

We view the improvements of husbandry as most efficient to produce reform, and that those improvements may be produced by public schools of agriculture, and pattern farms, to test principles and to confirm theories, by actual practice and experiments. We applaud the view on this subject which was exposed by an able report of the committee on agriculture to the assembly of New York. But we do not lack precedents; for in spite of political prejudices, which would fetter the human mind, schools of agriculture have been established in France, Switzerland, Prussia, Italy and the Austrian States. We have an illustrious example to encourage and to guide us, in the establishment of M. de Fellenberg at Hofwyl, in Switzerland. Impelled by a belief, that agriculture in its study and in its practice, furnishes the best means of developing the usefulness of man, and of winning him to virtue, the gentleman undertook with his private means, to establish and manage a school which should improve the agriculture and the character of the cultivator. He encountered many difficulties, amongst which the prejudices of his fellow citizens were not the least formidable—but his perseverance triumphed over all.

This school was established about 20 years ago. It attracted much attention, and served as a model for others.

The course of study generally lasts three years, in which time the pupils are instructed in natural philosophy, chemistry, natural history and veterinary medicine; while upon large experimental farms they are taught agriculture, the management of fruit and forest trees, and the care of cattle, sheep, swine and bees.

An agricultural school was amongst the means adopted by Leopold to meliorate the condition of Tuscany; and the Duchy is now amongst the best cultivated and most productive districts in Europe.

The Emperor Napoleon organised and endowed the national school at Alfort. 'Here,' says a statesman, who resided some years in France, 'all the branches of science connected with agriculture are taught chemistry, belonging to the anatomy of cattle, farriery, with the mechanics, and a much of geology as is known, and farm work, and domestic economy in every branch, and down to the smallest article are there exhibited and explained. It was believed in 1810, that this academy had tended much to enlighten the people of France, on the general subject of husbandry, as well by the examples it gave of new and improved machinery, and the most successful objects and modes of culture.