

MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY, BY NOBLE & HOLTON...CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH-CAROLINA.

I WILL TEACH YOU TO PIERCE THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH AND BRING OUT FROM THE CAVERNS OF THE MOUNTAINS, METALS WHICH WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO OUR HANDS AND SUBJECT ALL NATURE TO OUR USE AND PLEASURE.—DR. JOHNSON.

VOL. I.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1831.

NO. 33.

AGRICULTURAL.

(From the Southern Agriculturist.)

Observations on the Apathy which pervades the community of the Southern States, relating to the improvement of Agriculture. By a Rustic.

Columbia, January 10, 1831.

Dear Sir,—Although this is addressed to you, it is not intended for your benefit; for it is very evident, that you are sufficiently alive to the necessity of efforts being made in these southern states, for the improvement of their agriculture, to render such a paper of any use to you. Its object being the benefit of South-Carolina and neighboring states, I beg you will insert it in your extensively circulated periodical, for the public good, which it may produce, if attended to, and I do not mistake the correctness of the views it holds forth.

Notwithstanding the valuable communications which a few individuals occasionally send you for publication, it must be confessed that we are universally deficient in due and efficient exertions for the ameliorating of our condition, by extending knowledge, and affixing scientific basis to our agricultural pursuits. It would seem by our apathy, in this respect, that agriculture was to us scarcely even a secondary consideration, a pursuit, the objects of which, ignorant men may be allowed to prosecute, as these are harmless and cannot affect society materially either in good or evil! Indeed, some who consider themselves the better class of society, appear to act as though the tilling of the soil was an abject and merely mechanical calling, nearly useless and only allowed to exist by sufferance. It might be thought an invidious retaliation in me, who belong to this tilling class of men, to point out the consequential arts of the city, whether belonging to the counter or the various *bars*. We might acknowledge their undoubted superiority over us, by the greater, or indeed, the almost exclusive countenance they receive from legislative enactments. Do we not see, in fact, that ninety-nine hundredths of the laws passed, are for their benefit, and that poor agriculture is left to shift for itself, and never receives the protecting and encouraging help of government, so as to enable it to meet the other professions on an equal footing. I must have been much mistaken when I selected it as a pursuit calculated to produce benefits to the country. It is at all times, a hard task for a man to acknowledge his errors, and almost persuaded as I am of mine, in this case, I can scarcely bring myself to confess it.—Still I allow that every circumstance demonstrates clearly that my choice was founded in error, since the collected wisdom of the country declare it so by their absolute neglect of the one, and its extreme watchfulness over the welfare of the others. In fact, are there not extensive and richly endowed institutions, with well paid professors, for the promotion of all useful knowledge, in divinity, law, commerce, and medicine? Surely, if agriculture was of any value in this country, as it is in some others, establishments for its promotion would have been formed, or at least, some professorship attached to some of the other institutions, intended to exalt this neglected object. What are the banking institutions, the officers, the fortifications, the light houses, and the navy itself, but establishments for the protection of commerce? What are all the officers of the judicial department, with high salaries, but for the comfortable support of the incumbents, together with the promotion of the good they may do, perchance, to such of the community as, unfortunately for the greatest numbers of them, have dealings with them? It is admitted that despised agriculture is not excluded from a chance of the benefits that may accrue from these several favorite establishments; but there is not one, that I know of, supported by government for its encouragement. We have, it is true, some few agricultural societies throughout the state; but without the fostering hand of power, without funds, what can they do! Yet they do some good, about one hundredth part, probably, of what they might do. It must be, however, infatuation on the part of those persons who keep them up; for what has become of the United Agricultural Society of South-Carolina? It has died of inanition, and if the existence of such societies had promised any advantage at all to the community, would it have been suffered to perish thus miserably, as it has, in the very arms of our assembled wisdom? Notwithstanding all these unanswerable proofs of the worthlessness of agriculture, my habitual and rustic obstinacy will not yield, and it continues refractory to the superior sense and polished reasonings of the followers of the more favored professions. You must not suppose, Mr. Editor, from all I have said, that I blame these valuable citizens here alluded to. No, they take care of themselves and of their concerns, and if they do not carry their views further, I exculpate them of any sinister intentions; and, indeed, it would seem strange that persons, who from their habits and pursuits, know little or nothing of the profession, the neglect of which I deprecate, should take a very active part in promoting

