

military skill, as if planned by Varban himself. The ditch was not visible, but I thought, on examining more curiously, that I could perceive there certainly had been one. From its situation also I am convinced that it must have been designed for this purpose. It fronted the country, and its rear was covered by the river, nor was there any rising ground for a considerable way that commanded it; a few straggling oaks were alone to be seen near it. In many places small tracks were worn across it by the feet of the elks and deer, and from the depth of the bed of earth by which it was covered, I was able to draw some conclusions of its great antiquity. I examined all the angles and every part with great attention, and have often blamed myself since for not encamping on the spot, and drawing an exact plan of it. To shew that this description is not the offspring of an heated imagination, or the chimerical tale of a mistaken traveller, I find on enquiry, since my return, that Mons. St. Pierre and several traders, have, at different times, taken notice of similar appearances, on which they have formed the same conjectures, but without examining them so minutely as I did. How a work of this kind could exist in a country that has hitherto (according to the general received opinion) been the seat of war to untutored Indians alone, whose whole stock of military knowledge has only, till within two centuries, amounted to drawing the bow, and whose only breast work even at present is the thicket, I know not. I have given as exact account as possible of this singular appearance, and leave to future explorers of these distant regions to discover whether it is a production of nature or art. Perhaps the hints I have here given might lead to a more perfect investigation of it, and give us ideas of the ancient state of realms that we at present believe to have been, from the earliest period only the habitation of savages.

FOR THE GAZETTE.

THOUGHTS on the PRACTICE of AGRICULTURE: for the farmers in North-Carolina.

(Continued.)

ALL I shall farther observe is, that leafy green food, as red clover and lucerne, should be cut, and fed away in the stable, to prevent trampling; dry grain should be chopt and mixed with cut straw, and a little tobacco shred-down to prevent worms. Cattle should be penned in summer, and in winter

housed in sheds, and not left to lie and feed in the lanes, and even house-yard. One would imagine that farmers studied how to lose their manure—certainly they could not devise a more warring plan.

The use of vegetables, and I add wool, for manufactory is a subject for which our country is preparing. Agriculture in the first place, manufacture and merchandize will follow.

The last question, respecting the preservation of the soil is of the utmost importance; but how shall this be effected? I reply: first, by leaving hilly and uneven ground for forest timber or meadows, and cultivating the most level, even though its quality should be inferior. Second, by dividing a farm into a number of little fields, and going round in a proper rotation of grains and grasses, from year to year. Third, by restoring to each field or lot of ground, the very exact quantum of manure which the summer crop will produce, this to be ploughed down every winter, and mixed with the soil; beginning the first autumn after it is opened.

This can be easily effected if cattle be housed or penned; for not one particle of the summer crop, corn, hay, &c. need be lost, but made better by feeding it away. The distribution to every field; lot or meadow, made with mathematical exactness: let the farmer measure the quantity of ground that will produce one sheaf, four corn-ears, a handfull of blades, or a small hay-rick—let him turn each of these into manure; let him measure the quantity; and the business is done.

But with market wheat, flax, &c. there cannot be a return. I answer, the greatest deficiency is in the luxuries, not necessaries, of life; and the defect of these last the natural manures are intended to supply; luxuries they cannot supply. How wise and good is Heaven! This single consideration should put the patriotic planter out of humour with tobacco.

But why begin to manure the first year? My crop, says the farmer, grows better on new ground; for three or four years. Yes, sir, your crop grows better; but, unless subtraction be addition, your land grows worse. Your leaves, roots and rubbish, are not manured the first year; your soil can only yield, you say one tenth of its strength; the second year it yields two tenths; the third year, three. Do you not now see that while your crops grow better, your land grows worse. Your crops have encreased two thirds, your soil decreased one half.

But I am forty years in debt to my fields; I am bankrupt, and cannot pay;

I must therefore cut down my forests, and open new fields. But try first what can be done with your old ones, and count the cost of both; cow-pen them, cast on manure from the low lands; cover the vegetation every fall by deep ploughing; rest them, or give them a rotation of grasses and grains. They have been gradually worn out; gradually wear them in—it will be much cheaper than to clear new lands.

Some plan like this will soon be taken up by a few fore-seeing, philosophic minds, and in less than an hundred years the great body of farmers will know how to state debt and credit with every field as easily as the merchant can now place these terms on opposite sides of his ledger.

On the whole, our defects are not want of instruments, nor knowledge of the process in agriculture; but a want of care in the choice and rotation of crops; and in preserving from year to year, both the soil and its productions. The idea of laying up for a scarce year, has entered into the heads of few farmers—like the Israelites: “when they have much they have nothing over.” Other defects are, want of early manuring land, refusing to give it rest and neglecting to plough it in the fall and winter.

This has led the writer to some resolves, with which he takes leave of the public, and by which he is determined to govern his future life, as a farmer, and as a citizen.

Ref. 1. To make his plough run as constantly in winter as in summer; and manure every winter. To keep Dr. and Cr. even with his fields.

Ref. 2. To clear his fence-ground once a year as clear as his wheat field.

Ref. 3. To cut no timber for fuel but that fallen for other uses, or blown down by winds; and to cut no young timber when old can be had.

Ref. 4. Never to suffer his team to return from the field without a load of fuel. The writer has observed farmers burning good fire-wood before the plough, driving their teams home empty, and stopping the plough next day to cut and haul young green wood from the forest. How preposterous is this!

Ref. 5. To borrow as little as possible, and return a loan instantly after use.

Ref. 6. to purchase nothing from the petty trafficker; and nothing from the regular merchant without ready cash or produce.

Ref. 7. Never to contract with the mechanic until he shall have first obtained the money to pay him.

Ref. 8. Never to give a penny to the