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THE STATE AGRICULTURAL FAIR,

HELD AT ROCHESTER

On the 19th, 20th, and 21st days of Sept., 1843.

Reported for The New-York Tribune.

The Fair of the New-York State Agricultural Society held at Rochester on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week, was one of the most interesting exhibitions of the kind ever witnessed in this country. Not less than 30,000 persons were in attendance, and they were almost all Farmers of the Western portion of the Empire State. The proceedings, throughout, were of the most interesting and enthusiastic character; and we have great pleasure in laying before our readers a full and accurate report of all that was done and said of any importance, including the great speech of DANIEL WEBSTER and the shorter addresses of Ex-President VAN BUREN, Ex-Governor SEWARD, Hon. FRANCIS GRANGER, and other eminent statesmen who were present, in advance of any other paper in the United States, with the exception, perhaps, of one at Rochester.

We left New-York on Monday evening in the splendid steamboat KNICKERBOCKER: and owing to a heavy fog upon the river and the low state of the water, did not arrive at Albany until half-past 7 on Tuesday morning—of course much too late for the morning Westward train of cars.—This accident, which proved to be only the first of a series, detained us in Albany until half-past 1. The railroad advertisements promised to carry passengers to Buffalo in 25 hours, and to Rochester in about 18: how well this promise, so fair to the ear, was fulfilled, a chronicle of our progress will explain. From Albany to Utica there was comparatively but little cause of complaint; and this was rather occasioned in spite of strenuous exertion to prevent it than through any wilful neglect. We reached Utica only about an hour behind the time advertised, namely at 8 on Tuesday evening. Leaving that city between 9 and 10, we reached Syracuse at 3 in the morning—making 60 miles in a little less than six hours!—But this was good speed compared with that which followed. From Syracuse to Auburn the distance is 26 miles, and over this we were FIVE HOURS in passing! Many of the passengers walked part of the way and easily kept pace with the cars. The train of cars was unusually heavy, as the agent had reasons to suppose it would be: and with admirable prudence they put upon the road their *lightest* engine.

Reaching Auburn at 9 on Wednesday morning, we were told that the Westward train had gone and we could not leave until 10 o'clock. Ten o'clock came and the conductors were then waiting for the next train from the East, which reached us at half past 11. Putting both trains together, making 30 cars loaded with about 400 people, they gave us an engine of only moderate power and proceeded Westward at a rate of about 9 miles an hour. We reached Rochester, 77 miles distant, at 8 in the evening, more than 30 hours after the time of leaving Albany. This same thing occurs every day: and we cannot forbear warning every traveler Westward not for one moment to be deceived by the handbills which are scattered throughout the country by the Railroad agents, making promises which they never put forth a successful effort to fulfil.

We reached Rochester at the conclusion of the second day of the Fair. We are not able to present to-day, for lack of room, any catalogue of the exhibition, though we shall publish hereafter a list of the prizes awarded. As our heavy train entered the *depot* at Rochester we saw that the great supper, at which more than 1200 persons had been seated, was just over; and the speaking had just commenced. Six long tables were extended through the whole length of that great building, which was densely crowded in every part; the tables, the cars, and every thing upon which a standing place could be obtained were completely covered, and the greatest noise and confusion prevailed throughout. A band of music was stationed in some distant portion of the building, entirely beyond the control of the officers, which played, apparently, whenever they felt disposed—more frequently than at any other time during the speeches.

JAMES S. WADSWORTH Esq. presided over the meeting. He had just arisen to address the vast multitude present—some of them standing upon the tables, others upon the floor and thousands mounted upon the cars that yet kept their places. Mr. WEBSTER had hardly reached his room when he was waited upon by a Committee and conducted to a seat just opposite Ex-President VAN BUREN who was sitting at the right of Mr. WADSWORTH. As Mr. Webster came forward he was greeted with the loud and long continued applause of the immense mass.

