstinately, as there is in yielding too easily;—much improvement has been made of late years in farm Implements, and many excellent theories advanced by men of undoubted skill and science, and much valuable information diffused by the Agricultural Press; whilst the dignity of farming as a profession is of more general acceptance

with the community than it formerly was. In fact, it is somewhat fashionable now-a-days to be considered an Agriculturist, theoretical or practical—a patron or a promoter of the science of Rural Economy; and I am right glad of it, but then this popular excitement has its drawbacks, in the swarms of Professors and Patentees who are loud in their professions and desires to serve the cause, in selling you an implement or machine that will work of itself, or a fertilizer that will save you the trouble of cleaning the stables, or keeping a nasty dung-heap; a pamphlet that will instruct you to select a good milk cow by the cut of her hair—a Lecturer that will unfold all the mysteries of Vegetable Physiology in a single lecture, provided you give him a dollar *and promise to keep his secret*—a Rural Architect, who will construct you a “Cataract Barn” as superb as a Crystal Palace, that with steam will do the threshing, grinding, milling, creaming, churning, pressing, washing and cooking—turn the mangers and troughs into crystal rivulets, whereat the horses, cattle, sheep and swine may drink while reposing in their pens and stables—provided the mischievous “Jack Frost,” on some winter night, don’t turn the “cataract” into huge icicles, and the milk into ice-cream *without* the appliance of potato starch. A Professor, who will teach you Scientific Agriculture, including chemistry, botany, geology, zoology, and all the ologies, with some of the *isms*, who, while teaching, will be hard put to it to “learn himself to spell” in the common Primer or Rudiments of Clodhopperism! Such are a few of the novelties of fashionable Agriculture, or Rural Economy—the excrecences rather, or fungi developments that at this time characterise the March of Agricultural Improvement. But the experience that teaches burnt children to dread the fire, will lead to more caution and prudence for the future, and place Quackery and Humbuggery at a discount, so far as Agriculture is concerned.

It strikes me that Graizing might be carried on to some advantage in your county; indeed, there are few localities in Pennsylvania in which it might not be profitably conducted to some extent, at least, if not as a leading business. There is no department in our husbandry, to our shame may it be spoken, more neglected than this; our culture and tillage will bear a comparison with any other State in the Union, but in the quality of our cattle we fall short of several of our sister States. This should not be; it is incumbent upon us—nay, a duty we owe to ourselves and the community at large, that we should remedy this glaring defect. It is, indeed, a reproach that

our fine farms should exhibit such meagre, paltry herds as so generally disgrace them; not one in fifty of these cattle, if stalled to feed, would repay the cost of forcing it into condition fit to slaughter. By dint of long and high feeding, some tallow might be produced, but it would be vain to expect a good rib or loin of beef from such an animal, no matter how long it might be fed. The offal will be in undue proportion to the meat, and the feeder will be made to feel, as he computes the diminution of his corn-crib with the increase to his purse, how unprofitable an operation he had on hand. Suppose we look a little closer into the folly of losing time and money in this way. Land, time and labor constitute the capital of the farmer, and should he not, like the merchant, turn his capital to the best account? The grass, corn and oats are the products of the land, time and labor; and if these “don’t pay,” as the phrase is, when sold at market, should he not think of some other mode of turning them into cash that will make them pay better? He concludes, then, to feed these products to cattle on the farm, to be driven to market; if so, should he be content to feed the ill-shaped, bony, ravenous tribe that are never satisfied, and never show any proof of having denuded the fields and emptied the cribs? If he do, he will find out to his cost, that he will have gone to the worst market he could possibly have resorted to, and be made to realize the bitter fruits of having begun wrong. Every grazier, especially in such a region as this, should raise the cattle that he intends to feed, because he cannot feel the same confidence, in having through purchase secured the properties suited to his purpose, as he could have, if he had bred them from reliable sires and dams upon his own farm. As well might the vegetable gardener rely upon seeds raised at a distance, by others, as the grazier can depend upon the young cattle picked up indiscriminately by the drovers for sale. If, then, the grazier resort to breeding, the question naturally presents itself, which is the most profitable breed? This question I shall attempt to answer.

