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Rural Economy.

ROT IN COTTON.

The cause of this destructive disease which has so severely annoyed our planters, is, we think, fully developed in the following communication from a gentleman of intelligence and extensive agricultural observation, to the editor of the *Augusta Chronicle*.

HINTS ON THE ROT IN COTTON.

A diversity of opinion seems to prevail as to the cause of the rot in cotton. Some persons attribute it to a defect in the seed, some to the great moisture of the season, or of the ground in which the cotton is planted—and others to the operations of some kind of insect. The writer of these hints was inclined, in the year 1817, to attribute the cause to excessive moisture—and many circumstances seemed to bear him out in his theory. Although in that season insects were observable in the rotten pods, he concluded that the insect was not the cause, but the consequence of the disease, in the same manner that the blow fly and some other insects, selected substances liable to putrefaction, as the most suitable for the deposit and propagation of their offspring. But the opposite extreme of dryness of the last season; when the disease seemed equally to prevail as in the preceding, proved the fallacy of this theory and left some other to be sought after.

Among those persons who charged the disease to the operation of an insect, their appeared as much diversity of opinion in regard to the kind of insect, as to the manner in which it effected its purpose. Some persons say that it is a moth, whose eggs turn to small worms; others that it is a sort of muscivore with a long bill, which perforates the young pod; some others again that it is a small insect much resembling a weevil in size, shape, and color. The natural course of reflection led the writer of these hints to the belief that an insect must be the cause of the disease for if it proceeded from the influence of moisture, the opposite extreme of drought could not produce precisely the same effect; nor could it be reasonably attributed to defective seed, seeing that only particular pods, which derive their sustenance from the common stock & root, were affected by the disease, and in no few instances, only a single lobe out of four or five into which the pods are divided; but exclusively of this, the sudden stoppage and re-accession of the disease which occurred in the course of the last month, (September) left little doubt on subject.

It occurred to the writer that if an insect was the cause, it should be sought after not in those defective pods which first began to betray symptoms of the disease, nor in those which had undergone it in its full extent; because in the first the mucilaginous state of the young seed and cotton would render detection of the insect difficult; and in the latter, because the insect, having attained its maturity, must have escaped with the object of further propagation. The pods selected for examination on the last of August, were those diseased, just in the act of expansion. In nearly every instance in the defective lobe insects were discovered; a few in the shape of small maggots or worms, but in the major part in little excavations or cells which they seemed to have prepared, either in the consumption of food or otherwise, were discovered from three to four small insects, which bore a great resemblance to the weevil, having on first exposure to the light, the appearance of two scars on their backs, dividing them nearly into three equal parts. They betrayed at first apparent reluctance and uneasiness at quitting their cells, until they had collected on their bodies from three to four very active small lice, scarcely perceptible to the eye, which doubtless must have been their young. After disposing of these on their bodies, and being warmed by the sun for a few seconds, a struggle ensued—the scars on their backs disappeared, transparent wings were unfolded, they became complete gnats, and flew off with no small probability to deposit these young ones in the next blossoms of cotton. The cause for this supposition was, that just before the examination in question was undertaken, one of the party present remarked, he was sure that if an insect occasioned the disease, it must be a moth, as he never entered his cotton field without starting up a cloud of moths; and by chance it

happened that the second or third pod which was opened, which appeared affected with the rot only in one lobe, and in which four of the weevil-like insects were found, had in the opposite lobe, which appeared perfectly sound, a live caterpillar about an inch long, which must have been generated in the pod from its earliest formation. If the disease be charged to the weevil-like insects described, the rapid progress of the disease through cotton fields may be rationally accounted for; for, like a snow ball, it acquires as it goes. It is hoped that some person better qualified, and provided with a good microscope, will follow up the subject of these hints. At this advanced season, the insect with its young may be shaken from almost every defective pod, as they appear affected by the weather. If it should prove (of which the writer has little doubt in his own mind) that this insect is the cause of the disease, a considerable advance will have been made by the knowledge of it, in providing a remedy. Would not the first enquiry which offers itself be, how is this insect preserved through the winter? Will it stand exposure to the cold or frost? Is it preserved in the rotten pods which stand in the fields throughout the winter, and are afterwards bedded upon, or left in the field to rot and turn to manure? or is it preserved in the seed or in the furze, which adheres to the seed? At all events, no injury can accrue to the planters of cotton in carefully destroying by fire the remaining stalks and defective pods, and by a light streak of the plough exposing the centre of the bed on which the cotton grew, to the action of frost and the winter's air, and by very particular attention to the selection for planting, of the seed least apparently liable to contain the eggs of the insect. And such a system ought to be general, for if it be an insect which occasions this disease, their own natural flight, independent of the influence of the winds, would propel them from field to field, and spread abroad their desolating influence. In hopes that these hints may lead to useful investigations, which may in their effects serve to arrest the progress of an evil, which threatens frustration to the best wishes and exertions of the agricultural interests of the country, they are respectfully submitted by an

OBSERVER.