Mr. WADSWORTH, in his opening remarks, alluded to the peculations, the frauds and defalcations by which the past few years had been marked, and expressed the hope that they had arisen mainly from the collapse of a detestably abused system of credit. He asked when this was to be arrested—and he said he asked it with no little anxiety, when he observed that men deficient in all the requisites for the station took the lead in public affairs, and when even the highest sanctions of religion were made the cloak for the concealment of crime. He turned, he said, with a proud faith to the farmers of the country—to the laboring millions who were seeking competence by industry—not wealth by speculation. When he recollected that 3,700,000 of our people are engaged in the pursuits of Agriculture, while 117,000 only were in Commercial and 800,000 in Manufacturing pursuits, he was led to ask himself if this preponderance of numbers did not indicate the great influence of the laboring classes. He expressed the belief, moreover, that the politicians of the country, in giving attention to the Tariff regulations, allowed too much relative weight to the interests of Manufacturers, in forgetfulness of the facts to which he had referred. He spoke farther of the great importance of the Agricultural interest and then alluded to the State Election of last year. He said he rejoiced that the people had elected to the first office in their gift a Practical Farmer. (Cheers, hisses and cries of 'no politics.') He did not intend, he went on to say, to allude to political matters, but he could not help thinking that the fact to which he had alluded was one on which he might properly congratulate the great body of farmers then assembled. He said that it was noticeable, moreover, that every one who had been elected to the Chief Executive station in the Union had sought peace and quiet in retirement in the peaceful pursuits of agriculture; and he was happy to find that their illustrious guest (Mr. Van Buren) in this had followed their example. (Cheers.)

After he had concluded his remarks, Mr. VAN BUREN addressed the meeting:—

Gentlemen, said he, I should be doing injustice as well to you, as to my own feelings, did I omit to express my sincere gratitude for the respect it has pleased you to evince towards me this evening:—first, to the members of this Society for doing me the honor to ask my presence on this occasion, and next to you for the cordial, sincere and friendly manner in which you have been pleased to distinguish my appearance. It is for this purpose, and this only, that I rise—to make to you this acknowledgement—to return my sincere and unfeigned thanks for the honor you have conferred. It has been an object, one principal object of my life—a constant and abiding object, to pursue the *useful* rather than the *showy* part: to do all in my power to promote public objects when I can do it beneficially.

On the present occasion for me to submit practical observations on farming to the immense body of farmers by which I am surrounded would be an inexcusable departure from this rule—as useless, too, as to "carry coals to Newcastle." I am wholly incompetent to give you instruction upon this subject. But it will not be inconsistent nor improper for me to express the high gratification which I have derived from the exhibitions of this day. I was indeed expecting much, knowing the character of this State, its character for temperance, for morality, for intelligence and industry: and I had expected an exhibition which would do honor to any portion of the country. I knew too that I was coming to a section of the country distinguished above every other in the State—above every other, I may say, in the union. My expectations were therefore high: but it affords me pleasure to say that these expectations have been more than realized: that you have had an Exhibition of which every American citizen may well be proud—an exhibition of which every citizen of the State may be proud, and especially of which every *Western farmer* may well be proud. (Cheers.)

Of the particulars of this exhibition, gentlemen, it is not my province, nor am I competent to speak. I will therefore advert to but one branch of it—and that is the exhibition of the fruits of the handiwork of the fair daughters of this section of the country. (Cheers.) It is right that we should thus begin by offering our gratitude to those who possess our hearts. I do then say, and I say it with a heart full of affection, that no man can witness the exhibition of these fruits of their labor, their industry and skill without feelings of gratitude, of pride and the highest satisfaction. (Cheers.) I said, gentlemen, that I am not competent to speak upon agricultural matters at present. I will therefore abstain from it. But it is not from indifference or from a want of interest in this great subject. I do not hesitate to declare that of my whole life those two years have been the happiest which I have spent in agricultural pursuits. (Cheers.) I say this sincerely and though I have not much practice as a farmer I have this: two years ago I had a farm of 136 acres, which was let on shares. The first year I had to purchase my hay and oats; the second year I had nearly enough oats for my own use and a little hay over; the present year I have an abundance of all things for my own use and nearly eighty tons of hay to spare. (Cheers.) At some future time I hope to be able to give you more information than I can do now.

I will say, therefore, in addition but this: that I have reclaimed 12 acres of bog, which two years ago was incapable of bearing grass. I thank you, again, for the honor you have done me; and I take leave of you, declaring solemnly and sincerely, that there is no honor or mark of respect on which I place a higher value than the applause of farmers. (Loud cheers.)

After Mr. Van Buren had concluded, Mr. Leland made a few remarks, and offered, as a toast:

"*Gov. Bouck*: It is a credit to the farmers of the State that they have one of their number capable of filling its highest office."

The President then proposed—

"A health to FRANK GRANGER, the favorite son of the Farmers of Western New York."