The cattle most relied upon by breeders, in Great Britain and Ireland, for feeding, are the Short-Horns or Improved Durhams, and the Herefords. The North Devons claim some consideration in this respect. The milking properties of these, and some other breeds, will be considered presently.

The stately Durhams, the familiar name of the Short-Horns, owe much of their perfect forms to the great care bestowed upon them

by the perseverance, skill and judgment of English breeders, who spared neither time nor money in refining upon them, so as to mould them in size and form to suit their ideas of perfection—imbuing them at the same time with the ease, gentleness, and sluggishness, I might say, so necessary to early maturing, easy feeding and good handling; these properties, however, necessarily followed, as the result of the form, symmetry and constitution they were made, as it were, to take, by the artists who fashioned them; hence they were held as the paragons of the cattle tribe; and, it may be said, that in all the disputations touching their superiority, and there were many, prompted too often either by jealousy or prejudice, the palm of rivalry in size and early maturing of the Short-Horns was never seriously contested. The judgment of the present day is decidedly in favor of the Durhams.

The Herefords, as grazing cattle, take the next rank, in my opinion, to the Short-Horns. Though but little known in this country, they are of high repute with English graziers, and have more frequently, I believe, come in close competition, at Smithfield and the cattle-shows, with the Durhams, than any other breed. Why they are not more frequently to be met with here is matter of surprise, except it be that the few imported at first were held at prices as high as the Durhams, whose celebrity was previously established, and engrossed the attention of those who had the spirit and patriotism to pay a generous price for a good animal; the Herefords, therefore, were neglected. From what I have seen of them—and when I had the opportunity of seeing them, I examined them with more than ordinary attention—I considered them good feeders, more capable of enduring the rough and tumble system that prevails here than the aristocratic Short-Horns.

The North Devons are also a favorite breed in England, and, of late years, have attracted considerable attention in this country; they are a beautiful race, and exhibit a neatness and compactness that cannot fail to please a practised eye. In size and early maturing they fall short of either the Herefords or Durhams. I have seen, however, many large fat bullocks claimed to be Devons, or essentially so, but they were generally some eight or more years old, and must have consumed more feed than was compatible with profitable feeding. In New England, the Common or South Devons are numerous, and, to my apprehension, a more profitable cattle than the North Devons. The distinction between these varieties is, that

the North Devon is neater and of a deeper red than the South or Common Devon; but where the object is to have the largest and easiest fed cattle, a shade of difference in color can be of no importance. The animal that will fatten soonest, and make the most beef at the least expense, should fix the grazier's choice. These Devons are the most appropriate for crossing with the Durhams of any breed I am acquainted with; indeed, I have never seen the result otherwise than advantageous in lifting the Devon to a higher standard. The Durham should never, if possible, be made to stoop lower than this, in view of producing a proper effect. A memorable instance of the judiciousness of such a cross was exemplified in the ox "Pennsylvania," an eight year old, slaughtered at Philadelphia, in 1841, whose live weight was three thousand three hundred and fifty pounds—dead weight of the four quarters, two thousand three hundred and eighty-eight pounds. The whole animal, when alive, showed unmistakably the characteristics of the two breeds from which he was derived, and, when dead, evinced no less the advantages of the cross in the quality of the beef, it being so finely marbled with fat and lean—a characteristic essentially Durham; this breed being more prone to distribute the fat thus than stow it away in a corner, as suet, or lay it on the outside, to be melted down for the tallow chandler's use.

