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RURAL ECONOMY.

FROM THE NEWBERN FEDERAL REPUBLICAN.

Common-sense.—The general ravage the last cold winter has made of the sweet potatoe slips throughout the land, induces me to communicate to the public the method I have used in putting up that article with success the last half dozen years. But before I begin the relation, I remark that the sweet potatoe kind dug out of their growing ground and buried together, in whatever mode, immediately goes through, what is usually called, a sweat; and most farmers knowing this, are afraid of banking them too thick, lest they take a heat as well as a sweat, and all rot; and by the experience of many this fear is well grounded. But in case the winter proves rigid, in shunning this evil, they plunge into the one so sadly felt by the fees of the late hard winter. I further remark that the deeper, in reason, an article is deposited under earth from the fluctuating influence of the sun and air, the less is its exposure to the extremes of heat or cold; unless it contains a property in itself, co-operating with the surrounding earth to produce it. But the sweet potatoe contains a property producing heat to itself, when shut in from the reach of the surrounding atmosphere; and a discovery of some easy method to divest them of that property before banking, that may prevent both the evils of heat and of cold, is peculiarly desirable. This discovery I think I have made, not by the result of profound reason, but by the result of a long and patient experiment. The process is as follows:

While your slips are digging, all that are dug in a day, at evening bring together in a heap or heaps, strew over them a little straw to prevent the earth from mixing with them; bank them with earth four or five inches thick, and let them remain till the whole are dug and treated the same way. In this situation they go through their sweat in a few days; four will do, a week is better, but two weeks is not too long. The next object is to embrace a warm fair day to remove and bank them at the place intended. Such a day being obtained, remove the earth and straw quite off them in the morning and set about removing them. They will be dry enough to bank in the afternoon of the same day. Now bank them as thick as you please, at least thick enough to keep out rain and all possible cold. One foot of earth close pressed is sufficient, but two, or even three is not too much, only as it would be unnecessary labor; for now they will neither sweat nor heat by thick banking. But as it is of equal importance to secure them from wet, as from heat and cold, we must turn our attention to the preparation necessary before banking, to prevent that. For this purpose, if practicable, choose the brink of a hill, where a channel can be opened to lead the water out of the surrounding channels down the declivity. Heap your slips in a conic form; cover them pretty thick with spungy straw (wheat or rice) capable of absorbing moisture; place over them three forked saplings in a triangular position at the base banking these forks together at the vertex; sufficiently supply the spaces with other poles, resting their upper ends on the forked saplings to bear up the banking from pressing on the slips; strew over the whole a little straw to prevent the next dressing from falling through the spaces between the poles; for the next dressing place corn stalks up on end (as the banking goes on) so close side by side as to leave no space between them; or, if you will be at the pains, double them. When the banking is ended, but it close and smooth with the under side of a hoe, beginning at the vertex and finishing at the base.

The above method never fails to keep my slips warm, cool, dry and sound. I do not remember to have seen a damaged one among them this spring; while my neighbors round about me have sustained great loss, some a third, some half, some two thirds and some the whole. Great scarcity prevails and as great a cry.

The straw upon the slips serves to detect what water may perchance escape through the banking and frame in time of much rain; the frame over them is of great utility by preventing the banking from settling upon them while they shrink; for in a little time they shrink so as to leave a considerable cavity between them and the frame, which becomes a means of the water passing down the frame into the ground below, and so into the channels and down the declivity; whereas, if they were in contact with the banking, would be continually participating in its waters. It is convenient in other respects, for when the slips are to be used from time to time, a small door may be opened on one side, leaving the rest standing to protect them till they are all used; and will afterwards serve for the dogs to lie in, in rainy weather, or the hens to lay and hatch in. The court of corn stalks is also of considerable importance, by absorbing the water as it drains through the

banking, and conveying it through their pitch, into the ground below, and so into the channels and down the declivity. Patting the outside hard and smooth, simple as it may seem, is of equal importance with the other precautions, by giving it a capacity to repel the rain, that it run down the outside into the channels, passing it away: whereas if left soft and rough, admits its penetration to the inmost recesses as fast as it falls.

I have now related the whole process with remarks, and hope it may be of some use. What applies to slips, equally applies to old roots.

I said I discovered the utility of the previous sweat by practising my convenience; which was simply this. Seeing it much easier to cover my slips at evening, with earth to protect them from accidental frost, than to collect straw sufficient for that purpose I did so to save labor, and after noticing the effects, I endeavored to philosophise it.

