## The Strength of the Farmers.

Statesmen in this country now [illegible] more than six millions; they [illegible] that the [illegible] of our entire population. Of that part of the population which has anything to do, it may be said, with fair correctness, that one-tenth are engaged in trade and transfer, two-tenths in manufacturing, two-tenths in professional and other personal services, and five-tenths in agriculture. Of lawyers, there were forty-one thousand one hundred, in 1870. It has been said that of these lawyers that influence many of the ablest and wisest who have exerted greater influence in moulding our legislation and generally in directing the affairs of the country, than the whole six million of farmers, one lawyer more than fifty thousand farmers. We doubt the truth of this statement, but in all sincerity we can but acknowledge that the farmers have not exercised that direct influence which either their numbers, their wealth, or their intelligence have entitled them to. In one thing, however, we know the estimate is erroneous. When, through the bad counsels, the tampering, and sometimes blundering of the lawyers who had sworn to be honest for us, the country was precipitated into the horrors of civil war, the puny-armed and puny-legged lawyers was very willing to step down and out, and let the stalwart sixty thousand young farmers take the place and see what "influence" they could exert, and what power they could display in the storm and battle-shock against the lawyers, lawyer like, has only fostered. And all of us, whether we went to the war ourselves, or stayed at home and enjoyed the benefits of our farmers' bravery, can but acknowledge with gratitude that the "influence" of those farmers was very weighty, that their briefs were potent, that their arguments were conclusive, that their judgment in the case was final, and that their execution of that judgment was prompt and effective. Sometimes weight, strength, and the right purpose of an anonymous client are worth more than lawyers' babbling.

The lawyers may have had their own way in the lower courts, for the farmers were busy with other matters; but when it came to the final tours, of appeal, the farmers gave attention to it, and they, not the lawyers, decided it.

Again, we doubt the assertion. The great stream has been flowing on, deep and silent, ever and anon it has met some obstruction which, slowly rising, at length it has overflowed and swept away, and generally it has found its course without the advice or help of the hundred lawyers, who, if they would seem to be leaders at all, have slavishly watched the course of the stream, and then, with wisdom(?) burning from their swelling heads, have rushed forward, placed themselves in the inevitable course of the shooting current, and shouted loudly, "This is the way! This is the way! We have found it for you! This is the way, follow us!!" Poor, simple shams; it is sad, not sapience, which swells their heads. The stream would take the same course without their shouting. They only advertise its progress.—[Syracuse Helper.

## Why Wet Land Should be Drained.

Understanding wet land is one deeply necessary to bring it up to a [illegible] of productiveness, and especially to improve the quality of its products, we therefore commend to the attention of farmers the following remarks [illegible] draining, given by a writer in the New York Herald:

The excess of atmospheric air to every part of the soil is of the utmost importance. The air assists in the various processes of decomposition by which dead animal and vegetable matter is made to yield products of the highest value as elements of the food of plants. If the soil is full of water, or the air cannot get into the soil to perform this office. Honey-draining by drawing off the water hastens give the air free admission to the soil, and each shower of rain, by displacing the air already present, and thus falling through the soil aerating even in the drains, renewing the supply of fresh air. In this way the drains are of the greatest benefit. Drains not only diminish the labor of plant food by making early. The plant, when it is laborious to the roots of plants. They will grow at [illegible] (feet) removed and thus the plants send down their rootlets deeper. Consequently the possibility of alternate drought and excessive moisture is diminished. It is this intermediate state of the roots in wet soils that renders the crops [illegible] liable to suffer from drought than those on imperfectly [illegible]

Although safe, washing the surface manure off by open channels, may not dissolve [illegible] quantity of nutritive matter, [illegible] which sinks into the land [illegible] nutritive substances [illegible] into the soil and deposited [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]