To this Mr. GRANGER, amid a whirlwind of applause, responded in a few eloquent remarks:

Mr. President, said he: The distinguished honor you have conferred upon me would seem to demand that I should say something for Western New York, and yet it would appear scarcely necessary, for when I look around on this vast assemblage, I see you are all here—every man to speak for himself! (cheers.) Well may he who speaks for Western New York feel that he stands on a proud elevation. I can but feebly describe to you the emotions which crowded into my mind when to-day I took my seat in the cars by the side of the man who raised the *first bushel* of Tennessee wheat west of Cayuga Lake! (Loud cheers.) I name Abner Barlow. Yes—the man in full health and vigor—who sowed the first seed and raised the first crop of wheat in the West! and yet he was even then in the pride and strength of middle manhood. The world can present no such instance in its history. What is the history of Western New York, connected with which you have paid me so proud a compliment? It is but yesterday when it was but one vast unbroken forest. When the revolution was over, Yankee industry, Yankee perseverance, would no longer consent to be bound down to the iron coast of New England or the hard hills of Vermont.

They sought a milder country—one which would give a better return to the industry of man—where they could push farther the advancements of life, and secure earlier its elegancies—the enjoyments of civilization—open a broader field for their energies. What has Western New-York done? Even in my short day, and short it is, though I am getting a little in the gray of the evening—even in my short day, this city of Rochester was not even a village! When I moved into Western New-York, this splendid town, which presents now all the arts of polished life, when the stage proprietor would not even deign to change horses here—he only *watered* and went on—is now a city which *packs* more flour than any other in the world! I repeat it—than any other in the world. I have heard this contradicted, but facts and figures will make manifest its truth, and to them I appeal.

It has been asked where are the Pioneers of Western New-York? The grave has closed over most of them, but there are many still living among us to give to their children encouragement and advice—to tell them to "be sure they are right—then go ahead." I have taken by the hand many a man to-day who thought an eminent land proprietor mad when he told them that the time would come in their and this day, when the stage would go *twice a week* from Canandaigua to Albany, and yet the little train in which I came over to-day, had only Eleven Hundred!

Such is Western New-York!—Its progress and history have solved the doubt which many entertained whether it was not a problem whether there was sufficient energy in a Republican Government to push forward and hold up and force forward towns and settlements. What Rochester has done, others also in our land have done—Cincinnati in Ohio is a town larger than that famed Odessa, which the whole power of Russia for fifty years has been building up. But I must close. When I arose I only intended to speak ten words, but I thought I must say one thing in answer to the reference to Western New-York.

I will say, if there be a man on earth who, when he sinks to the grave, can do so with thoughts of happiness, it must be the Pioneer of Western New-York; he who has lived to see through those fruitful fields, where once was the home of the savage, yonder train pursue its arrowy flight.

Mr. President, I offer you

"The surviving Pioneers of Western New-York.—They descended from their Pisgah to enjoy the sweet valley below."

When Mr. GRANGER had concluded, the President announced that Hon. DANIEL WEBSTER had consented to make a few remarks.—This was followed by long and tumultuous applause. After this had somewhat subsided, Mr. WEBSTER rose and said:

I have made a rapid journey, fellow citizens, of 500 miles for the pleasure of meeting here the representation of the Farmers of the great State of New-York. I am just discharged from the cars of the railroad—not having changed my raiment nor had a moment's rest since I left the city of New-York. I find you assembled here, gentlemen, and at the request of a Committee, who have done me the honor to wait upon me, I come to present myself before you, to offer you the congratulations of a poor but ardent farmer of Massachusetts, at this congregation of the Farmers of New-York. (Cheers.) Accustomed, gentlemen—acquainted with agricultural pursuits from my earliest days, and in the course of a life not now a very short one, having used all the opportunities which presented themselves consistently with my other duties to instruct myself in the principles and practice of this great primitive art, I have called myself but one of the humblest of its professors and practitioners. But what I lack in knowledge and experience I have endeavored to make up in zeal and diligence; and I go as far as he who goes farthest in my deep conviction of the super-eminent importance of this great work of man, the foundation of all civilization in every part of the world, the cultivation of his mother Earth by his own hand.

Gentlemen, if this were the fitting time of day, or if I were in a fit condition to address you, or you in a condition to indulge me patiently, I would even now venture to say something upon this interesting subject—interesting to all classes of men—which has assembled you together here. (Cheers and cries of 'go on.')

Gentlemen, I have said that Agriculture is the first step in the civilization of man—and so it is. It was, I think, the remark of a French philosopher, that "Man began to be civilized when he could restrain his wanderings in the forest as a barbarian or his migrations as a shepherd and fix himself down to the necessity of tilling the earth." And if we run out into all the acquisitions and attainments of human society, the useful arts and the fine arts, if we trace the polished productions of the Grecian pencil, if we trace the architecture of Rome and of the whole modern world and every other art of our own society, we shall find that they spring uniformly and necessarily from the first great principle and element of human civilization, the cultivation of the earth and the production of fruits for the sustenance of man.