Sufficiency of slips to plant in the spring is of no small importance in the low country of N. Carolina especially at a time like the present.

Having taken up the pen, before I lay it down, I will give my opinion on another point concerning the potatoe planting.

It is well known, that in the spring season the climate of N. Carolina is subject to frequent changes from warm to cold, and the contrary, according to the points from whence the wind blows.

When the air is cold, the slips ought not to be exposed in it:—I choose rather to forbear planting at such a time till the air becomes warm again. If any one ask, what harm can cool air do if it does not freeze them? I tell such that the transit out of the warm bank into the cool air, quickly chills their juices, and checks their first intention to germinate, and then they require considerable time to recover that intention; and if then deposited in the moist earth, they quickly admit into themselves plenty of water from the surrounding earth, which, in the state they are in, sobs them to no other purpose, but further to impede their intention to germinate; and may be compared to ramming the maw of an animal with provender, if such a thing could be, at a time when its appetite and digestive powers are reduced. The slips, when they come up, and what lingers in coming up is seldom thrifty or productive.

Printers are requested to give the above a place in their papers for the gratification of their readers, and benefit of the public

GEORGE HEAD.

May 17, 1817.

TOPOGRAPHICAL.

ALABAMA.

Extract of a letter, from a gentleman in the Alabama territory, dated "Near Fort Claibourne, (A) April 25, 1817.

"Dear Friend.—You desire to know what I think of this country. On many accounts I think it a good country; but there is too much poor land for the name it has a great way off. There is a great deal of good land; but more that is poor. Being a new country, it is excellent in many parts for stock. In some places it appears as if it would endure to the end of time; and on the water-courses are excellent cane and reed brakes. The lower part of this country is level pine woods; the middle is rather broken interspersed with rich and poor land; the water-courses are tolerably numerous, on them the lands are generally good, and very productive, particularly of cotton, which the climate is well adapted to. Where I now live, the bodies of good land are rather too small for the number of settlers. On the waters of the Escambia and Conec, are some excellent bodies of land. I am informed that in the upper part of this country, the lands are generally better and in larger bodies, than lower down. As to the trade, there are at present seven tolerable good stores at Fort Claibourne, and I think it will be a place of considerable trade. The Yankees, have some of them found the way to it, and sell their goods reasonable, except groceries, which are generally dear. Mobile begins to look up. The Alabama is good navigation for large boats and small schooners in the spring. Cotton may be taken from Fort Claibourne to New Orleans by water, at four dollars per bale, freight.

"As to health, I have never heard of less sickness in the same time, as since I have been here. The country may become more sickly as it is more opened, from the rotting of timber, roots, &c. On the bluff and river low grounds, people are very subject to the ague and fever, equally as bad if not worse than the Congaree swamps, which causes me to prefer the high-land. In some parts the water is good. I think it very proper for persons who are not well settled to take a view of this country; but persons who are well settled, on tolerable good land, and enjoying good health, will gain but little by moving to it. This is a good country for a poor industrious farmer. Many persons have come here under an expectation of living without labor; but to their great disappointment they have found the land in general more difficult to clear and attend, than it is in the states; but when it is properly managed it is more productive, and rewards the industrious for their labor.

"Corn has been \$5 per bushel at Fort Claibourne, but may be got now from \$2 50 to \$3; Flour \$20 per barrel; Bacon 20 per cents per lb; Sugar \$19 to 20 per owl; Coffee 37 1-2 cents per lb; Iron 12 1-2; Crockery ware is not very dear."

MISCELLANEOUS.

LONDON, MAY 5.

Bonaparte—The fact of Bonaparte's being employed in writing "Memoirs of his own Life and Times," is positively asserted by M. Santini, who says, that when he left St. Helena, "It was finished down to the Egyptian Expedition."

We find by the Monthly Magazine, that Sir Richard Phillips, who had ascertained the above facts, instantly became desirous of having the publication of the work, and that between him and the Colonial Department, the following correspondence has taken place upon the subject:

Letters from Sir Richard Phillips to Earl Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, &c. &c.

My Lord—I have been credibly informed that the late Emperor Napoleon has been for some time past engaged in writing a memoir of his eventful life; and it has appeared to me to be a suitable speculation in which, as a publisher, to engage as an affair of business. It is however necessary that I should be able to communicate with the author on the subject, and therefore take the liberty to inquire whether, if I address a letter under cover to your Lordship's care, it will be forwarded to him at St. Helena.

