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BY GEORGE HOWARD,

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AGRICULTURAL.



From the Southern Banner.

COTTON SEED OIL.

Athens, July 30, 1833.

Messrs. Editors—As this is the age of improvement and all appear anxious to husband the resources of the country and to develop new ones, permit me, through your paper, to attempt to turn the attention of the public to one which the South possesses in an eminent degree, and which has been suffered to remain unimproved, for the want of but a very moderate share of enterprise. I allude to the manufacture of cotton seed oil. I propose to shew, first, its entire practicability, and then its extensive usefulness, from which the inference will be readily drawn, of the great sources of profit necessarily resulting to the cotton planting States. The difficulty heretofore was, the want of a machine to separate the kernels from the lint and hulls which absorbed the oil and prevented its complete extraction from the former. This has been entirely obviated by a machine, invented by our ingenious fellow citizen, Lancelot Johnson, Esq. of Madison, Morgan county. It is as perfect for the purpose as it is possible, and it is altogether different from any thing of the kind heretofore invented. There is one in Virginia of another description, but in point of expedition and faithful execution, it is nothing to compare with Mr. Johnson's. That plan is a rough heavy stone cylinder turning within a semi-concave circle, brought so near together as to crack the seed, and then they are sifted and the hulls blown away by a fan. This plan is imperfect, because the hulls and lint are mashed into the kernels occasionally. Mr. Johnson's is altogether different, and is upon the plan of an inverted cob or coffeemill. The hopper is circular and conical, and lined with steel plate teeth, chiseledged, and spirally arranged from top to bottom. Within the hopper, which stands upon a square frame, and conforming to its shape, there revolves a vertical block, around which are also inserted similar and corresponding teeth to those mentioned. The rows of teeth are then brought, by means of a regulator, just near enough together to cut the hulls of the seed as they pass through, and are then separated by an inclined rocking riddle and fan, perhaps not unlike a wheat fan. The operation is very perfect. Not a fibre is mixed with the kernel, and they drop as clear as cleaned rice and not unlike it, having about as many kernels cut in two, as the broken grains usually appearing in that article. It hulls twenty bushels an hour with horse power, and can be operated by a common rope band attached to the gearing of a cotton gin. It will cost about as much as an ordinary threshing machine. The press for expressing the oil, is the most expensive part of this business, and will cost \$750. Now, with such an establishment it is already ascertained that there is nothing easier than

making the oil, and this brings me to the mention of its usefulness, premising that the facts submitted are supported by either actual experiment or testimony of the most unquestionable character.

One bushel of seed will make half a gallon of oil, and this oil sells in the cities of Philadelphia and New York for one dollar a gallon, when linseed oil is selling for ninety cents. The reason for this difference is owing to the greater number of uses to which it can be applied. In the first place, it is decidedly better painting oil, and so pronounced by all who have tried it, particularly that distinguished practical citizen Gen. David R. Williams of South Carolina. It is a most excellent lamp oil, and is in its use, free from smoke or smell. It answers in the manufacture of woollens equal to any oil ever tried, and for greasing machinery nothing can exceed it. There are several minor uses to which it can be applied with singular advantage. It has a remarkable property, combined with rotten stone, in cleansing, with unrivalled brightness, all kinds of metals and also tortoise shell. When fresh, it can be used in corn bread for the same purpose, and to as good an effect as lard, having nothing offensive in smell or taste, the latter resembling that of the hickory nut. The cake, as it is called, that part which is left after expressing the oil, is superior, as food for cattle and hogs, to the linseed cake, which always commands a dollar a hundred, and is known to fatten the finest beeves brought to the New York market. A bushel yields 12½ lbs. and is consequently worth 12½ cents after the oil is extracted.

It remains to show the immense advantage which is in store for this country, from this at present unimproved resource. The cotton crop of Georgia, for instance, is 250,000 bales, which, at the usual price obtained, is equal to six millions of dollars. In the seed, this crop weighs three hundred millions, and takes about 600,000 acres to produce it. The fibres when taken off, being one-fourth of the weight, leaves two hundred and twenty-five millions of pounds of seed, which at thirty weight to the bushel, leaves in bushels, 7,500,000. From this quantity subtract one million and a half necessary to plant 600,000 acres, and there will then be a balance of six millions, equal to three millions of gallons of oil or three millions of dollars, half the value of the cotton crop—one which is such a vast source of wealth to the people of Georgia. This is exclusive too of the cake, worth seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars more.

In making these statements I am not unaware that I run the risk of being considered visionary, but I have the consolation of recollecting that such an idea was ascribed to a certain manufacturing establishment, not far from this place; but who considers it now as a wild project? There is not one planter in twenty, who has any idea of the quantity of seed he makes. For every thousand weight of seed cotton, there are 25 bushels of seed, which are worth to him in oil and food, at least fifteen dollars, considerably over half the value of his cotton, and really worth more than an equal quantity of corn. The time will come when a man will just as soon think of throwing away his corn as his cotton seed.

It is contemplated to establish an oil press at this place, in connection with the company owning the Athens Factory. I give it as my opinion, no investment can be more profitable—it will be better than cotton spinning, because of the cheapness and abundance of the raw material, the great use and variety of its production, the smallness of the capital necessary to be invested, its freedom from risk, and the unusually small portion of manual labour used in its manufacture. If individuals engaged in procuring whale oil are compelled to make large expenditures in pur-

chasing and equipping vessels, in preparing an expensive outfit for a dangerous and distant voyage of ten thousand miles, where they are cruising sometimes for three years, and then are able to realize an immense profit (making princely fortunes at from 70 to 90 cents a gallon for their oil,) what may not be expected from the production of a more useful oil, under facilities so obviously superior?—Whale oil will be diminished in value, and we shall realize another great advantage in the retrenchment of our expenses for that article, and keeping our money at home. In conclusion, I ought not to forget the immense benefit our Rail Road will derive from this new pursuit.