Gentlemen, it is your good fortune to inhabit a region of the Earth of mild climate, of rich soil, and under circumstances in every way conducive to promote the highest human happiness. There is nothing, gentlemen, that I know of, that more deserves the consideration of those who would study intimately the foundation and elements of a strong intellectual society than that disposition of things by Providence which enables men, owners of the soil, to cultivate it in temperate latitudes and zones of the Earth.

—Gentlemen, I find that after so long a journey, without rest and under the feeling of a heavy cold, I may not trust myself to enter into any considerable conversation, (so to name what I cannot call a speech,) with you this evening. I have come to see the productions of your fields and gardens: to be able to carry home something of instruction to my neighbors by whom I am surrounded. I shall have the pleasure of being with you to morrow. (Cheers, and cries of 'Good.') And I shall then have great happiness in meeting and holding personal conversation with each and all of you. And I will conclude, for the present, by assuring you that I have come, not without some inconvenience, for the pleasure of this meeting; and I hope and am assured that this Exhibition of the Agricultural Association of New-York will enable me to give a good account thereof to the good people of Massachusetts. (Loud and repeated cheers.)

When Mr. WEBSTER had concluded, he retired from the room amid the loud and enthusiastic cheering of the multitude. Hon. ADAM FERGUSON, a gentleman from Canada, then made some humorous and sensible remarks upon the general subject of Agriculture, of the union of interests between Great Britain and America, and of the reception which Mr. Coleman from this country had met with in England. He concluded by proposing the health of the President, Mr. Wadsworth, "I say," said he, "God bless the farmers of Western New York—and my friend Mr. Wadsworth at the head of them." (Loud cheers.)

Mr. WADSWORTH thanked Mr. F. for his complimentary allusions and the audience for the manner in which it had been received. He then read a sentiment sent in by the venerable Abner Barlow of Canandaigua.

"AMERICAN EDITORS:—A stock which needs no improvement."

To this GEORGE DAWSON Esq. the able and excellent Editor of the Democrat, responded in a most humorous and effective manner. His few off-hand remarks were filled with professional jokes and were received with unbounded applause by the people—with whom he is highly, and most deservedly popular. We should have given a sketch of them but for the fact that the immense multitude, in their anxiety to hear him, leaped upon and broke down the table at which we were taking notes.

The meeting then adjourned for the day.

THURSDAY, Sept. 21.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon an immense number of persons assembled in the field where the Exhibition had been held, a little distance below the main fall of the Genesee and immediately upon the banks of the river. A large space of ground had been enclosed and a staging erected at one end. Not less than 10 or 15,000 persons were present, and Mr. WADSWORTH presided. Upon the stage were Mr. VAN BUREN, Gov. BOUCK, Ex-Gov. SEWARD, Hon. CHRISTOPHER MORGAN, Senator RHOADES, and other eminent gentlemen. The President made a few opening remarks and introduced Dr. BEEKMAN, of Kinderhook, who had been invited to deliver the annual address. He presented a hasty review of the operations of the Society since 1832, when it was first organized. In February of that year a few persons held a meeting in Albany, formed the Society and elected Mr. LE ROY DE CHAUMONT President. To advance the interests of the Society the Cultivator was established, in March, 1834. The first Fair was held in Albany, 1834, and was only creditable as a first essay. The next was at Syracuse, and was decidedly better. In 1842 another was held at Albany and was highly enthusiastic and encouraging. Mr. BEEKMAN spoke at length of the contrast between the laborers of this country and those of Europe—of the great advantages which the State of New-York possessed as an agricultural State, of the utility of her great works of Internal Improvement and of the general enterprise of the American character. He compared the State of New-York with England.—Both were of about the same size. They have about ninety-eight millions of acres under cultivation—we, say ten. They produce annually two hundred and sixty-two millions of grain—we, about fifty-one millions. They have ten millions of cattle, and forty-four millions of sheep—we, two millions of cattle, and five and a half millions of sheep. The comparison of many other farm products holds about the same proportion.—In the cultivation of the soil, however, acre for acre, we are much nearer to them in the quantity of the general products; and when an equal area of surface is cleared, and we have about quadrupled our population, he trusted we should not be behind them in obtaining equivalent returns.

He closed by urging the importance and general utility of such exhibitions as that which they had just witnessed.

