

# The Raleigh Minerva.

Vol. 19.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1814.

No. 941.

## RALEIGH (N. C.)

PRINTED, WEEKLY, BY ALEX. LUCAS.

Terms of subscription: Three dollars per year, one half to be paid in advance. No paper to be continued longer than three months after a year's subscription becomes due, and notice thereof shall have been given.

Advertisements, not exceeding 14 lines, are inserted three for one dollar, and for twenty-five cents each subsequent insertion; and in like proportion where there is a greater number of lines than fourteen.

## Rural Economy.

FROM THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL.

Mr. M. Corbly,

The following excellent paper was read before the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia, in February, 1813, and will appear in their 3d vol. of transactions, which is now in the press.

The sentiments contained in this paper, would always deserve the serious attention of our agricultural fellow citizens, but they are more particularly worthy of consideration at the present time, when, owing to the war, the prices of various articles hitherto deemed of the first necessity, are necessarily much higher than usual. I hope every country paper will re-publish Dr. Tilton's paper.

Observations on the propriety of a Farmer living on the produce of his own Land, by James Tilton, M. D.

BELLEVUE, NEAR WILMINGTON, Del. Dec. 25, 1813.

Dear Sir,—I have to beg your pardon for omitting to contribute to the useful labours of your agricultural society. In return for my negligence, I propose to entertain you with a subject entirely new. Multitudes of writers instruct us how to raise corn, cattle, &c. but I find none, of modern date, who inform the farmer how to live to the greatest advantage, on the produce of his plantation. I shall attempt this interesting subject, with this single apology, that I hope you will not accuse me of vanity or egotism, from the frequent reference to myself, since I declare to you, that my object is to convince my fellow farmers, the opinions and advice I give are as practicable, as they are reasonable and profitable. Indeed, I cannot communicate ideas, that have been strongly impressed upon my mind better, than by interweaving some history of my domestic economy, since I became a farmer; together with the advantages resulting therefrom.

When I resolved to retire to my little plantation of about 60 acres, it was natural to cast about, amongst agricultural authorities, for advice and instruction. As remarked above, I found many to advise me in the production of grain, stock, &c. but Virgil alone how to eat and drink. Besides regarding his Georgics as a standard of agricultural science to this day, I was led to consider his Eclogues as recommending agricultural life, from the superior capacity for enjoyment it gave to its votaries, above all other employments; and, at the same time, as recommending it to husbandmen, to avoid the luxuries of the day and live upon the produce of their farms. The beauties of the poet are, in my opinion, surpassed by the wisdom of the philosopher. In that memorable invitation of his friend to supper, hear him sing!

*sunt nobis mitia pomæ*

*Castanæ molles, et pressi copia lactis.*

The liberal translation we used to give this bill of fare at grammar school, was, we have mellow apples, boiled chestnuts, and a plenty of curds and cream. A volume might be written on this single text. I will only remark, that Virgil wrote at the most luxurious epoch of the Roman empire, when the luxury and extravagance of that people surpassed every thing that ever happened before or since; and yet this sage patriot advises, in a manner the most persuasive and delightful, to live on home produce. —In his bill of fare no foreign luxury is mentioned, but only the delicious productions of Mantua.

Have we not occasion of similar advice in our days? and oh my friend, that we could employ the same influence! for the best classics agree, that Maecenas, the proud minister of the powerful Augustus, thought himself honoured by Virgil's invitation.

Independence has been the theme of descent from the days of 1776 to this time. During the revolution, independence of government or self government, as it was emphatically styled, was the rage, from Georgia to Maine. At present, an equal zeal appears for independence in our clothing. And, yet, strange to tell, few or none of us think of eating and drinking independently. Is it not a thousand times more ridiculous to send to the East and West Indies for breakfast and supper, than to Europe for clothing? It would seem as if we were so constituted as to admit but one subject at a time, into our heads, and that one of dire necessity. We are compelled to make our own clothes; and Providence may in compassion to our weakness, by cutting us off from foreign luxuries, oblige us to eat our own better victuals. All good men, like Virgil, will be forward and early in promoting a reformation, equally important in private economy and public policy.