A. S. CLAYTON.

P. S.—I have specimens of the oil and cake in my possession, and know that it is an excellent lamp oil. Its effect in cleansing metals and the tortoise shell I have witnessed.

☞ The attempt made by the Hon. William Wirt to work his Florida plantation with free white hands has failed.—Ohio Repository.

The black worm.—Complaints are made in Upper Canada of a large black worm which is making fearful ravages with the grass and wheat of the new settlements: They appear to be as voracious as the locusts of Egypt. A single field of 50 acres had been entirely cut off by this new and destructive insect.

Remarkable Occurrence.—On Friday last, while the workmen were employed in leveling the Rail Road in Newark, over a piece of low spongy ground a short distance south of Market street, between Mulberry street and the river, they discovered a break or crack in the road which they had previously levelled. Shortly after an opening presented itself, and the earth began to cave in and sink out of sight. Several loads of dirt were thrown in—this also disappeared along with the ground which continued to cave in on every side, until the opening extended about sixty feet east and west, and one hundred and fifty north and south. As the earth disappeared, a body of water presented itself and rose towards the surface. Several thousand loads of dirt have been thrown in, a great portion of which had sunk away, nobody knows where. The hole is partly filled up on the north side, but a considerable space remains open where it first appeared. The depth or extent of this cavern has not yet been ascertained. Whilst the work of filling up was in progress, it was discovered that the level ground on the east side covered with stumps and roots of trees, about 60 feet by 100, was rising up and forming a hill; it has now risen several feet in the centre near the hole, and slopes of gradually in other directions. Large cracks are to be seen in different parts of this raised ground.

These are the facts; but whether it be a bottomless subterranean pond of water, or a bed of quicksand, or some other mysterious agent which sucks in and devours such vast quantities of earth, we must leave to the decision of the more learned advocates of Mr. Symmes' theory.
Newark (N. J.) Eagle.

Invention.—A chain saw has been invented by Mr. P. P. Quimby, of Belfast, Maine. The teeth are rivetted together, & then the saw is placed round a cylinder in a groove.

Riot.—The city of Detroit has been kept in a state of alarm for some time past, by the riotous conduct of a gang of blacks. Some time since, a gentleman came there from Kentucky in pursuit of a black man, whom he claimed as a slave. This created a good deal of excitement among the blacks, who rallied, and succeeded in forcibly rescuing the black man

from the custody of the sheriff, and smuggled him across the river to Canada. About a dozen of those engaged in the riot, were arrested, fined and imprisoned. Those still at large, it is said, have threatened the destruction of the city, if those confined are not released. The jail has been set on fire, the jailer's barn burnt, and other depredations committed.

Cleveland (Ohio) Adv.

Singular Case.—A young man by the name of Frothingham, at school at Utica, N. Y. disappeared very suddenly some time ago, and fears were entertained that he had been murdered, and several persons were examined upon suspicion, and discharged. By a letter recently received from him, it appears that he is in Liverpool, England, having, as he states, by severe study, deranged his mind, he wandered to Quebec, and there embarked for Liverpool. After a severe spell of sea sickness, his reason returned, and he wrote the letter to his parents giving the information where he was.

☞ In a severe thunder storm that occurred in Loudon county, Va. on the 25th ult. a Mr. Arnold, standing in a stable door was struck dead, as well as three horses standing near by; and a person taking care of the horses prostrated by the same shock. His life, it is supposed, was saved by having a silk handkerchief in his hat. The rim and top of the hat was severed from the crown, and a large piece taken out of the latter. The handkerchief was seared or scorched, as if a hot iron had passed over it.

Distressing Case.—The New York Courier says:—A family of emigrants who arrived here in the *Shibboleth* from Havre, were landed yesterday at the foot of Rector street, and proceeded, with several other passengers, to a boarding house in the neighborhood, for the purpose of procuring board. It being ascertained upon enquiry that they were destitute of means, they were denied admission to the house. The mother in the course of the afternoon, crept into an empty sugar hogshead which was lying on the side walk, where she gave birth to a child, which, with its distressed parents and other children, were taken towards evening, to an almshouse.

Judge McLean.—The *Monmouth* (N. J.) Enquirer says:—Some fifty years ago, a poor Irishman emigrated to this country and settled in the county of Middlesex, in this State, in a little shantee, to which were attached some half a dozen acres of light land. Whilst located there, he became the father of several children, and among the rest, of the present John McLean, now one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the U. States.

☞ The *Augusta* (Ga.) Chronicle says: We learn by a letter published in the *Macon Telegraph*, that the controversy between Col. John Milton and Maj. T. J. Camp, of Columbus, terminated on the 11th, in the death of the latter, who was shot by the former in the street, with a double barrel gun, and immediately expired. Col. Milton surrendered himself immediately to the civil power, and it is said on the authority of other letters, received in this city, was admitted to bail.

Rape.—The *Norristown* (Pa.) Herald states that a black man committed a rape upon the body of a white girl, about 11 years of age, on the 14th ult. It was doubtful for some time whether the girl would recover. The black man has been committed for trial.

☞ As far as I can see," says O'Brien, "the life of a man consists in getting into scrapes, and getting out of them."

A habit of sneering marks the egotist, or the fool, or the knave, or all three.