FROM THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Mr. Skinner: Believing it would promote the more general diffusion of the arts, were notices of patented improvements occasionally published in your extensive circulating paper, I shall, if it meet your approbation, now and then forward you concise descriptions of new and valuable inventions, particularly of such as are connected with agriculture; and, as the commencement of the plan, I offer you the following notice of

TISDALE'S GRAIN CLEANING MACHINE.

The body of this machine is a *frustum of a cone*, having a case of sheet iron which is perforated all over; the holes being very close together, and about half the size of a grain of wheat. On the surface of the inner cone, stiff bristles are closely and firmly set, which come in contact with this perforated case. The machine acts perpendicularly, its motion being somewhat similar to that of a *coffee mill*, the bristles acting as so many teeth, which forcibly press the grain against the inner side of the perforated case, and through these holes every thing smaller than the grain is worked out. The grain descends into a shoe which has a sieve bottom, the openings of which are also smaller than the grain. Now to prevent larger substances from entering the machine. To effect this, the hopper at top has a sieve, shoe or basin, the spaces of which are sufficiently large to allow the grain readily to pass thro', but not so large as to allow any substances to pass which are over the size of the grain.

It is worked by a crank and the hopper is kept agitated as in the common mill, to cause the grain to pass rapidly. It is confidently believed that this machine will separate the wild onion seed from wheat. Its construction is simple and cheap, and, I doubt not, it will become eminently useful to our extensive growers of wheat, for which it is most particularly designed, although it can be adapted to every species of grain.

Yours, respectfully,

MECHANICUS.

Washington City, Sept. 1849.
 We understand the inventor, Mr. Ephraim Tisdale, of Herkimer, N. J. has authorized Mr. William Blagrove, agent for Patent and Copy Rights, at Washington, to dispose of rights to the above described machine.—Ed.

[The following is communicated to us by the corresponding Secretary of the N. York Association for the promotion of Internal Improvement, and is highly interesting.—N. Y. Columbian.]
Agricultural.—The thirty samples of Spanish wheat brought by F. O. Fenwick, esq. from Mr. General Hackley, in behalf

of Don MARIANO LAGASA, professor of Botany in the Royal Garden at Madrid, for the improvement of American husbandry, by introducing new varieties of grain, have been distributed by Dr. Mitchell to some of the most distinguished landholders in the state. Efforts have been made to forward them in season for sowing this fall. The excellent and scientific Lagasa has sent many other seeds, and several interesting books. One is a Catalogue of the plants growing in the king's garden at Madrid in 1818; another is a list of seeds wanted for planting, in 1800, with the discriminating characters of some new and little known species, and with concise description; a third contains certain general and species of plants which are either not right known, or are entirely new, published at Madrid in 1810. These are placed in the library at the College for the benefit of science.

Invitation to Botanists.—The distinguished Lagasa, of Madrid, in Spain, botanist to the king, &c. is engaged in perfecting a new classification of vegetables. His method, however, more particularly extends to trees, to plants with compound flowers, to grasses, to the umbellifers, and to the natural family of *scabiosa*. For this purpose, he wishes to obtain the dry and ripe seeds of the plants peculiar to North America, of the aforesaid description. If the specimens in flower, and with mature fruit, could be sent him, they would enable him to pursue effectually his undertaking.—He will gratefully acknowledge the receipt of collections of the ferns and *cryptogamice* of the Frederick States, and of whatever else that may be sent to him by the botanists of the time, such as Leconte, Torrey, Tuttle, Rich, Radnosque, Eaton, Ives, Bigelow, Barton, Green, and our other worthies in that science.

In the proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Hartford, Conn it is stated that "The improvements on the farm of Capt. Goodwin, are of a character deserving particular attention. By a judicious use of peat earth or marsh mud, he has made a hill of barren low land, of about five acres, a fruitful field, and has by this saved his other lands in the vicinity from being overwhelmed with drift sand."

This experiment the committee deem to be more important as it demonstrates the utility of peat earth as a measure on soils."

Political.

PERSECUTION OF SIR F. BURDETT.