Whatever apology the inhabitants of cities and towns may have, for their obstinate adherence to tea, coffee, &c. surely farmers have none. Their farms furnish much better food, and at a cheaper rate. How then are we to estimate the folly of crossing the ocean at an expense and hazard incalculable, for the sole purpose of indulging in articles universally admit-

ted to be injurious to health and destructive of property? A Chinese would give ten breakfasts of tea for one of milk. An American farmer purchases tea, at great expense, when he might have plenty of milk and other good things for nothing. Which of these characters discovers the wise dictates of native instinct; and which shews us the depravity of infatuation?

But a gentleman farmer, who has plenty of revenues, and may live as he lists and do as he likes, will answer me, that I reason like an attorney on one side, regardless of the good sense and general information of my fellow citizens. I, in that case reply, that I acknowledge myself an attorney upon one side, and the general information of my fellow citizens; and, therefore, do not hesitate to state my arguments with confidence and energy, against a peculiar infatuation. And if called upon to account for it, I answer; that when we were British colonialists, we were forced to be subservient to the lucrative policy of the mother country; we were taught to drink tea, coffee, rum, &c. and to indulge in a variety of foreign luxuries, in subservience to their carrying trade. They did not encourage the like among their own people. The policy of the British was to favour the use of their own malt liquors and other domestic productions; and to prohibit rum, even of their own colonies: and tea and coffee were dutied and regulated in such a manner, that the use of them was very limited, among farmers at least. They thought it more expedient to send them to us; and would fain have made us pay duty upon them, besides freight and other charges. This gave occasion to our disunion; and considering we had spirit and energy enough to separate from so unjust a nation of merchants, I appeal to the good sense of my countrymen, if it is not very astonishing, that it has never yet occurred to us, to abandon the vicious and injurious habits imposed upon us by mercantile intrigues. It might well have been expected, that we should have felt some resentment at the means employed, as well as the measures of government, for enslaving us. But strange to tell, from the day of our deliverance to this time, we have consumed their teas with apparent delight.

But my plan may be further criticised, by asking, how do you entertain your friends without tea and coffee? I answer, that I do not own either tea cups or saucers, and yet, I am at no loss to entertain my friends agreeably. My dinner is not very different from that of other folks. Breakfast and supper I eat out of soup plates. Supper is the principal meal of entertainment; and with the best fruits of the season, with and without cooking; bread, butter, cheese, &c. I can make a handsomer display, and furnish a more delicious and salutary aliment than with tea and coffee. Old and young never fail to commend those repasts. It must be confessed, however, the more advanced in years frequently remark, that, however they may now and then relish a feast of this sort, they are very reluctant to relinquish their old habits. But I have the satisfaction to observe, that all my younger brethren and sisters, who are less corrupted by fashion and habit, do not hesitate to declare their willingness to give up their tea and coffee, every day, for a Virgilian supper.

But what are the advantages of this Virgilian economy? I answer many. In a political point of view, it gives us independence. This requires no demonstration. It also saves many lives: for since my residence at and near Wilmington, more fine young men of the borough have died, in the West India trade, than from any other cause whatever.

As to expense, besides the tea and china ware, the time and maintenance of one person about a house is nearly saved from the washing and piddling which these frivolous trinkets require.

In point of health, if you will indulge me in talking about myself, as a familiar example, I will inform you how I have profited by Virgil's advice. When I resided at Dover, in a flat country and vapour atmosphere, the faculty advised me to live above the climate. Besides my meridian before dinner, I generally drank wine in the afternoon. All would not do, I was obliged to fly for my life to this hill country. While I resided in Wilmington, I continued my usual habits. Soon afterwards I was attacked by the gout, and had regular fits for some years. —Since I became a farmer and indulged the Virgilian economy, I have never had the gout. For more than 12 years, I have been free from this scourge of intemperance. Although I am now on the wrong side of 60 years of age, my feet have recovered their tone and hardihood; I can walk and ride, and do manual labor as well as ever I could. The trimming of my orchards is an amusement reserved for my own hands; for I would not be hired to let an awkward fellow spoil my fruit trees. —I never learned to reap or mow; but I can shock wheat or make hay with any body. Besides, I am chief gardener in a lot of two acres. My local situation precludes me from extensive professional duties; but such as fall to my lot are not neglected. —All this too without self-denial, so great as might be imagined; for although I have quit the use of wine, along with other foreign luxuries, I indulge in a cheering glass of spirit and water, once or twice a day. For this purpose I prefer goodrye whiskey or high proof apple brandy; for I seem to go abroad for any thing that I can get better at home.