Having slightly glanced at the breeds best adapted to the stall, I shall say a word now on their milking qualities; and in doing this shall introduce two other breeds, namely, the Ayreshires and Alderneys. These two breeds are well known, and are of much repute for the dairy. If the milking property alone was of such value as to compensate for the want of the feeding property we have been considering, it might be a primary object with the farmer to secure it at the sacrifice of the feeding property; but then this is not, nor ever can be, the case with farmers in general. Especially in rural districts, far from market, the milk property, as compared with the beef, is of secondary importance. In and near cities, where the milkmen stimulate the cows with still slops and other unwholesome food, and milk the poor animals to death, the quantity of fluid—it can hardly be called milk—that can be extracted from them, is the only thing worth looking at, according to the sage opinion of these worthies. But farmers, even in dairy districts, should know that the cow that will give the most milk, and, when dry, is easiest to be fed off, is, by all odds, the most profitable animal for their use.

This being admitted, the question is in which of the breeds are best blended the two properties of milk and beef? I answer, unhesitatingly, the Improved Short-Horns and Ayreshires—while it must be admitted that this combination may be found in animals of other breed, or of no distinct breed, but this depends upon individual constitutional qualities not common to the whole family. The Short-Horns and Ayreshires assimilate more in disposition and properties than any other two breeds; they exhibit in common the composure, love of ease and rest, so well calculated, in Ruminants, to insure the most profitable results in milking and feeding.

That the large and seemingly overgrown Short Horn or Durham should be a great milker, may seem paradoxical to some persons, but ask them why, and they never can give a rational answer. Their great length, breadth and depth can surely not deny to them the lactescent property of the cow; and if this bulk be composed of the material proper to make milk and butter, does it not follow that the more there is of the material, the more can be extracted from it? And, is it not likely, that in proportion to the great amount of the material, Nature has, in like proportion, endowed the animal with the organs necessary to provide for the suckling of its young, or artificially to dispense to the human family its wholesome and nutritious milk? Who will be so bold as to deny that the structure or organs of the "Improved Durham" are not only excellent, but unsurpassed? Can their great health and fine constitution militate against their milking? Surely not. Let one of them have twins, or two calves put to her, and then mark how her great strength and constitution will stand their attacks and supply their cravings! Prejudice has been maintained and urged against the Durhams in Pennsylvania, through the envy and jealousy of some, who, not having the spirit to aid in supplying the country with fine cattle, at high prices, were wanting in generosity to those who from time to time attempted it, and who failed only long since to have accomplished it through a worse than "dog and manger policy," waged against them. Their motives were impugned, their cattle stigmatised and depreciated, their losses and disappointments were made subjects of ribald jest and provoking ridicule. False standards were set up by these selfish, prejudiced men; improvement halted, if it did not retrograde, and the Commonwealth was cheated out of the patriotic offerings of her devoted citizens. To the malign influence referred to, may be ascribed the wretched character of the cattle

that disgrace Pennsylvania at the present day. Travel where you may, the eye in vain seeks for a creditable specimen. It is my belief, take them in the aggregate, throwing out the few Durhams, there is not one in ten of them would make 6 cwt. of beef, and which would not be hazardous to eat, from constitutional defects, or from the ill treatment it had been subjected to from its unfeeling owner. Contrast this with Kentucky and Ohio, even Virginia and New York, and may we not blush, as an Agricultural State, at our destitution? How many thousands of dollars, perhaps millions, have we not paid to Kentucky and Ohio for the splendid droves of cattle which they have supplied us with—and of what breed are they? Why, anything of a judge could tell at a long-shot distance they were essentially Durham. Let a Philadelphian, or any one from the eastern counties of Pennsylvania, go to Ohio and Kentucky, and inquire of the Rennicks, the Clays, &c., why they import so many young short-horn bulls and heifers, at such high prices, and they will be provoked to laugh at him for coming so far to put the question, when he could have had it answered at or nearer home by looking in at the Philadelphia Drove-yard, or inquiring of one of the Philadelphia butchers. But I find I am at the shambles when I should be at the dairy.

