

of a character, calculated to produce very little of dispute or difference of opinion.

Among the subjects of this class Agriculture holds a primary rank. It must at all periods present prominent claims upon the favorable consideration of the Legislative department of Government. Agriculture lies at the foundation of all National wealth and strength - it is the parent of Manufactures, the nurse of Commerce, and the staff upon which all the arts and sciences lean for support. To encourage this necessary and advantageous pursuit of the citizen by every provision calculated to elevate its character and extend its influence, is the obvious duty of the legislator and patriot, at all times and in every Government. In our own State particularly, where so vast an extent of territory, well adapted to the purposes of the husbandman, lies unoccupied and unimproved, much may be done towards the increase of agricultural resources, by a liberal policy in legislation. To the actual settler every facility which does not involve a positive expense to the public Treasury, ought to be extended. An abundant recompense for it will be found in the acquisition which it will secure to the population, and consequently to the aggregate wealth of the State.

An enlargement of the existing number of Agriculturalists within a State, is also the most effectual method of preparing in time of peace, for the exigencies of a state of war, a principle which enters into the policy of every prudent administration of Government. In all ages, and in all countries, in which civilization has made any progress, men identified with the soil, and having an actual interest in its riches and its resources, have invariably been found among the ablest in its defence. Various considerations combine to awaken in them a fervor