Are not these advantages worthy of communicating to my brother farmers. Is there a man among you, that duly estimates a cheerful and vigorous old age, free from pain and decrepi-

tude, who would think these blessings dearly purchased by taking Virgil's advice, to live on the produce of his own farm.

It would take up too much time and space to be particular as to the rest of my family. Suffice it to observe, that if any of them go from home a few days, they rejoice on returning to their domestic fare; and I have never known a person yet, who had once lived with me, that objected to returning and living with me again, on account of the well known family economy. By living on the produce of our farms, I would not wish to be understood, as excluding all trade and commerce. Individuals may exchange, and states and nations trade to advantage. But these abstract ideas are very different from the habitual folly of our country. —Trade should be encouraged when advantageous; but a commerce that is injurious ought to be repressed. The different states of the union might exchange commodities to great advantage even in articles of diet. Those should be regarded as domestic produce, and ought certainly to be preferred to those of foreign growth. There is a wide distinction to be taken between sending to New-England for cod-fish, and sending to China for tea. The same may be said of bringing rice from Carolina, and rum from the W. Indies. Having a continent of our own, if domestic commerce were duly cultivated we should have occasion for but few articles from the eastern continents. As no tin has been discovered in America we ought to import it from England or elsewhere, as we can get it most conveniently. But certainly the importation of iron ought to be discouraged.

You will perceive that I have advocated a general proposition, that of living on domestic fare, in preference to foreign luxuries. Much might be added in detail, on the subject of frugal, healthful and independent living. —Your treatise on brown biscuit is an excellent specimen of this sort. Although I commenced the use of biscuit along with my husbandry, you have taught me to make it better than I used to do. My present composition is two parts of ship stuff, and one of common flour. —The bakers inform me, a little flour is necessary to the due consistence or tenacity of the dough. Well baked biscuit of this sort with boiled milk, is my regular breakfast at home. Being always ready, I find biscuit a great accommodation to a family. I commonly break my biscuit in a wooden mortar, which I happened to have for shop use. A friend of mine, who had lost his teeth took occasion to observe one day at breakfast, that he found my mortar the best substitute for teeth he had ever discovered. I mention these little circumstances with a view to remove all possible objections to a form of bread that is equally frugal, healthful and delicious.

Regarding this essay as fundamental on the subject of independent living, if well received by your society, it may give encouragement to numberless details, all tending to shew the wide distinction between good living and fine or fashionable living; a distinction which, if generally and well understood, would be of immense consequence to society at large.

With great respect, I am, dear sir, your friend and humble servant,

JAMES TILTON.

RICHARD PETERS, ESQ.

President of the Philadelphia Agric. Soc.

## Congress.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, APRIL 4.

Mr. Calhoun, from the committee of Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the message of the President of Thursday last, made the following Report.

The committee of Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the Message of the President of the 31st March, submits to the House the following REPORT.

Taking into consideration the great importance of the measures recommended, the committee think it a duty which they owe to the House and the nation, to state the grounds on which their Report is founded. Uniting with the Executive in the policy of these measures, they wish to explain the reasons which have produced that union.

Of the past it is unnecessary to take a review; the attention of the committee is drawn with more solicitude to the future.

Previous to the late changes in Europe, the bearing of our restrictive measures was for the most part confined to our enemies; the obstruction to our commercial intercourse with the friendly powers of the world being in a manner insuperable. At present a prospect exists of an extended commercial intercourse with them, highly important to both parties, and which, it may be presumed, they will find an equal interest and disposition to promote. Denmark, all Germany and Holland, heretofore under the double restraint of internal regulation and external blockade and depredations from a commerce with the U. States, appears by late events to be liberated therefrom.