What helped to give weight to the opinion, if not its origin, that the Short Horns were bad for milk was, that those who mainly bred and prized them in England, set but little value upon their milking, compared to their feeding properties. The Heifer with her first calf was neglected, she had no milker but the calf, and when it was removed she went dry, for want of the necessary attention to milking and keeping her milk veins in proper use. How then could a Heifer thus treated, whether Durham or any other breed, prove a good milker? Then if any cow, while being at the pail, was shipped to this country, the irregularity of milking on shipboard was sufficient to break in upon her habit of milking ever after. Does not every Dairy-man know this? And because these did not exhibit on their arrival, or ever after, large and distended udders, and prove deep and enduring milkers, was it just to stigmatize the whole breed as worthless for the Dairy? Besides, the importations for Ohio and Kentucky were made with no view of obtaining milk, yet these were disingenuously referred to, to swell and confirm the senseless charge that was sweepingly made against the Durhams.

Col. John Hare Powell, to his credit may it be spoken, made every effort to counteract these prejudices. For a series of years he im-

ported Improved Short Horns from the stock of Mr. Whitaker, who had taken great pains to develope and establish their milking properties, and was eminently successful. Mr. Prentice, Mr. Sheaffe and Mr. Lenox, of New York, had their cattle from Mr. Whitaker, and these were good milkers and fine handlers. Mr. Lenox's cow, "Red Lady," was the most beautiful animal I ever saw, except my celebrated "Dairy Maid," which was also bred by Mr. Whitaker. Colonel Wolbert, of Philadelphia, owned a beautiful Durham, called "Isabella," she was second to none for deep milking, but Dairy Maid. Mr. Dennis Kelly's imported bull, "Prince of Wales," was of Col. Powell's importation, and ten years experience has proved him to have been unrivalled in getting superior milk stock; while in size, symmetry and fine handling, he seldom found a competitor. In the herds of Lewis F. Allen, Black Rock, Oak Sherwood, of Auburn, Mr. Vail, of Troy, Mr. Morris, of Morrisania, and in the herds of several others of New York, great milkers were ever found; Mr. Canby, of Delaware, had also fine Durhams; among them, his cow Blossom—a great milker. Mr. Calvert, of Maryland, has had much experience in Durham stock and appreciates them highly; it was mainly owing to his enterprise and liberality, I think, that the short horns were introduced to such an extent into Maryland. Mr. Evans, of York, Pennsylvania, owns a fine herd of Durhams, of good milking properties, the same that deservedly attracted so much attention at the State Agricultural Exhibition at Harrisburg. He now holds the rank as a breeder, which the Messrs. Smalls did some years since, and they in this respect were the successors of the late venerated Charles A. Barnitz, of same place. Joseph Cope, Paschal Morris, Mr. Bolmar, and some others of Chester county, did much towards the introduction of the Durhams, and consequent improvement of the cattle in that quarter. George Cadwalader and Thomas P. Remington, of Philadelphia, are now in the full tide of progress with valuable herds of short horns, procured from every reliable source within their reach; may they be successful, and never be made to feel the vexations that beset the path of their predecessors.

The Ayreshires stand next to the Durhams in milking, and this I consider high praise. It has been remarked by some one—the author I do not recollect—that the Ayreshires could lay but little claim to a remote origin or distinctiveness of breed. Be this as it may, I cannot perceive the force of the objection; if, from careful

breeding, even of late years, they have been made to exhibit peculiar or uniform points and properties by which they may now be designated. Can we suppose that any other of the crack breeds were, a century back, precisely the same in form and quality as they are now? To think so, would be but paying a poor compliment to the generations that have passed away since then, if they had thus been unmindful of improving the breeds of cattle in their day; and it would be somewhat criminal in us if we do not attempt to improve them further still. I have also heard it said that the cross of a Durham and Devon would be equivalent to an Ayreshire—this I strongly doubt, unless a Devon dam could be found, having the same disposition and quality of milking that are usually found with the Ayreshires. As to the milking properties of the Herefords, I can say nothing from my own experience or observation, having had but few opportunities of even seeing them, and when I had, my attention was exclusively directed to their grazing qualities, of which, as I have already stated, I formed a very favorable opinion. The next breed in order are the Devons. In passing upon these as milkers, I feel a degree of hesitancy that even my frankness cannot wholly overcome, because time will not permit me to adduce the reasons and proofs I could bring forward in support of the opinion I have formed of them, and in the absence of these, the hasty glance I must needs take of them, and the conclusions I must arrive at, will, by many, be considered as partial and unwarranted.