After he had closed his address, there were loud and repeated calls from the vast assembly for Mr. WEBSTER; but the President announced that he had not yet arrived, but would be there in twenty minutes. (Cheers.) There were then calls for Mr. VAN BUREN. The President said that he had already left the ground. There were then loud calls for SEWARD, but the President requested the audience to listen to the reading of the Reports of the several Committees, which were then accordingly read.

When these had been concluded the calls for Mr. WEBSTER were repeated. The President announced that he had just received intelligence that Mr. WEBSTER was too ill to rise from his bed, and they would therefore be under the necessity of failing to hear him. Loud and repeated calls were then made on Gov. SEWARD, who, amid the enthusiastic cheering of the multitude, came forward and addressed them as follows:—

Fellow Citizens: At the time of the last anniversary of the Agricultural Society of the State of New York I was residing among the farmers of the East: and I found them a most unreasonable community. They had assigned the office of Speaker on that occasion to the most distinguished Orator, and if I might be allowed to say it before the voice of posterity has been heard, I would add, to one of the most illustrious statesmen of this country and this age. But he failed them, and that unreasonable people demanded of *me*—that, at some four days notice, I should fill the place of DANIEL WEBSTER. (Cheers.) But, fellow citizens, I am sorry to be obliged to say that, unreasonable as I found the citizens of Eastern New York, I have a bolder, a more just complaint to make of Western New York, since, at a moment's notice I listen to the change in the sounding, enthusiastic call for WEBSTER to one that now rings in my ears like an admonition that I am called to be made a sacrifice! (Cheers and laughter.)

Fellow Citizens—if there be any thing which can delight the heart of the lover of man or the servant of God, it is the scenes which now are parting and passing before us. There is an excitement in the voice of fame: there is animation and enthusiasm in the conduct of armies; but there is more of usefulness in the production of a single fabric of human art, treasured in these alcoves here, than in all the conquerors of the race have effected for the benefit of mankind. (Cheers.) It is something, indeed, to follow the noble and generous and exalted hero or the statesman; but it is everything for humanity, everything for our country, everything for mankind to secure the perpetuation of domestic peace and of the harmony of our brethren throughout the world. Show me then the nation that has lived with harmony among its members, and in peace with mankind, and I will show you a state where citizens gather by hundreds and thousands and by tens of thousands and by twenties of thousands, to exhibit the products of their art and of their agriculture.

For me, then, I see, to-day, the proudest, the most blessed sight of my whole life: for I see here a guarantee that peace and harmony in my beloved country is to last through this generation, and it may be hoped that it will last through the generation with which those who are near and dear to me and to you, are concerned. Let future generations take care of themselves! I rejoice that this generation is never to feel the scythe of war, nor know the distractions of civil disaster! (Loud cheers.) I take a good augury for this cause from what I have seen here to-day. I have seen this small, uninteresting, neglected seed—a seed, which, as our respected orator to-day has told us, was planted in 1834, by anxious and solicitous hands, ripened and matured into a plant worthy to be cherished by those men on whom the people of this State have conferred the highest honors in their power to give. I rejoice to meet here the Farmer of Schoharie: it shall not be my fault if there is not tendered to him the most cordial support in the advocacy of the great interest of Agriculture to which he is so solemnly pledged. (Loud and repeated cheers.)

I rejoice to meet here also the venerable Ex-President of the United States—the Farmer of Lindenwold! (Loud cheers and laughter.) I am sure that if he puts forth his hands in the matter with ardent zeal, there will be no longer a check to agriculture. I rejoice to meet here, more than all, the farmer, the philosopher, the orator, and the statesman of Marshfield (cheers); I sympathise with the regret which you experience in failing to hear his voice on this occasion instead of mine, to speak to you, of the peaceful, the joyful pursuits of agriculture. And I think that I hear the voices, not only of the statesmen of New-York and Massachusetts, but of the statesmen of the South and statesmen of the West—and that with the voices of these illustrious men mingle the prayers and aspirations and best wishes of the STATESMAN AND FARMER OF ASHLAND (loud cheers,) whose name awakens on the instant the responses of all your hearts. (Protracted and loud applause.)

And now, then, who shall divide us? Let us differ as we may about questions of Finance and political economy; let us dispute about Tariffs and Banks; I tell you, fellow citizens, that if our statesmen will agree in the support of agriculture, it is an unimportant matter which of us is right in regard to the Tariff and the Currency—and I'll tell you why.