Like changes equally favorable to the commerce of this country, appear to be taking place in Italy, and the more extreme parts of the Mediterranean. With respect to Spain and Portugal, in the commerce with whom the U. S. have great interest, it may be expected that commerce may be carried on without the aid heretofore afforded to the enemy. Should peace take place between France and her enemies, including Great Britain, the commerce of the U. States with France will fall under the same remarks.

The considerations of an internal nature,

which urge a repeal of these acts, at this time are not less forcible than those which have been already stated. Among those are the following: The committee are persuaded that it will considerably augment the public revenue, and thereby maintain the public credit, that it will enhance the price and promote the circulation of our produce, in lieu of specie, which has of late become the object of so much speculation, tending to embarrass the government.

Mr. C. then, leave being given, reported the following bill:

### ABILL

To repeal an act entitled "An act laying an Embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States," and so much of any act or acts as prohibits the importation of goods, wares and merchandize of the growth, produce or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, or any of the colonies or dependencies thereof, or of any place or country in the actual possession of Great Britain, and for other purposes.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted, &c.* That the act entitled "An act laying an Embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States," passed on the 17th day of December, 1813, be and the same is hereby repealed: *Provided*, that all penalties and forfeitures which have been incurred under the said act shall be recovered and distributed, and may be mitigated or remitted in like manner as if the said act had continued in full force and virtue.

2. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of an act or acts as prohibits the importation of goods, wares, or merchandize of the growth, produce or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, or any of the colonies or dependencies thereof, or of any place or country in the actual possession of Great Britain, be and the same is hereby repealed: *Provided*, that all fines, penalties and forfeitures incurred in virtue of the said act or acts, shall be recovered and distributed, and may be mitigated or remitted in like manner as if the same had continued in full force and virtue. *And provided also*, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize or permit the importation of goods, wares or merchandize or of any article the property of or belonging at the time of such importation to the enemy or enemies of the United States.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That no foreign ship or vessel shall receive a clearance or be permitted to depart from the U. States, whose officers and crew shall not consist wholly of the citizens or subjects of the country to which such ship or vessel shall belong, or of a country in amity with the United States; and no citizen of the U. States shall be permitted to depart in such ship or vessel, without a passport or permission therefor furnished under the authority and direction of the President of the U. States.

The bill having been twice read, Mr. Calhoun made the usual motion to refer it to a committee of the whole House.

Mr. Wright, of Md. objected to this reference because of the nature of the bill, coupling together two subjects which ought to be kept entirely distinct, and on which there might be much difference of opinion. He therefore moved that the bill be recommitted to the committee who reported it, with instructions to report separate bills.

This motion was overruled by the Speaker, the motion made by Mr. Calhoun having preference, according to the rules of the House.

The question on referring the bill to a committee of the whole was decided in the affirmative by a large majority.

EXPORTATION OF GOLD AND SILVER. Mr. Calhoun then, from the same committee, reported a bill to prohibit the exportation of gold or silver coins or bullion; which was twice read and referred to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Q. then observed, that the message embraced another subject, which did not appear to the committee of Foreign Relations to appertain to their province—he meant the continuance of the double duties. He therefore moved that the committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from the consideration of so much of the message, and that it be referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Ingham of Pa. having required a division of the question, the question on discharging the committee of Foreign Relations from the consideration of that part of the message was decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Webster of N. H. moved a reference of the subject to the committee of the whole to whom the two bills just reported had been referred.

This motion, after some observations from Mr. Ingham, was negatived.

Mr. Ingham then moved a reference of this part of the message to the Secretary of the Treasury, with instructions to report to Congress at their next session a general tariff of duties on imported goods, wares and merchandize conformably to existing circumstances and the different local interests of various parts of the nation.

To this motion it being objected by Mr. Macon and Mr. Pitkin that it would be improper and unusual to refer to the President's Secretary a part of his own message; and Mr. I. yielding to the suggestion, withdrew his motion. Before he withdrew it—

Mr. McKim of Md. suggested the expediency of not acting on this subject during the present session. The message suggested the propriety of extending the double duties beyond the termination of the war. If a peace were to take place to-morrow, there would be time