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Industrial Topics.

TYPES OF THE PRESENT.

WHAT we realize to-day in the home life of the industrial men of America; in their

tickler. The dignity of labor depends upon the accomplishments of the laborer. Labor does not necessarily dignify any one; but it is always honorable if honorably performed with an honest purpose. Upon the man depends the dignity and honor of the work he does. And to-day Agriculture is more honored because agriculturists are more intelli-

cessary to the man who drains land; but it does not follow that men who have no land to drain are the less intelligent than those who do, because they do not keep ditching shovels.

Life to-day in the Rural Homes and on American Farms means and is more to our people than ever before. Culture and re-

We cannot help congratulating the young men upon the farms and in the gardens to-day, upon their better opportunities, and the young women upon the rapid decrease of the social chasm which separates them from those who occupy the highest positions in American Homes.

We started to say that on this page



TYPES OF THE PRESENT—WHAT IS, FOR COMPARISON WITH WHAT WAS.

methods and in their relations to each other; in their independence, thrift, culture and intelligence, is so different from that of twenty years ago that to close our eyes and strive to recall the past and then open them upon the present, is like waking from a Rip Van Winkle slumber. The then and now are connected with a chain of industrial events, too long to be catalogued, that have brought to the working people of this country elements of power and prosperity which they have not been slow to mold for their own use. Then it was common to talk of the dignity of labor—to preach that it was honorable, as if it were doubted; and it was doubted then. But now the politician does not use that palat-

gent, cultivated, and better business men than they were twenty years ago. Contrast the condition of American agriculturists, and their homes, and home comforts with those of other countries—of France for instance, which claims to be the most enlightened nation on the globe. The truth is, their labor is not dignified with brains; here it is; also in England, though even England, with her more exact, complete, thorough agricultural system, is not far, if any, in advance of us in the average intelligence and accomplishments of her agricultural population. Her system is more complex and thorough of necessity—that is all; and the science she uses is a necessary tool just as a ditching shovel is ne-

cessary to the man who drains land; but it does not follow that men who have no land to drain are the less intelligent than those who do, because they do not keep ditching shovels. Life to-day in the Rural Homes and on American Farms means and is more to our people than ever before. Culture and refinement are rapidly taking the place of ignorance and boorishness. Our school system and the cosmopolitan character of our life innovate upon the old-time traditions and habits and break up the trammels which, within our memory, bound men down to a plodding, dreary, and almost hopeless life of toil. There are brighter homes and happier faces in the country to-day. Social life has assumed new phases and we begin to see the dawn of what is to be in the future—a higher and better type for the American Farmer. There are too few thinkers, too few calculators, too few disciplined minds among agriculturists, although the necessities of modern business are fast begetting them.

have attempted to give a picture typical of the present, and I trust our readers make their own comparison with the past. We have aimed not to exaggerate in any sense; in our judgment we have even selected the highest types, but representative ones. We have no word of encouragement in general. Specific aid in specific industries it is our duty to furnish so far as we may; a aim with us is to be to "improve the general average," and so labor to perfect the typical man and agriculturist of 1872 at the close of the New Year we all can look back upon our work as "Progress and Improvement."