The political power of this country resides with the agricultural portion of its inhabitants; and it is a truth as old as government, that every mass of men consult upon and understand their own interests. Then it follows that if the mass of the people be industrious and appreciate their true interests in this respect, they will surely take care of all the rest. Not that I deem any of these questions unimportant; for those who know me know how tenacious I am in my adherence to opinions which are the result of my experience and observation. But I regard a man who consults the good of the country in preference to his devotion to party, as worthy of more respect than he who is faithful to party and only solicitous of self.

Fellow-citizens, it is not without cause that I draw this augury. It is said of the great agitator of Ireland that he can see before him in one of those vast assemblages of the people of his native end much injured and oppressed land, his own great constituency. So do I see here a sight I never expected would gladden my eyes—here before me the great constituency of the people—and I bow with respect and reverence before it—my own constituency—the constituency of the State of New-York.

And what has that constituency come short of accomplishing that it has ever tried? Your canals and railroads—your agricultural societies—all your great schemes to which New-York lays claim and of which she is justly proud—what is there of them all that *Western* New-York did not give to the *State* of New-York? And if she can call into existence associations and zeal like this, if she can build canals and railroads and found colleges and establish common schools and shape the whole policy of the State and of the Nation, what care I, who opposes her—when we hear the voice of Western New-York sending the words of triumph and acclamation to the worthy men of this Society—and bidding them "go on! the blessing of God and the thanks of the country will crown your efforts for the protection of the country will crown your efforts for the protection of the peace of society and the diffusion of happiness among her people."

Gov. SEWARD sat down amid the tumultuous applause of the assembled throng.

Gov. BOUCK was then loudly called for, but the President announced that "ex-President VAN BUREN and Gov. BOUCK *quit the field* some time ago." (Cheers, laughter and cries of 'good.')—Several other reports were then made, after which the meeting adjourned.

MR. WEBSTER'S GREAT SPEECH

AT THE AGRICULTURAL SUPPER.

Reported for The Tribune, by H. J. RAYMOND.

It was announced and expected that Mr. WEBSTER would address the immense multitude assembled in the exhibition field at Rochester on Thursday afternoon: but he was prevented by illness, which confined him to his bed. The officers of the Society, therefore, gave a supper, attended by invited guests, on Thursday evening, at Smith's Dining Saloon, opposite the Eagle Tavern, at Rochester. The guests came in at about 8 o'clock. JAMES S. WADSWORTH, Esq., President of the Society, presided, assisted by several Vice Presidents. There were present, besides Mr. WEBSTER, Ex-Gov. SEWARD, Hon. CHRISTOPHER MORGAN, Jr., Col. ALLSTON, of South Carolina, and many other distinguished persons. Ex-President VAN BUREN and Gov. BOUCK had left the city in the afternoon. Mr. WEBSTER'S speech was one of great interest and importance, both for its intrinsic worth and its political bearings: we present below a full and accurate report, which is laid before our readers in advance of every other paper in the United States. We are greatly indebted to the kindness of the officers of the several central railroads through the State, to the gentlemanly Captain of the splendid steamboat EMPIRE, to the proprietor of the Eagle Hotel in Albany, and above all to the Committee of Arrangements at the Supper at Rochester, with Dr. KELSEY at its head, for their assistance in this enterprise. We acknowledge their courtesy with pleasure, as we shall always remember it with gratitude. To Mr. COLEMAN, of the Astor House, who attended the Fair, we are also under great obligations.

The President, JAMES S. WADSWORTH, Esq., after the cloth was removed at a few minutes before 9, arose and said that many who knew him and who would not be very likely to suppose him possessed of any very profound knowledge of constitutional law, might be surprised to learn that he was at one time a pupil of their distinguished guest. But such, he said, was the fact. He pursued his studies in the office and under the direction of DANIEL WEBSTER; and all would agree, that if he had profited but little by his studies, it was by no means for want of an able teacher. It was during the period, he said, when, to use a Farmer's expression, he was "sowing his wild oats"—a time not very favorable for severe study or for very extensive acquirements in any branch of learning; and to this fact might be attributed, perhaps, something of his failure to profit by his teachings. In rising to introduce their honored guest to the gentlemen present, Mr. WADSWORTH said he should pass over all the great acts of his eminently useful life, all that he had done in the service of his country, and all the great deeds and eloquent words which had made his name distinguished and honored throughout the world. The history of his life was the history of his country; and to history he would leave the appropriate task of describing and commemorating them. For the present, he wished only to propose

"THE HEALTH OF THE FARMER OF MARSHFIELD."

