AGRICULTURE IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Report of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture for the year 1866, by Charles L. Flinn, Esq., its Secretary, is a readable and most valuable book. What man is there who, in fact, as much as the people of Massachusetts, is a manufacturer rather than an agricultural state, who does not feel proud of this sort of production, produced in such admirable shape, and at no little expense and labor, so much so that the Produce of the farm of which he is the occupant, is an object of pride and respect? Every person who walks through the State, and who has not seen the Book, will, much more every one who lives by farming or gardening, in any northern state. We expect to hear that the yield of the State Board of Agriculture at their meetings, embrace a large variety of topics, prominent among them being agricultural education and the state college at Amherst, the location of cattle and hogs in the vineyard, the culture of crops, fruit, fireplaces, dairies, transplanting, and the use of peat for fuel. The volume also contains condensed reports of the local county agricultural societies, throughout the state. Some extracts will be read with interest. In one of the meetings of the Board, a most interesting discussion arose from an essay on the production of "varieties" in nature, in which Prof. Asgrain made remarks upon the development theory of Darwin and others, who claim that new species are originated by secondary causes, and that from the simplest form of life, first started by the Creator, changes successively occur, and "come through the medium of the farm". These extracts will be read with interest.

MAY 24, 1867

An improved agriculture is no more to produce another kind of thing from one kind of seed than has been the case; and as long as agriculture and geology are so transplanted, we shall have no support for this transmutation theory from it, but only a succession of cases of closest, but not so rigidly as to make us think that the doctrine will not live much longer. But it lives now, and with a teeneeity, a small portion of the mass, but in a wholion of the mass, in a more perfect and stronger form, by the novel and spreading from this swerve, because it will run its course quicker. I wish its most illustrious advocates to come out strong and fast, because it will be the sooner, the sooner it comes to a climax the sooner is the fever over.

The whole theory must fall by some critical glance, for the whole is nothing but a combination of anomalies, out of which a genealogical face is made.