

N. CAROLINA FREE PRESS.

Whole No. 452.

Tarborough, (Edgecombe County, N. C.) Saturday, July 13, 1833.

Vol. IX—No 46.

The "North Carolina Free Press,"

BY GEORGE HOWARD,

Is published weekly, at Two Dollars and Fifty Cents per year, if paid in advance—or, Three Dollars, at the expiration of the subscription year. For any period less than a year, Twenty-five Cents per month. Subscribers are at liberty to discontinue at any time, on giving notice thereof and paying arrears—those residing at a distance must invariably pay in advance, or give a responsible reference in this vicinity. Advertisements, not exceeding 16 lines, will be inserted at 50 cents the first insertion, and 25 cents each continuance. Longer ones at that rate for every 16 lines. Advertisements must be marked the number of insertions required, or they will be continued until otherwise ordered, and charged accordingly. Letters addressed to the Editor must be post paid, or they may not be attended to.

AGRICULTURAL.



RURAL ECONOMY.

From the Fredericksburg (Va.) Herald.
ON RAISING POTATOES.

Mr. Harrow:—In passing through our streets the other day, I could but observe the Irish potatoes, placed at the door of almost every house of business; on asking the price I was told that one hundred bushels, could be had at one shilling per bushel, and in lots of twenty bushels at twenty cents per bushel. Now, sir, as we look for you to correct whatever goes amiss in domestic as well as political economy, would it not be kindly received by the readers of your paper, especially farmers, to give them a hint at the policy pursued by them; in the general neglect, of this most valuable root. Its cultivation in the first place, is perhaps, of all others, the least difficult, as well as requiring the least labor—none possessing more nutriment, adapted to the constitution of both man and beast. It has its place upon the President's table as well as the cottager's, and is no less the choice vegetable of the delicate and blooming lady than the rustic ploughman. The season for planting this invaluable article is now at hand, from the 1st June to the 15th or 20th July, for fall use, (in light and quick soils,) the time of laying by the corn is the time to plant them, in the last middle furrow, and the dirt gently thrown back upon them, they need no further cultivation, and have often yielded ten, fifteen and twenty bushels for one of seed. Again, the stubble of wheat is a fine preparation, a slight furrow and the potatoe placed in, and the dirt thrown back on each side, will, with the September rains; produce an abundant crop, without further cultivation, when the soil is light and active, and is found to be a great improver of the soil, yielding two crops in the season. Now, the uses of this famous root, beside that for the table, and as a substitute for bread, hogs, sheep, oxen, milch cows are very fond of them, and when boiled with a little salt and bran, nothing is more improving to their health and general good condition. Hogs, especially when in pens, fatten and grow more rapidly than with corn, always less liable to fever and costiveness. Would farmers pay a little attention to this article, they might largely increase the sale of their corn crop, which is often wasted without the improvement of their pork, except to harden the flesh. A simple calculation will easily show how it is that the eastern farmers make their little farms [not in all as large as one of our ordinary size fields] produce so much. They calculate each acre in corn will produce 50 bushels—the same planted with potatoes, in laying by the corn, will produce from 250 to 350 bushels, according to the season. The first is worth, generally, 60 cents per bushel, is 30 dollars; the latter, say 250 bushels, at 25 cents per bushel, though often more, is 62 dollars 50 cents; this 92 dollars 50 cents is what we receive from a single acre.

In the same proportion, 20 acres will yield the surprising amount, at ordinary prices, of 1950 dollars. The lot in wheat about the same degree. Notwithstanding these almost certain results from such a system, we find our small farmers particularly, with, perhaps, a single horse to draw the plough, delve on from year to year, at corn alone, and often before the 1st March have to look out to some kind neighbor to loan them a little corn for bread, to get on until fruit season. Not to say any thing about the smoke house, which, except in grass season, never has had introduced into it, a single sty hog, a fat beef, mutton or pig. Why this? Ask the yankee. He will say, because you neglect the simple and easy culture of Irish potatoes.