LONDON, AUG. 24.
 A message was on Wednesday week sent to Mr. Brooks, of the Strand the Secretary of the Westminster committee, desiring his immediate attendance at the office of the Home Department. Mr. Brooks accordingly repaired thither, and was introduced into a room, where he found Lord Sidmouth, the Attorney General, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and some other members of the administration, seated in consultation. The Attorney General—Mr. Brooks, we have sent for you in consequence of a letter which has appeared in the public papers, as to the late transactions at Manchester, signed, 'Francis Burdett.' Was it to you that letter was addressed? Mr. Brooks—Yes. Attorney General—Have you got the original letter? Mr. Brooks—May I be permitted to ask the purpose of the enquiry? Attorney General—The letter is a seditious libel; and our purpose is to prosecute it. Will you give it up to us? Mr. Brooks—I am not at the present moment prepared to say whether I will or not. I should like a little time to advise on the subject. The counsel consulted together. The Attorney General—Will you be prepared to give an answer to-morrow? Mr. Brooks—I should like to have till Friday. Attorney General—Well, on Friday, Mr. Brooks, we shall expect your answer. Mr. Brooks then withdrew. Mr. Brooks having written to Sir F. Burdett an account of the proceedings of the Privy Council, with regard to his letter to the Electors of Westminster, the Baron has come forward in the most candid and manly way, and avowed himself the author. On Monday the Secretary of State received the following letter:

COTTESBROOK, AUG. 28, 1849.

"My Lord: Hearing your Lordship has applied to the gentleman through whose hands my address to the Electors of Westminster was transmitted to the newspapers, to give up the author; and had, at the same time, intimated that a refusal would subject him, as well as the editors of the papers, to a Ministerial prosecution, I take the liberty, in order to save your Lordship further trouble, and also the gentlemen above mentioned an unjust prosecution, to inform your Lordship that I am the author of the Address in question; and, moreover, to assure your Lordship that, although penned in a hurry, and under the influence of strongly excited feelings, I can discover nothing in it, on re-perusal, unbecoming the character of an honest man and an Englishman. I remain your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant,
 FRANCIS BURDETT.
 Lord Viscount Sidmouth."

The Washington City Gazette does not appear to be pleased with our opinions, as to the recent popular meetings in England, because we have not chosen like itself to applaud that vulgar and presumptuous personage, Mr. HENRY HUNT,

and to approve of those large assemblies, composed of the uneducated and unreflecting part of society, which have lately figured under his auspices as the most populous cities. The Editor of the Gazette calls on us to adduce much in facts as we may possess to the disparagement of Mr. HENRY HUNT, presiding members returned. Prayers from the banner in which we have spoken of him, that we must be well acquainted with the character of that orator and know something very dishonorable of this profuge of the Gazette than it may have itself. Our inferences as to his character, are drawn from his public acts. The sympathy which the Editor of that print seems to feel for him, and the interest he appears to take in his fortunes and success, may perhaps be justified by a more intimate acquaintance with him than we can pretend to possess; but judging from his conduct and public discourse, we should conclude him to be an extremely ignorant, presumptuous and vulgar personage.

Can the Editor of the Gazette mention a single respectable individual, connected with a Whig party of Great Britain that has not studiously avoided all intercourse or association with him, or a single newspaper in that interest that has ever mentioned his plans and pretensions with respect. We have had the good fortune to see other English presses besides those corrupted ones of the persons in power in that country, alluded to by the Gazette, which have exposed his arrogance, folly and coarseness. We must really then think that the Editor of the Gazette means it as a jest, when he holds up Mr. HENRY HUNT as a pattern of moderation and the model of a genuine patriot. At any rate, if he is serious in the opinion that the conduct of his pattern of a patriotic reformer in travelling from country to country and from city to city, for the purpose of getting up mobs, constitutes the fairest title to applause and distinction, we feel confident that in this sentiment he will find no reflecting or moderate person to agree with him on either side of the Atlantic. There are many who hate oppression and love liberty as fervently as the Editor of the Gazette, and yet dislike to see her cause profaned in the language and dishonored in the deeds of those brawlers, who set themselves up as her chosen instruments.

The Gazette says, "to write seriously against mobs, is to fight shadows." No reasonable man, he remarks, ever advocated them in any shape, and avers that the Manchester Meeting can be called one, as it was not riotous. But can the Editor of the Gazette, or could even Mr. HUNT himself have undertaken to say that it would not have become so? There is no friend of freedom that can object to assemblies of the people for a redress of grievances by petition and remonstrance, under the guidance of leaders who have some stake in society; but those multitudes that assemble at the call or invitation of some popular person like Mr. HUNT seldom stop at the right point. They do more very generally before they disperse besides petitioning and remonstrating. They frequently proceed to acts of open outrage, and sometimes involve in destruction all who are obnoxious to them or that may be pointed out as their enemies. There is no controlling the passions of a multitude when once excited—a spark applied will kindle a devouring flame. There is a contagion in popular feeling that is irresistible, and the sphere for the inflammable eloquence of the popular orator becomes the wider in proportion to the number, and consequently the ignorance of his hearers. Mr. HUNT may possess the art of stopping at the proper point, but the next orator that succeeds may get all in a flame. It is on these grounds that reflecting men are adverse to the assembling of multitudes of beings without education or reflection, under the guidance of leaders that are nearly as ignorant and unreflecting as themselves.

