

It has been urged that Agricultural Science is faulty; is not practice very frequently so too? But here let me give warning. Let not this virgin science, pure in her heart, uncontaminated in her person, be blamed for the acts of the meretricious harlot "Humbug," that steals the robe of innocence in order to gratify her unhallowed lusts.

Agricultural science is the embodiment of common sense and common practice, the latter being first corrected in its errors by philosophy and the rules of rational induction. In its determination every fact is thrown before an impartial tribunal and subjected to rigid scrutiny, all that can influence it, is rigidly determined and thoroughly investigated by impartial investigators. Experience gives the evidence, reason sums up the facts, and common sense, the highest order of philosophy, instructs as to the decision, which, being ratified, is thenceforth a truth, and we ascend one step higher on the ladder, whose bottom, though resting on the earth, yet extends towards heaven, the source of all truth. Can, then, science, testified to continually by intelligent and impartial witnesses, be rejected by intelligent and impartial judges? The science of Agriculture and the practice of intelligent farmers cannot be antagonistic, because it is the aggregation of practical results that produces and is the parent of science.

No judgment, however profound, no intellect, however strong, can be certain of arriving at correct conclusions unless they have the material upon which to exercise their functions. The ablest and wisest practical farmer cannot instruct his brethren unless he be thoroughly acquainted with all of the circumstances which influenced his success, he may teach them his mode of cultivation and the *name* of the manures which he uses; but unless he can also tell the *constituents* of his manures and the *substances* in his soil, he can explain only a part of that which conduces to his success. He, with good intentions, may injure instead of benefiting those whom he wishes to instruct.

I call the attention of those who cultivate the soil to the above general truths only for the purpose of applying them to Agriculture. These propositions will not be questioned. How do they apply to Agriculture, and how do they interest your Honorable Body and your constituents?

This involves the utility of the office which I have the honor to hold, and the duty of the State to spread instruction amongst its citizens. In the discussion of this I shall be brief, and only adduce such facts as are known to yourselves. I should be faithless to those for whom I am appointed to labor if I did not set before you some of the results which it has