Thomas Jefferson's Farm Book: With Commentary And Relevant Extracts From Other Writings

Thomas Jefferson Edwin Morris Betts


Thomas Jefferson completed this book in around 1820, when he was 77 years old. He was trying to find the very essence of the Christian faith and to share it in its clearest form. This was done by carefully cutting out and pasting together chosen verses from the four main gospels into what was, in its final version, an 82-page book.
Thomas Jefferson's Farm Book: With Commentary and Relevant Extracts From Other Writings. Charlottesville: Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, 1999. View the manuscript online on the Massachusetts Historical Society website; or, find a copy in a library near you. Garden Book: Betts, Edwin Morris, ed. Thomas Jefferson's Garden Book, 1766-1824, With Relevant Extracts From His Other Writings. Charlottesville: Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, 1999. View the manuscript online on the Massachusetts Historical Society website; or, find a copy in a library near you. On the other hand, other scholars maintain that Jefferson's moral agrarianism is merely a bit of propaganda that insidiously sheaths a political or economic ideal. For them, Jefferson is through and throughout a politician, and expressions of agrarianism as a moral ideal amount to mere cant. In this paper, I examine arguments for and against Jefferson's moral agrarianism. I defend the position that Jefferson was an aboveboard moral agrarianist and that the ideal of agrarianism was not just one that was suited for Americans, given their surfeit of land and want of laborers, but an ideal that al... 1999. Jefferson's farm book, with commentary and relevant extracts from other writings. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Google Scholar. Brewster, J. 2000.
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