But can the Editor of the Gazette be serious in believing that any reform in England is likely to be effected by such popular assemblies as those which have been recently called into existence by the violent partizans of reform, without plan or organization—or motive or end clearly defined! Does he really think that the government of that country is to be "terrified" whilst it perceives all this, and that men without talent, respectability or influence in society head them? Does he seriously suppose the time to have arrived when liberty, civil and religious, is about to perish in that country; and that something of sterner quality than *perfumed memorials* and *sweet scented remonstrances*, to use his own language, must be employed? In other words a physical force? Where are her patriots in this terrible crisis? Where are her HAMPDENs and SYDNEYS? Or have their mantles fallen on the shoulders of Mr. HENRY HUNT and Mr. WILLIAM COBBETT?—*South, Pat.*

MAINE CONVENTION.

A meeting of the Convention of the

District of Maine assembled on Monday, Oct. 11, Mr. J. C. ... meeting with a few of the most populous cities. The Editor of the Gazette calls on us to adduce much in facts as we may possess to the disparagement of Mr. HENRY HUNT, presiding members returned. Prayers from the banner in which we have spoken of him, that we must be well acquainted with the character of that orator and know something very dishonorable of this profuge of the Gazette than it may have itself. Our inferences as to his character, are drawn from his public acts. The sympathy which the Editor of that print seems to feel for him, and the interest he appears to take in his fortunes and success, may perhaps be justified by a more intimate acquaintance with him than we can pretend to possess; but judging from his conduct and public discourse, we should conclude him to be an extremely ignorant, presumptuous and vulgar personage.

In the estimation of the western people, Mr. Clay would stand much higher if he could command the requisite to proclaim open war against France, or evince sufficient magnanimity to acknowledge his past errors in the administration. In either mainly sincerity would entitle him to respect. As it is, the gentlemen friends will soon be able to discern the western people think of the conduct.—*Louisville paper.*

IMPORTANT TREATY WITH INDIANS.

DETROIT, Oct. 28.
 We understand that the Treaty with the Chippewa Indians has been approved by Gov. Cass, for the cession to the United States of a considerable portion of Territory, including all the country between the Sagana river and its branch boundary of the tract now proclaimed at the present Indian line west of this place, and runs for about two west sixty miles, then a direct line to the head of Thunder Bay, and down the same to the Sagana river, which is probably from seventy to a hundred miles northwest of Sagana. The treaty has been concluded on terms equally advantageous to the States and to the Indians, and is generally so satisfactory to the latter, that their chief speaker, Nushemquet, was despatched by the Governor to Gov. Cass upon this side of the Sagana river, and to inform him that he felt perfectly satisfied with the agreement which had been made, and thankful for the attention shown to the Indians. Considerable reservations have been made for them, and the means provided for assisting them in agriculture, there is reason to hope, from the terms they now manifest, that they will become a stationary, industrious farming people.

This cession, containing more than millions of acres, is very important Territory. The gentlemen who are the treaty from this place, concurred in respecting the quality and situation of the land and the natural advantages of the country. They represent the soil to be of the first quality, heavily timbered with immense forests of sugar maple, black walnut timber, and a large quantity of equal in every point of view to the Miami and Scioto bottoms in the State of Ohio.

The Sagana is stated to be a fine river, navigable many miles from Sagana Bay for vessels of burthen, and into the interior of the country for boats. Five considerable streams empty into the Sagana at a place called La Frenche, to form the river, presenting an almost unexampled instance of a beautiful and highly fertile country being watered in the most judicious manner.

We anticipate a speedy migration to this tract, and a great increase of population and wealth to the Territory.

Domestic.

TRANSCRIBED FOR THE "AYETTE OBSERVER."

NO. 1.

My dear W——Your letter has been welcomed in which you manifest lamentations of a remark of mine in relation to our Representatives (who packed away with some others in the ground) in Trumbull's *Painting of Declaration of Independence*, indicating the importance of this state course of your long defence, you do more praiseworthy feelings; yet a domestic consideration must convince that North Carolina does not hold standing in our political family, to she seems to be entitled by her territory, &c.

To answer your letter, I shall be glad to take a cursory review of our state, more offensive remarks are made, do not seech you attribute them to provoking enures, and complain no more of satirical spirit, though it may seem prompt them.

In judging of the wealth and importance of North Carolina, the ordinary errors would prove fallacious, for such peculiarities in the Geography of a state, that the Custom House Books must not be considered indices of our sources.

We enjoy many advantages—but North Carolina has not deformities.—The greater portion of sea coast than the Atlantic states; we have to lament our imprudence, in scarcely giving a good Port in its whole extent.