

**AN ADDRESS TO THE  
MEMBERS OF  
THE ABINGDON  
FAT CATTLE SHOW**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649226214

An address to the members of the Abingdon fat cattle show by Herbert Randolph

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**HERBERT RANDOLPH**

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AN ADDRESS  
TO THE  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
ABINGDON  
FAT CATTLE SHOW,

BY THE  
REV. HERBERT RANDOLPH, M.A.

*Vicar of Marcham, Berks.*



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## ADDRESS.



WE are the experienced and practical cultivators of the land wherein we dwell and trade; we are employed in improving the product of the earth by manual industry; breaking up the ground, we make use of the plough, which does its work best, which is most economical in use, and which requires the least exertion of the young and handsome horses of the Suffolk Punch breed, which are so well trained, and have such excellent treatment from the industrious and skilful ploughman. The fruitful furrows, and the raised high warm ridges of the stiff land are cut with the ploughshare, the miry clods of earth which are cast up from the plough are broken, the crumbling clods are smoothed with harrows, pounded with rakes, and crushed with rollers to receive the seed corn, which is annually changed from the growth of a soil of a different quality, which in the autumn, with the drilling machine is cast into well prepared ground.

Occupied in breeding horses, in breeding and fattening cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry; in this productive season of the year so many oxen, young bullocks, fat cows and heifers, sheep, hogs, and porkers are slaughtered by the butcher, that the supply of all kinds of meat is so abundant that it can be sold at a remunerating price to the grazier, and can be purchased at a moderate one by the consumer. Much food is in the tillage of the poor; a mild and generous master, who looks after his cattle and flocks, is sure to be served by industrious and faithful servants, for whom he finds regular and constant employment, in thrashing, ploughing, drilling, harrowing, carrying lime and manure, and in exterminating the weeds which spring up in the luxuriant soil.

At the proper season of year we contemplate the creation in its beauty, we behold the brightness of the sun, the clearness of the sky, the verdure of the earth, well watered pastures clothed with flocks, valleys covered with corn, and woods resounding with music of birds, and by contemplating the beauties of nature, we are led with suitable returns of gratitude and thankfulness to our Creator, the great Author of nature. On the Lord of life we depend for bread, which cometh out of the earth,



which is the principal support of life, the food which is made of corn, ground into flour either by the wind mill, the water mill, or the hand mill, and dressed into fine meal, which is needed into dough, and baked in the oven. Taught to break the clods of earth, and cast in the wheat and the barley, and all other kinds of grain, we gather the sheaves in our bosom, and reap the corn with our arm; we make use of the thrashing machine which thoroughly separates the corn from the straw, a machine which will produce from reaped wheat corn of good quality, at the average of five quarters per hour, a machine which does it work to the entire satisfaction of the husbandman.

Taught to keep cattle from our youth, we practise the methods of frugality and profit, not moved from our settled faith in God and His providence, we depend on His power and overruling providence, from which comes all the good which we have or are capable of; to Him we pray for whatsoever we stand in need of, and beseech Him to bless all our honest labours with success in the most useful pursuits of agriculture. His mercies, His favours, His blessings, will not descend upon the head of idleness, "the hand of the diligent maketh rich;" aversion from labour is a great sin, and the cause of

many more, which bring men to ruin, and to quickly root them out of the earth ; but God regards the prayers, and provides for the wants of the humble and the faithful, the industrious and the obedient.

When we reap in harvest, we plough in hope, and sow our seed in the ground for another, which only provided we take good heed diligently to cultivate the land, will bless with a large increase our industry, our business habits, or prudent foresight, not only for our comfort and welfare, but for that of our fellow countrymen. We give up our mind to make furrows, we are diligent to give the kine fodder ; He, who feeds the young ravens that call upon Him, multiplies also exceedingly by the produce of the earth ; He who is merciful to us, will bring home our seed, and gather it into our barn ; He, who can give the rain when He pleases, maketh the earth fat, and rich, and fruitful, with His gracious showers, which He hath so abundantly distributed to us. He is the gracious Benefactor of all the earth, the blessed Giver of all good things, who makes the plant to grow and the seed to flourish ; He, who giveth the best and richest food for our bodily refreshment, is blessed for evermore.

The only demonstration of a true and thankful

heart to God, is the making a pious and honest use of all those things which we daily receive from Him ; we, who receive help and blessing from heaven, receive the daily and numerous blessings of a bountiful Donor, to whom we give thanks for His marvellous works, for the increase and abundance of the fruits upon the face of the earth. With pure hearts and minds, under blessing and protection of His Holy Spirit, guiding our whole lives by His discretion, occupied in our business of cultivating and improving the land ; we humbly and fervently beseech the great King of all the earth, who is our greatest and supreme Benefactor, to send health, prosperity, peace, joy, and provision of victuals into our dwellings.

We till our ground in peace, and things prosper well in our hands. The Giver of all we have in possession is the sum and end of all we hope for. He gives us temperate air and gentle showers, and refreshing dews, and plenty of fruits for the use of man and every creature, and good success in all things we take in hand. He is the only giver of all things. It is our constant delight and practise to study the volume of nature with profit, and every line in that book manifestly tends to our instruction. The very smallest, and in