Fair dairy cattle no doubt may be found among the common Devons of New England, where, and in Western New York, they form by far the greatest portion of the cattle used in the butter and cheese dairies. Now this, of itself, is no proof that they are better milkers than the common, native or mixed cattle, which, if found of same size and constitution, would equal, if not surpass, the New England Devons in giving milk and making butter; yet, although this may be the case, there may be peculiar qualities in the Devon's milk that may be more profitable or better adapted to cheese making than the milk of some other cattle, and of this I have but little doubt—add to this the hardihood and activity of the Devon, fitting it for the severe climate of New England, and you have the solution of the preference given to them by the dairymen of the Northern States. But I do contend that, even among these Devons but few, if any, can be found that can lay claim to the deep milking so frequently found among our red and white, black and brindle-colored

tribe of native cattle. If this be the case, as I firmly believe it to be, even with the common Devons as milkers, the pure North Devons fall still farther below a medium milking standard, for it is observable that the greatest promise of milk in the Devons is to be found with those that are largest and lightest of color.

The North Devons are a beautiful, healthy, hardy breed of cattle, and must have formed a distinct breed or race at a much earlier period than any other of the favorite breeds of the present day. Nature has impressed them with characteristics more distinctly and deeply than other breeds. Their tenacity in retaining their color, temper and tractableness, is truly remarkable; you might as well think of rubbing out "Indian," in the Aborigines of our forests, as to think of wholly merging "Devon" in other races. It is owing to this, no doubt, more than to any special care by the New England farmers, that the red cattle of that region have, for so long a period, retained their characteristic distinctiveness. The North Devons make the best working cattle of any breed; if this be so—and I believe it cannot be gainsaid—the activity, thews and sinews, and bone, that place them next to the horse for endurance and spirit, must deny to them, in a considerable degree, the disposition and qualities essential to constitute good milkers. Working and milking properties I hold to be incompatible in the same animal.

Of all the cattle under review, I consider the Alderneys to be the most unprofitable for the farmer; because they are undersized, ill-formed, and such hard feeders, that it is impossible to get beef on them; and as to milk, it seems anomalous that they should hold the rank in this respect so generally conceded to them, except it can be traced to some freak of fashion that, as is too often the case, puts both judgment and propriety at defiance. The cry is they give rich milk and make yellow butter—so does almost every hide-bound, rickety cow, that may be picked up along the lanes or roadside, give rich or thick milk, chiefly *because she gives so little*, and, by consequence, that little will make more cream than a similar quantity would of milk taken from a twenty to thirty quart a day cow; but in the twenty quarts would there not likely be as much, if not more, butter than could be produced from the eight to ten quarts a day animal? If so, then we have the same quantity of butter, with the addition of double the quantity of milk—an item not to be overlooked—besides, we have that which is much better, a fine, healthy, large animal, that when it will be proper to feed off, will show some

proof of the food she consumed in her beef and tallow. To compare this fine, healthy animal to the goat-a-kin thing called Alderney, would be ridiculous! The straw-color of the butter of the Alderneys, so much boasted, is no proof of its excellence. The yellow, tinged with rose, is a more inviting and desirable color (evinced delicacy of flavor and richness, and giving assurance of the good health of the cow and suitableness of the feed she had,) than the straw-color can convey to our apprehension. To test the richness of the milk of the cows referred to, let two calves of same age, size, &c., be provided, one to be put to suckle at the Alderney, the other at the large twenty quart a day cow, and then see, in the course of five or six weeks, which calf will thrive more and make the better veal. This would be a fair common-sense test, for the result of which I should have no fears. Remember, I speak of Alderneys that are thorough Alderneys, not those that have had a chance game of admixture of blood for generations. Most of those to be met with have scarcely a vestige left of the Alderneys, except the high rump—the muscle, cheek and shanks hardly traceable—therefore, if a round-ribbed, plump animal, with something of a shoulder, a good fore-arm and straight limb, be presented to you, though she be of a dun or mouse color, class her as an "*Improved Alderney*"—improved, no matter of what other breed soever it has been derived. In habit, constitution, size, milking and feeding, the Alderneys are all unfit for a farmer.

