

Why should not science benefit Agriculture? Its study will afford all the pleasure, which the Roman orator claimed as the peculiar property of literature “*Studia literarum,*” says Cicero, “*adulescentiam alunt, senectutem oblectant, secundas res ornant, adversis profugium ac solatium præbent, delectant domi, non impediunt foris penoectant nobiscum perigrinantur, rusticantur,*”*—whilst its practice will give those comforts, which, though more homely, yet cannot be supplied by mere literary studies. Its study affords all the delights of literature, with the addition of the necessaries of life. Farmers should not be mere hewers of wood and drawers of water. Let them know, not only the necessary elements of fertility, but let them also understand how these act, in supporting vegetable existence, and how mere matter is indispensable to that function of organization, which we call life. Let them not look upon the earth as a mere source of food, while living; a mere place of repose when dead: but rather as a casket, whose treasures they may obtain if they apply their minds to the investigation of its formation. Let them seek to understand the properties of each component part of the soil, and it will be a volume of endless pleasure and instruction: then indeed will the toil, as well as “the sleep, of the laboring man be sweet,”—for he can read “sermons in stones,” and see “good in every thing.” It has been the peculiar province of science, ever to benefit the human race; ever to afford pleasure in its pursuit, and profit in its application; to lighten toil, to lessen labor, to assuage care; to relieve the wants of the body; to supply the desires of the mind. It is to the mind, what hope is to the affections, dispelling gloom—and in the darkest hour, giving assurance of a brighter dawn. The student, in his closet, demonstrates a principle—and, straightway, millions of his fellow creatures receive the benefit; are blessed with its advantages; and but too frequently, alas, bless not in return! The principles of science perfected the steam engine, giving life and beauty to that, which before was only a crude misshapen mass—straightway nations used it, to multiply their comfort in a thousand ways! Scientific knowledge in the hands of Archimedes, was a safeguard to his countrymen, more powerful than walls of stone or armies of men:—its power, with the same universality as death, is felt in the hovel and feared in the palace:—its influence, equally potent to relieve the sickness of the infant, and to stay the power of the thunder-bolt. Let it not then be refused the Agriculturists. If he, through misfortune, cannot obtain it for himself, let the State, that he supports with his labor, and defends with his life, supply it. Let him but receive it, and the return will be, all blessings to herself, all benefits to him.

* Literature nourishes and strengthens our youth, affords delight in old age, adorns prosperity, gives help and consolation in adversity; delights us at home, is not in our way when abroad; gives pleasure to us at night, in our travels abroad, and wanderings at home.