Having read in the newspapers your Lordship's late speech in the House of Lords, I am of course duly sensible of the delicacy of making this request, and aware that I ought to seek nothing of your Lordship on this subject, which is inconsistent with the line of policy adopted by the British Government. My letter therefore, my Lord, would be open, and would be strictly limited to a proposal in regard to the printing and publishing of the work in question, with fidelity and promptitude. I should also request, that all communication with me should be made in the usual forms through your Lordship.

I enclose my Lord, that you will feel that such a work would be an addition with the eventful history of the world, and of considerable literary interest, and that its publication cannot fail to excite a lively curiosity, as well in this age as in posterity. As materials of history, it could be inferior to no ancient or modern production, and in that view it lays claim to my notice, and will, I hope, entitle this application to the respect of your Lordship.

I have the honor to be, my Lord, Your most obedient humble servant,
R. PHILLIPS.
March 29, 1817.
Reply of Henry Goulbourn, Esq. under secretary of state, &c.

DOWNING-STREET, APRIL 2, 1817.
Sir—I am directed by Lord Bathurst to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ult. requesting permission to address a letter either to General Bonaparte or to General Bertrand, on the subject of publishing a work, in which you have been informed that the former is engaged; and to acquaint you that, before giving any reply to your letter, Lord Bathurst is desirous of receiving your views upon the proposed communication, either from General Bonaparte, or from any person authorised by him to treat with you, on the subject of such a publication.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HENRY GOULBOURN.
Sir Richard Phillips, Kn't.
Sir Richard Phillips to Henry Goulbourn, Esq. under secretary of state, &c.

Sir—If you would do me the honor to re-consider my letter to Earl Bathurst, you will perceive that I act merely on the information that the literary and historical work in question is in course of preparation; and that, as a man of business, I am anxious on my own motion, to open a negotiation for the publication of it.

Under other circumstances, I should have felt no hesitation in addressing the author or his representative, directly on the subject, but the actual situation of this author renders it necessary that my communication be made through Earl Bathurst, and it was the object of my letter to learn, whether an overture, in that form and manner, would be allowed to be made.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HENRY GOULBOURN.
To Sir R. Phillips.
FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.
ALI BEY

The following notice is from an intelligent correspondent who obtained his information from Tangier, and may be relied on as correct.

About seven years ago a man came to Tangier who said his name was Ali Bey. He was well versed in the Arabic of the Levant, and in the rites of the Mahomedan religion. He said he was the son of a Bey of Egypt, who was many years since, forced to escape from his country in disgrace, and take refuge in Italy. There his children were instructed in the sciences of Europe, and privately by their father in the doctrines of freemasonry. On his death-bed, the old man enjoined upon his son to repair to the empire of Morocco, and perfect himself in the religion of his fathers. In the pursuance of this injunction he was now come. He had the costume of a Mussulman, attended the mosque regularly, and approved himself an accomplished follower of the prophet. He resided in Tangier about six months, when the emperor sent for him to Miquinez, gave him a wife, and made him a favorite. Ali Bey had two sets of fine astronomical instruments, one of which he gave to the Emperor, whose confidence he seemed now unreservedly to possess. But unfortunately one day, from wrong information or miscalculation of his own, he ventured to predict an eclipse. The emperor sent to Tangier to know if one would take place at the stated time. Mr. Simpson consulted the almanack, and returned a negative answer. At length the day arrived, and no eclipse happened. "You have deceived me," said the emperor, you are an impostor. Take him—place him beyond Mount Atlas and let him never again pass the confines of my empire." He was accordingly carried to the Kingdom of Falfie; from which, however, he contrived to escape, and in process of time he arrived in Mecca. He there made himself of some importance and repute, by means of his talents and address, and was employed in making drawings of the mosques, &c. He afterwards passed to Alexandria, and thence to Europe.

When he was sent out of Morocco, the Spanish and Portuguese consul, with whom he had been intimate, were immediately expelled from Tangier without examination. Mr. Simpson assured me that he had positive information, that the pretended Ali Bey is a Catalan, named Bahna, (not Badia, as has been said,) and that he was employed by the Prince of Peace to undertake this adventure. The King of Spain has, until lately, always kept two young men in Tangier, to learn the Arabic language, and to collect manuscripts, which they transmitted to Spain by stealth.

ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS.

