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I. Literary.

SHOULD WE ASSERT IN OUR CREED THAT ALL INFANTS DYING IN INFANCY ARE ELECT?

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First. The question is not whether the members and ordained rulers of our church *believe* that all infants dying in infancy are saved.

As a matter of fact, there is a general belief of this sort. Some of our people doubt it. Some of them do not believe that the infants of heathen and of ungodly parents are amongst the elect, and so amongst the saved. But that there is a general belief of this sort can hardly be doubted. If this belief, however, were universal, the bare existence of the belief could not give our church the warrant to put the belief into the creed. Something more than the universality of a belief is required to entitle that belief to expression in the church's creed. A few instances will show this. During the second and third centuries the doctrine of baptismal regeneration became an almost universal belief in the church. It crept into the creed. Who of you doubt that it was wrong to put it there? During these and the succeeding centuries the doctrines of the special priesthood and sacrifice, and the doctrine of transubstantiation, became almost universal beliefs and were made parts of the creed. Who here doubts that this was wrong? In 1861 the belief that all Presbyterians, North, South, East and West, ought to support the national government at Washington, became the belief of the majority of old school Presbyterians, and accordingly the General Assembly sitting in Philadelphia in May of that year, passed the

COLORED LABOR IN RELATION TO THE PROSPERITY OF THE SOUTHERN FARMER.

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The agriculturist complains much, and with good reason, for he suffers much. The poor returns had by him are sufficient grounds for outcry. He has appealed to legislation for relief, but his cry has been unheard. The futility of further appeal is evident to every one. The farmer must be his own best friend. All of the suggested remedies have been tried and have failed. He is as much the victim of combination and trusts to-day as before he established the "Grange" or left the old political parties to form a third. It is so because capital is so much more easily combined than labor, and especially this form of labor, which is so evenly distributed, and can from its very nature have no great centres.

These conditions are not temporary, but permanent. The farmer need not hope ever to be able to cope successfully with all the varied forms of combined capital, nor to find relief from them by law. His only hope for larger profits on the farm lies in his ability to make the farm yield more in proportion for what he spends for his product, and then to sell that product in the best market he can find. In other words, larger returns for the same expenditures will help the farmer, and this alone will.

The farmer's expense account is principally made up of interest on the original investment, fertilizers, farming implements and labor. Of these the most fixed in price and most variable in quality is labor. Some labor is the best investment at high prices. Other is a loss, however cheaply employed.

Labor affects the farm itself. Any farm can be improved or injured by poor labor or good. The quality of the labor affects the expense of the farming implements. Improper use of these results in breaking or damaging them and rendering them useless. Especially is this true of the more costly labor-saving machines. Also, good care of these when not in use

will prolong their period of service, while unskilful treatment will allow them to be eaten up with rust and shorten their term of usefulness.

But the most important thing to the farmer is the product of the farm. Labor affects this first in the proper or improper preparation of the ground for the seed; in the careful or negligent planting of the seed or setting of slips; in the skilful or unskilful plowing or hoeing of the growing plant; in the frugal or wasteful harvesting of the matured product; in the attention paid to it while awaiting the time for its sale, and the attractive or unattractive way in which it is prepared for market. Thus at every day of its history the product of the farm is influenced by the labor employed, and it is better for the farmer to pay a good price for trained labor than a smaller one for a poorer quality.

The Southern farmer's labor supply is the colored population. That this will be the case for a long time there is little reason to doubt. That this labor at present is very unsatisfactory all farmers testify. To improve the quality of this labor is a task to which every farmer in the South should address himself.

HOW MAY THIS BE DONE?

As for that great army of laborers in our Southern fields already, hardly any answer can be returned. As for the future supply of laborers, the question is more easily answered, viz., give the young colored people a training in agricultural and industrial schools, and thus equip them fully to do this better class of work. It is a good sign that at this time so much attention is being paid to this kind of education for colored people. Could these schools be so multiplied as to include a much larger per cent. of the colored population in the circle of their influence, the labor on our farms would in two or three years begin to improve. A school in which a young colored man is taught how to farm skilfully; how to produce the most at the smallest outlay; how to utilize everything about the place; how to attain as nearly as possible *to that ideal of farming where all of the varied operations complete one great circle where nothing is lost*—a school like this is a fountain of blessing to both the farmer and laborer of this land. This kind of school does not educate away from labor, as so much

of the education given to the colored man has done, but educates for labor, for any man loves to do what he can do well, and what he can command good wages in doing.

The good results of these schools is evident to all who have any knowledge of them. But they are as yet reaching such a small proportion of the colored population that their influence is comparatively small. A large increase in the number of these schools would greatly hasten the result of an abundant supply of first-class labor for the farm.

These schools are the least expensive of any form of training. They can be made in large measure self-supporting, since an individual's labor can nearly always be made to defray his necessary expenses. One competent superintendent, who can be had for a small salary, and a medium-sized farm of good arable land, upon which is a house, roomy enough for use as a dormitory, for the colored boys, with some mess arrangement, together with necessary stock and implements, would be a sufficient equipment for a good training school. *The plant should not be too well equipped. No expensive preparation is necessary. The boys are to learn to be practical and resourceful.*

It is a good investment of money to put it in such work as this. It is a blessing both to the laborer and his employer. A better quality of labor would most surely make better times for the farming interests. It would improve the farm. It would stop the leaks in farming operations. It would conserve wealth. It would increase the amount of taxable property. I do not doubt that if legislatures would invest some of the farmer's money, which he pays in the way of taxes to the State, in such schools, that they would not only confer an immeasurable blessing on the farmers, but would increase the revenues to the State by making the farming lands much more valuable.

The surest basis of prosperity is in good returns from the farm. The best way to secure this is in the use of a better grade of labor.

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