This sentiment was received with tumultuous applause, followed by three hearty cheers. After the noise had subsided, MR. WEBSTER rose and replied in substance as follows:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen: I am greatly obliged for the kind manner in which the President of this Society has referred to the circumstances of our early acquaintance and intercourse.—I am proud, gentlemen, of such a pupil; and if he learned any thing under my instruction relative to the profession to which I belong, I am sure he is fully competent, now, to pay back the principal with accumulated interest from knowledge connected with the present pursuit to which he and you, gentlemen, are so greatly attached.

Gentlemen—Owing, perhaps, in some measure, to this early and friendly consideration of the President of your Society, and to the general kindness of all the persons connected with it, I had the honor to be invited to appear on this occasion, and to make the annual address usual upon the celebration of your anniversary. It happened not to be in my power to accept the tender of this great honor. But in declining it I suggested to my friend that, as I sometimes had occasion to visit Western New-York, partly to visit some family connections and other friends, and as I always embraced such an opportunity with the greatest pleasure, I might be in this region, in the course of the autumn, and that if so, I would endeavor to arrange my time so as to be present at the Anniversary of the Agricultural Society. I come, gentlemen, in the fulfilment of that intimation. I come with great pleasure, notwithstanding the heat of the weather and the length of the journey, to be present at this great meeting of the Representatives of the Agricultural Interests of this great State [cheers]—and I would most gladly, gentlemen, so far as may be in my power, do something, or say something, by way of compensation for the kindness which you have manifested towards me, and as expressing the grateful feelings with which I acknowledge the honor you have done me in extending to me this invitation.

Gentlemen, the occasion is an agricultural occasion. The topics which have assembled us together here are agricultural topics. They carry us to the consideration of that great interest of society, the cultivation of the Earth, from which we ourselves were taken. And, gentlemen, I have been struck in examining the exhibition which has been made to-day of animals, and of the products and improvements of the mechanical arts, and especially the improvements in the great science and practice of agriculture, with the vast advantages which AGRICULTURE, in the appropriate sense of the word, holds out to the great mass of the society in which we live. The cultivation of the earth is not *all* of agriculture in its proper or common sense. That depends very much on climate and condition. We speak of Agriculture as that great Pursuit of Society in which the great mass of men are engaged, in temperate climates, and in a soil adapted to produce the variety of things which are useful for food and the raiment of man.

But there is another cultivation of the fields appropriate to tropical climates, which has received the usual denomination of the *plantation*—the *planting* interest of society. Now, gentlemen, what has most forcibly struck my attention, suggested by what I have seen and heard and witnessed to-day, is the vastly superior advantages, to individuals and to society, of the truly agricultural over the plantation interest. I desire no better exemplification of the truth of the general sentiment which I have advanced, than that suggested by the comparison—if we may not more properly call it a *contrast*—exhibited by those who cultivate the fields of Western New-York and those who cultivate equally rich soils, which lie beneath a tropical sun. I would compare the agriculture of Western New-York with the plantation interest of the West Indies. Now, does any thing exhibit a broader contrast between different pursuits—both dedicated to the cultivation of the land, both rearing products for human consumption—than we find between your circles, and those found in the plantation tracts of Cuba or Jamaica, not only as affecting individual happiness, but as touching the riches, the strength, the order, the power, the intelligence of human society?

The difference appears to be this: Tropical cultivation, the raising of sugar, rice, coffee, for example, is rather a matter of Commerce than of Agriculture. It consists mainly in the production of one article. The production of that article depends on the expense incurred for soil and labor, of that sort appropriate to its cultivation: and this is all *capital*. Whenever one would enter upon Tropical culture he invests his capital in the soil, and, as we all well know, a portion of it also in labor. It becomes, therefore, rather of the nature of a commercial undertaking, than the plain and homely, but healthy and beneficent field cultivation. The consequence is such as a philosophic inquiry would lead us to expect. One is uncertain, precarious, changeable, partaking of the vicissitudes of trade and commercial enterprise. The other is a *home* interest, always substantially the same—liable, it is true, to those vicissitudes which attach themselves to all human concerns, but securing to him who enters upon the cultivation of his own lands, by the labor of his own hands, a competency and promising to guard him against the accidents of life as far as is possible for the most fortunate human beings.—The contrast is evident when we examine carefully the condition of him who trusts to Tropical cultivation—suppose of coffee. He raises one thing for sale and *one only*, and buys of others every thing else. He has one commodity to carry to the market of sale, and twenty to seek in the market of purchase. What is the consequence of this state of things to his finances, to his means of living, of security and comfort? We see at once that, as he produces but one article, and that article a commodity subject to the fluctuating prices of the commercial world, a depression in its price affects him *through the whole extent of his annual income*. If, for example, the price of that article falls 10 per cent. he loses 10 per cent. of his expectations:—the loss goes through the whole product. If it rises he is enriched.—If it falls he is impoverished. And, therefore, estates which are rich to-day may be poor to-morrow; and no man, not possessed of a vast capital, can rely upon his property for the support and comfort of his family, and the education of his children from year to year.