Suppose, again, you take \$10 and purchase 50 bushels at the market price and plant them on the 1st July, or on the 15th if you please, either in wheat stubble, or corn ground—in the short period of ninety days you will gather your crop—at a moderate calculation you will get ten bushels for one of seed, making 500 bushels—which will sell for seldom less than 30 or 35 cents—take the least price and you have \$150 for the ten advanced for 60 days and so in proportion, by the few day's labor of your least effective hands.

Who is it that has felt the ravages of the Hessian fly, and with hopes all blasted with regard to meeting promptly and at Christmas bonds for hires, &c. let him be up and doing while the season invites, and seed can be had, cultivate potatoes; who the last year had the last existence of his smoke house drawn out with sighs and groans and a useless dairy—let him plant potatoes; who labors to maintain his punctuality and is desirous to behold his helpmate cheerful, and his children happy—let him plant potatoes.

The Crops.—It is with regret that we inform our distant readers, of the failure of the Wheat crop in this section of the State. A large portion of our farmers will not, we fear, realize more than half a crop, although a much greater quantity of that grain was sown last fall than any previous year. The Oat crops have, we believe, amply repaid the husbandman for his labor; and as far as our knowledge extends, the Corn crops, so far as they have advanced, look well, and promise an abundant harvest. The Rice planters in the lower part of the State, with those who cultivate Cotton, chiefly to the South, have suffered incalculable injury by the late freshets, and we fear they will share the same fate, if not a worse one, with those of our planters, who raise wheat as their chief commodity.

Pittsboro' Reflector.

Family Steamer.—Scarcely ever have we seen a little apparatus so admirably adapted, from its simplicity, its easy application, and its various and important uses, to the convenience and comfort of the neat and industrious house wife, as that which has recently fallen under our notice, with the above appropriate title. It is a portable steam generator, whose principal object is to assist in creating and preserving cleanliness, to destroy obnoxious insects and vermin, and to prevent their increase. It is used without trouble or inconvenience, and supercedes the annoying application of water in many cases. That vexatious and indispensable ceremony, which is after all too often ineffectual, the cleaning of bedsteads, may be performed most thoroughly by the aid of this apparatus, without taking them apart or removing them, and without the slightest injury to the floor or carpet upon which they stand. Not a bug or other insect can possibly escape the searching and destructive power of this instrument. For cleansing furniture, removing spots from paint, pu-

rifying varnish, cleansing windows and looking glasses, picture frames, maps, &c. it is most completely adapted. Its penetrating power is truly wonderful. The smallest crack or fissure may be thoroughly searched and every thing harbored there effectually removed. It may be useful too to destroy worms, which so often infest fruit trees, without injuring the trees themselves; and to remove skippers from bacon without affecting the meat. In fine, in those numerous essential family operations, which, while they contribute to neatness, health & comfort, are so often full of trouble and vexation to the matron and to all about her, it is an almost invaluable auxiliary, and when it shall be introduced into general use we have no doubt it will rank among the most valuable and indispensable articles of housewifery.

It is capable likewise of being employed in many cooking operations to great advantage. It will, for example, boil eggs or potatoes with great ease and in a most excellent manner.—*Nash Banner.*

[If it will whip the children and keep them clean; scold the servants; score up the bread, milk and other accounts; feed the chickens; milk the cow; saddle the horse; black the boots and shoes, and a hundred little troublesome duties in a family—it would save the wasting of a deal of breath, and prove a most useful contrivance. We should like to see this "Family Steamer."—*W. C. Chron.*]

Military Academy.—The Washington Globe of 22d ult. contains the report of the Board of Visitors of this institution for the present year. Not having room for it entire—we present the following synopsis of it, which we find in the Baltimore American.