A Frenchman, who has been a long time in Morocco, has found in the interior some curious M. S. consisting of proclamations and addresses to the different tribes of the Moors, soon after they were driven from Spain, to induce them to unite for the purpose of reconquering the country they had lost. They are addressed to the tribes separately, characterising them by the climate, productions and genius of the different sections of the country, which they inhabited. They are said to be written in the finest oriental eloquence, and to be worthy the brightest period of Arabian literature under Haroun Al-Aschid. They are expected to be published soon with a French translation.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLE.

ALARMING CALCULATIONS.
In the Ecological Magazine for November, 1816, we have a concise review of a pamphlet entitled, "Means of improving the condition of the poor in morals and happiness, considered in a lecture, delivered at the Minor Institute."

This work is highly recommended as "a most reasonable production," and as "affording in a mere pamphlet the condensed information of many volumes." A picture of mendicity is drawn which is truly frightful. London beggars alone are said to amount to FIFTY THOUSAND—nine thousand of which are children.

"The cause of the evils is then traced, and found to originate in ignorance, idleness and intemperance." The number of females in the kingdom at large, who exist by prostitution, is calculated at one hundred thousand, one half of which inhabit the metropolis!

Other sources of evil are considered—the extent of credit, perjury, smuggling, gambling, tipping, dram drinking, &c.

"The evils of war are pointed out and a table is given describing the rise and progress of British wars, and of the national debt, which they have produced, amounting to nine hundred and forty-three millions."

"Such is the 'Road to Ruin' in Great Britain, let the people of this country take warning and 'flee from the wrath to come.'"

The Easter solemnity reminds us that in 1790, Madame Royale, (now the Duchess of Angoulême) having arrived at the proper period of life, it was ordered by her father, the good but unfortunate Louis XVI, that the ceremony of the Princess's first communion should take place at Saint Germain, L'Auxerois's. That monarch, truly worthy the title of a Christian King would not suffer the least pomp to distinguish his royal daughter from the multitude of other children assembled for the same religious devotion.

In the morning of that day, the queen took Madame Royale into the Kings room, and said to her—My daughter, fall down at the feet of your father and implore his blessing. Madame Royale prostrated herself; and the King, in blessing her pronounced these words, which still remain engraved on the heart of the August Princess—

"My dear daughter, you ask me my blessing—this I give you with all my heart; and I pray that Heaven may grant you to appreciate fully the religious act you are going to perform.—Your heart, I trust, is innocent and pure. Your prayers, we may hope, will be heard and answered. In your supplication pray for your mother and myself; that He may be pleased to give me such grace as is necessary to make the happiness of those over whom He has caused me to reign, and whom it is my duty to look upon, as my own children. Ask him that he may vouchsafe to preserve in this kingdom the pureness of Religion; and always remember, my daughter, that this holy religion is the source of happiness, as it is our support in the adversities of life. That very young, yet you already have seen your father afflicted more than once. You are ignorant what destiny Providence prepares for you—whether you shall stay in this kingdom, or inhabit some other. In whatever spot the hand of God may place you, never forget that it is your constant duty to edify by your example, and to do good whenever an opportunity shall present. But above all, relieve the unfortunate as far as lies in your power. God caused us to be born in the rank where we are, only to labor for their happiness and to comfort them in their grief. Go to those altars where you are expected and beseech the Almighty and merciful God never to let you forget this fatherly advice."

The Queen was present at this sublime exhortation, and burst into tears.—The next day Madame appeared at Saint Germain L'Auxerois: her modesty, her deep piety, her deportment, both noble and becoming made her admired by all the people. The virtuous Madame Elizabeth, (the unfortunate sister of Louis XVI) attended that pious ceremony.—French Journal.

In the London Morning Chronicle of May 23d we find the following interesting literary information: "Mr. Walter Scott is said to be the author of the Critique Tales of my Landlord in the Quarterly Review, and it is insinuated in the concluding paragraph that his brother is the writer of the novels, which have made so strong an impression on the public mind."

Mr. Thomas Scott, the gentleman here mentioned, holds the office of paymaster of the 70th regiment, stationed in upper Canada, and resides in Kingston. The report alluded to in the Morning Chronicle, has been circulated in the United States for more than two years; and we learn that an acknowledgment of its truth had been made by one of the family of Mr. Scott to an American gentleman, during the last Autumn. In addition to this an individual now in this place, we are told, has seen the manuscript of one of these celebrated works. Mrs. Scott, the lady of Mr. Thomas Scott, lately passed through New York, on her way to great Britain; and he time of her arrival there was distinguished by the advertisement of a new tale in three volumes, entitled "Rob Roy," as having been put to the press in England, by the author "Waverly and other novels."