Now, contrast, with this, the state of the farmer of Western New York, or of New England, or of England, or any other strictly agricultural society. The Farmer of the western part of New York raises a great variety of articles—as we have seen by the exhibitions of to-day. There is collected every species of useful productions—fit for human nutriment, animal and vegetable. There are the fleeces of his flock—capable of being turned to a great extent into the production of raiment for himself and family. In this *variety*, therefore, there is a great advantage. He has the means of securing to himself an independence—and it is true of an individual, as of a nation, that, without independence, no man *is* a man nor can he ever be a man. (Cheers.) It is this which gives him personal respectability: for you will perceive that if he has provisions and fleeces, his table is supplied, his family, to a great extent, is clothed—and if prices fall, how far is he affected? Only on the *excess* of his productions, which, not needing them for consumption, he sends to market. Suppose this excess be 10 per cent. of his whole product,—while if prices fall, then, it affects only 10 per cent. of his income. If it falls upon the tropical plantation it runs through his whole product, and affects his whole income. But the farmer who is governed by the other principle I have mentioned, eats, drinks, and is clothed without care as to prices. He is his own consumer. He buys of himself. His best customer is himself, his wife, and his healthy children. These are all supplied with no reference to or concern for other markets. Thus, therefore, except as to the excess of his productions above their wants, why should he care a fig for the rise and fall of prices? This general truth may be, and doubtless is, modified by many considerations. It may be that a country like yours, engaged in grain growing, is a country in which you look to the sale of that great commodity for other means. But there can, nevertheless, be found no other in which the elements of life make all comfortable and happy, and secure in an equal degree, against famine and want, let the agitations, and excitements, and changes of the commercial world be what they may. Gentlemen, in my judgement it is this independence of occasional change, this self-support by our own means, secured by the cultivation of our own soil by our own hands, which gives the farmer of the United States that independent character which constitutes his respect and value as a man and a citizen.

Gentlemen, this reflection might be pursued at great length. It might be made to appear to what extent it affects the character of Society. Why, what is the Society in a plantation establishment in the West Indies? There is no Society! There is a capitalist and there is labor of a particular description: but a Society, a Society of intelligent, free spirits—there is none, *none*, NONE, and there never can be! It is, therefore, in the temperate climates—in the rich and favored spots of God;—it is, therefore, gentlemen, beneath such a sun as shines on you and on such an Earth as that which you tread, that the truest developement of a strong society is to be made that can ever be witnessed on the Earth. (Loud cheers.) Gentlemen, every body knows that at the foundation of all that is important in human life lies this great business—the cultivation of the Earth. If it were for his sins that MAN was condemned to till the land it was the most merciful judgement that Almighty benignity could have inflicted upon him! (Loud and repeated cheers.)

Now, gentlemen, in regard to the great interests of Agriculture, there are things which individuals may do for themselves. And there are things, too, which the collected sense—the collected agency of individuals, that is, which GOVERNMENT must do for them. What they *can* do themselves, they must be *left* to do for themselves. But, as I have said, there are great objects, great interests, great arrangements, which are necessary for the enrichment of the fields of Agriculture, for every one who tills them, which belong to Government and which Government is not in the fulfilment of its duties when it disregards or neglects. Individuals may judge, on such instruction as they can obtain, of the character of soil, and of climate. They may judge of the impl[illegible] and mode[illegible] husbandry. This is the scope, indeed, of [illegible]ment, of experience, of association, of a [illegible]pe[illegible]ison of ideas and a comparison of [illegible]ment[illegible] which institutions like yours, a[illegible] particularly intended to bring together. You have here spread out the means of judging what implements of Agriculture, what modes of cultivation, are best adapted to produce any desired result: and the study of these constitutes the education of the Farmer. This is to be done by individuals and by individual associations. But there are other things in Agriculture, as in other interests of Society, which need the aid of Government. It would be strange if it were otherwise:—strange, indeed, if Government, the collected agency of the whole people, should find employment with regard to other things, and yet be discharged from all duty with regard to that elementary, that indispensable interest, the cultivation of the fields.

There are interests of Agriculture too large and distant for individuals to govern and regulate.—These Government must attend to. What are they? I shall not go through them all, because it does not become me and because I am not about to read lectures to Government in general,