The examination has occupied several weeks, and has been conducted with great strictness. In order to avoid all suspicion that the examining Professor had adapted his questions to the particular capacity and attainments of each cadet, the Board appointed a committee to assign the subjects and order of examination. The result was highly satisfactory, and the Board express "perfect satisfaction with the progress of the Cadets." Of the first class—that which has completed the whole course and is about to receive commissions in the army, the report says, "They will leave the Academy well fitted to fulfil the great objects of the institution, viz: to introduce into the armies of the United States all the modern improvements in the art of war, and the high state of discipline which distinguishes the best armies of Europe; to disseminate throughout our country a knowledge of Military Tactics and Engineering, so far as to furnish the means of rendering our militia as well as our regular army an efficient arm of defence in time of war; and to provide officers properly instructed and fully capable of superintending the construction of fortifications for the permanent defence of our maritime frontier, and of works connected with the internal improvement of the country."

The report makes several important suggestions in reference to the improvement of the means, accommodations, buildings, and course of instruction, of the Academy. An increase of the Library, and the philosophical apparatus, and a very considerable enlargement of the quarters of the cadets and Assistant Professors, and new buildings for various departments and general uses, are recommended. A course of applied mechanics in the study of military and civil engineering, referring to the investigation and description of some of the usual machines employed in the construction of public works; a course of topography, as applied to military reconnoissances, various improvements in the department of Natural Philosophy; and a course of Strategy or Grand Tactics, are urged as

proper to be introduced into the Academy with great advantage to the Cadets. They particularly advise the adoption of a system of Cavalry Tactics, which have hitherto been totally neglected.

To meet the further call upon the time and attention of the students by these additions to their course of study, the Board recommend that the term of Academic study should be extended, or the qualification for admission be made much greater than at present.

The financial management of the Institution, and the treatment of the students, both as to food, lodgings, and clothing—are approved of, with only such exceptions as arise from the inadequacy of the buildings to accommodate them fully.

The report pays a just compliment to the character and exertions, of the late superintendent Col. Thayer, and concludes with expressing regret that the old works in the neighborhood of the Academy (Fort Putman, &c.) have been disturbed. They ought to be preserved as national monuments of revolutionary heroism.

Matrimonial.—We copy from the hymenial record of the Boston Traveler, the following announcement:

"Married, in Wickford, after a courtship of ten years, Mr. George M. Shaw, to Miss Mary P. Nichols.

Why would it not be well in every instance of like association, to state the time the parties have been forming their acquaintance? It would be of vast utility, and show at the first glance the probable chances of happiness of the united pair, as it would be inferred from long negotiations that they had become intimate with the dispositions, passions, sentiments and peculiarities of each other; while on the contrary, a sudden match would make it evident that they had entered into it haphazard and taken each other for better for worse, as the result might prove. And why would it not be as well to add the ages of the respective parties to the covenant, so that the reader might know whether the ten years billing and cooing was passed in the autumn of their life, or whether they adopted the advice of the poet, to love while life is young, and consummated an engagement entered into while in their childhood when they arrived at maturity.—*Boston Atlas.*

Cut a couple of cards each into a circle of about two inches in diameter. Perforate one of these at the centre, and fix it on the top of a tube, say a common quill. Make the other card ever so little concave, and place it over the first, the orifice of the tube being thus directly under, and almost in contact with the upper concave card. Try to blow off the upper card. You will find it impossible. We understand that the cause that counteracts the effect at first expected at this singular phenomenon, has lately puzzled all the members of the Royal Society. A medal and a hundred guineas are said to be the reward of the successful discoverer. We recommend the ingenious reader to find it out.

A Calculation.—Some pains-taking citizen has made a calculation that there are 400,000 cigar smokers in the United States, that puff away 9,000,000 of dollars annually. The same calculator makes 600,000 chewers, and 500,000 snuffers, whose amiable propensity costs annually seven millions!

Law.—At Worcester, Mass. an individual bro't suit against a Manufacturing company, for damages sustained in consequence of the horse he had in a wagon taking fright at a piece of cloth spread out to dry, running off, breaking his leg and injuring the man. The jury returned a verdict of \$206 damages for the plaintiff.