If in treating of cattle I have not already consumed too much time, I should like to say a word as to the bad treatment Milk cows are but too frequently subjected to in almost every place; a treatment as unwise as it is cruel. If it were confined to cities, where the poor animals are drugged with still slops and other unnatural food, by milkmen, so called, to excite the cows to yield undue quantities of what they call milk, I would not think it necessary to refer to it here; but the cruel and improper treatment of cows is not confined to cities alone—go where you will you are sure to be shocked at the scenes of suffering and neglect these patient animals are made to endure, whether on commons, farms, stables or yards. If driven out after milking, or brought home to be milked, they never fail of being run, whipped or cudgelled by some unfeeling boy, who seems to think it part of his duty to deal them as many blows as he can while within his reach. Then but too often follow the blows of the milker, should the poor animals wince under the pres-

sure on teats, lacerated perhaps by thorns, or made sore from other causes. No wonder that this treatment, with scantiness of food and sometimes of water, reduces the cows to the wretched condition in which they are but too often found in every quarter. Set a farm hand to clean the cow stable daily, to curry and brush the cows, and he will be apt to think you a fool, or that you mean to degrade him—if he comply, it will be with reluctance, and it is quite likely that he will take more out of their hides, or put more into them, than you bargained for. Ask the same worthy to groom your horse, and he will not fail to do it cheerfully. Why this prejudice, this folly? Does not the cow stand in a more interesting relation to us than the horse? He works for us and carries us, to be sure, but then do we partake of his flesh and blood while living, in the shape of milk, butter and cheese? and do we slaughter him for beef when we suppose him failing in strength? No. Well, then, why is not the same attention paid to the cleanliness and health of the cow as is bestowed upon the horse? The same care that produces so fine a condition in the one, could not fail of having the same effect upon the other—and I say that it is the height of folly, and positive injustice to ourselves, to withhold those attentions from the cow. She is a second wet nurse to us and our children, and if this nurse be in ill health, will not her milk, cream and butter be imbued with her condition? Would we be willing to eat of the flesh of some of those wretchedly poor animals if they were slaughtered? And why should we not feel the same repugnance to use their milk? Let us be more careful in feeding these useful animals properly, keeping them comfortable and clean, and in good, healthy condition.

I have dwelt longer upon this matter, perhaps, than you may think its importance required, but regarding this as likely to become a Dairy as well as a Grazing District, I could not but deal with it fully, in a spirit of justice to you, and in humanity to the patient and much abused animal, upon whose condition so much of your and your children's health depends.

The cheapest and most economical way of producing a valuable stock, would be, to procure a thorough-bred young short-horn bull from some reliable breeder. Introduce him to none but the finest cows and heifers you have or can provide, of the common or mixed breed—indeed, all undersized, ill-conditioned animals on the farm should be removed at once. After having used this bull two years, or when his own produce shall have grown, let him be exchanged for

another of equal purity of blood; and when he shall have served his two years, let him be likewise removed. At this juncture, say after six years, how much would a herd of some thirty head be worth under such management? Why, it would not be unreasonable to suppose them worth \$2500 to \$3000. How much would the herd have been worth supposing the thorough-bred short-horn bull had not been introduced? Perhaps not \$600.

From what has been said on breeds and qualities of cattle, you may determine by your own good sense assisting, what description of cattle is best adapted to your condition, but let me entreat you to select the best individuals to breed from, of whatever class, whether common, grade or distinct, and always aim at breeding up, but never down to a lower grade. Do not let your best calves go to the butcher, but the worst. If you thus begin and persevere, you will promote your own individual interests, confer credit upon your country, and at the same time add to the agricultural wealth of Pennsylvania.

