I believe that to our worthy but modest member, Mark A. Carleton, belongs the honor of founding and organizing this Society of which we are all proud to be members. His fertile brain conceived the plan, and his far-seeing mind, looking forward into the future, saw the possibilities and heights of usefulness to which this Society will some day attain.

When Mr. Carleton first asked my opinion regarding the organizing of such a society, I opposed the idea and tried to persuade him to give up the plan. I contended that there were already too many organizations of the kind. But Mr. Carleton's ancestors came from Germany, and the Dutch are hard to convince when they have their minds once set.

Thus the Society was organized and I became one of its first members, though somewhat against my will. "Who is convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still." I have changed my opinion thus far, however, in that I am now convinced that this Society has a place which no other organization can fill. We need the American Society of Agronomy! It is very important that each worker should meet, and become acquainted with, other workers in his line. By conversation and discussion his mind is quickened and his knowledge increased. This is not the age of monks and hermits. Truth is revealed by association with our fellow workers as well as by diligent individual study and research.

There should be an association of the agronomists of the nation, the same as there are associations of specialists in other lines of agriculture; all are useful and all are necessary. But I am still of the opinion that there are too many independent national agricultural societies, to several of which every professional agriculturist and