I can say but little from experience, even if time would allow, upon Sheep Husbandry. The annoyances from noise, bustle and dogs on the borders of a city, where my farm lies, rendered the keeping of sheep impracticable. This I regretted, for I should have been delighted with so interesting, and to my mind so profitable a branch of husbandry. Wool-growing is of vast importance to the country, and like every other branch of industry, he who studies it most, and practises it best, will reap the richest reward, and be entitled to the highest professional distinction.

Peter A. Browne, Esq., of Philadelphia, a gentleman of great research and untiring perseverance, has of late years devoted much of his time and talents to the subject of Hair and Wool; the breeds of sheep, the importance of breeding and crossing as affecting the quality of long or hair wool, and short or felt wool. It is, as illustrated by Mr. Browne, one of the most curious and interesting works that has been brought before the public of late, and which none but a mind such as his could have so minutely explored and elucidated. The work should be in the hands of every wool grower. Much credit is due to its gifted author, for the able effort he has made to enlarge the boundaries of useful knowledge.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I take occasion to say, that it would have been to me a more easy, and by far a more pleasing task, to

have spoken of agriculture and its attendants, in a different strain from that indicated by the undissembled remarks I have had the honor to make before you. There is no man, who appreciates more than I do, the beautiful in Nature and Art, that lies within the bounds of the Husbandman's interesting vocation, or who can drink deeper of the inspiration that may be quaffed from the perennial fountain the seasons supply, to tempt or satisfy the eye and heart. There is not a fine tree, shrub or flower; hedge, field or lawn, but blooms or presents to my eye more than common delight and attraction. I am no less a votary of Ceres, than I am a worshipper in the temple of Flora.—And who that know me, and have witnessed my habits and pursuits for years, but must admit, that I have shown myself to be a faithful and zealous laborer within the domain—the charmed circle, of these Divinities! Notwithstanding all these habits and predilections, I chose, while addressing you, the rugged, rather than the flowery path; to aim at the useful rather than the ornamental—to expose, rather than to gloss over defects—to risk censure for the sake of truth, rather than gain applause by pandering to a morbid taste, or bolstering a vicious system!

Too much of this plating and gilding is apparent of late. Men who never tilled a piece of land, planted a tree, raised or exhibited an animal in all their lives, are now, by false coloring and idle pretension, transformed into Tulls and Lowdons—leaders at Agricultural Clubs and Societies, where their twattle and professions pass frequently for sense and experience, with those that know no better. Some of these are ever displaying their operations over a vast and boundless field; while others of them are busy at cutting out work in the Moon or in the "Isle of Sky." To use an old "salt" or sailor's expression descriptive of a fresh water sailor, "they are always found in everybody's mess but in nobody's 'watch.'" The end of all this will be, if not timely checked, that the true Disciples of Improvement will become lukewarm when they see the position assumed by mere professors and pretenders. The masses, or rank and file, that have just been clearing their eyes for a reading spell, will pitch their books, like phisic, to the dogs—the subscriptions to the Agricultural journals will diminish till, ere long, there will not be patronage sufficient to maintain, as is the case in Pennsylvania, a respectable periodical. In other words, when Agriculture finds such *things* sitting on and under his skirts, he will, in his strength

or madness, jump out of his coat entirely, choosing rather to be coatless than to furnish a garb or covering for moon-shine philosophers and Pangloss professors.

Do not, I pray you, think me a seeker of adventure or renown, in combating abuses; but, on the contrary, let me assure you that there is nothing of the Knight Errant in my whole composition. To the many calls that have been made upon me to come forth from my pleasant retreat, to take the field in the way you have marshalled me, I have ever made refusal, except on one occasion, not very long since, at Lancaster; and, if I shall be permitted to consult my own taste and inclination, henceforward, this will be the last time I shall serve the cause in the manner I consented to *serve* it, at your special instance and prompting—if, indeed, I *have served* the cause, and at the same time, gentlemen, obliged you, I shall feel amply recompensed for the effort now ended.

**End of
Title**