its interests. Those most to be blamed, assuredly, are the very professors of the slighted art whose cause I would attempt to advocate. They are most undoubtedly those whose business and duty it is to procure for their profession the assistance it needs.—What is it that keeps them so blind, I will not say, to their own interest; but, as I do not acknowledge myself convinced of the contrary, I must say, to the very best interests of their country? How I regret I have not the skill of those belonging to that profession whose chief business it is "to make the worse appear the better cause." I might then do what I think far more righteous, make the better cause really appear such. It might, perhaps, be shown with some appearance of reason, that a country without inhabitants, whatever be its capabilities, is a very poor one, even for the favored professions. The community might, perhaps, be made aware, that to this neglected agriculture they are indebted for every thing that renders civilized man superior to the savage. That not only their food, clothing, &c. &c. but their very existence as a people depend almost solely upon it. The city of Charleston itself might perceive, to its astonishment, that without the country back of it, it would be only a miserable village of fishermen, and that as it is, almost its sole dependence for support and protection, at all times and under any circumstance, is to agriculture. And, pray sir, what do you think would be the effect of such a strange revolution in their knowledge and modes of thinking, if it could be operated? Do you suppose that they would again, in their exclusive wisdom, slip off to the north, hardy, honest cultivators of the soil coming from Europe to their hospitable shores?—Would they not rather make great exertions to induce emigration from foreign lands to our almost deserted middle country? Would they not, instead of going to the north, to be made dupes of for their money, come up with some of those worthy foreigners to form establishments which may hereafter prove not only sources of profit to themselves individually, and to the revenue of their native State, but also be the very foundation on which their existence may rest. They would, of course, have learned that a hardy and industrious population of cultivators of the soil, are the very bone and sinew of a country like this, in peace or in war, the very blood of its existence. They would exert their utmost efforts to prevent the emigration of their citizens, and to promote emigration from abroad, obtain from government means of doing these things, without which the government itself, will, in time, vanish away. They would establish schools in which the most useful art of all, in my obstinate opinion, can be learned as well as others. They would not only form societies for the promotion of agricultural knowledge, but have them endowed liberally, without which their exertions can be only of small avail. They would establish experimental farms in which the culture of valuable foreign plants would be tested in various ways, and in different sections of the State. These experiments would be made by persons of skill. Many valuable plants and useful animals might be imported from distant countries and inured to our climate. Individuals, who, with the best possible intentions, are compelled to cease experiments for the want of means to prosecute them to successful issue, would thereby not only be saved from impending ruin, but incalculable advantages would be secured to the community by the successful result of experiments, the failure of which by an individual of slender fortune, was merely occasioned by the necessity of his attending to the objects of his immediate wants. Such a failure generally deters others from attempting the same thing. We should then have some right to complain, on very good grounds, that all the praises bestowed on our naval officers, consuls and ministers to distant countries, are only half deserved for bringing foreign plants, seeds, &c. to be naturalized in this; for they have hitherto almost invariably bestowed to the North, those productions which cannot be cultivated there, except in hot-houses! while the Southern States are scarcely ever the object of the distribution. It has been for years past a source of vexation to reasonable men, to see such unreasonable dereliction of propriety. Several plants, which, but for this infatuation, might at the present time, be in extensive and profitable cultivation at the South, have been suffered to perish in hot-houses, &c. at the North. There are also many plants which might prove sources of prosperity to posterity, and which therefore ought to be supplied from foreign parts at public expense; for they are such (at least some of them) which cannot benefit the individual who might import them, although they may become indispensable at a future day; and the expense of procuring them can be but comparatively trifling. As one of these, the cork-tree may be particularized, and the want of it, when the vine is extensively cultivated here, may be a serious obstacle to its further extension. An individual may import for curiosity, or the benefit of his country, a small number of

them, a dozen or so; but thousands are wanted, and would undoubtedly grow luxuriantly in most parts of the Southern States, and add to its present ornament and future benefit. The same might be said of many other most valuable objects of culture; but it is needless to enumerate them here. I would not have you think, Mr. Editor, that I would advocate the benefiting one class of society at the expense of another. A State, like a family, can regulate its own concerns as it pleases; and the measures for increasing the population of a country, where it may be desirable, is surely an object of general interest for that particular country. The benefits arising from it, as also for its augmentation of individual as well as public wealth, by the extension and improvement of its agriculture; the security thereby obtained of public tranquility, external as well as internal, are surely objects of such public concernment, that the government alone can and ought to promote. Is it not true, that for one family that removes to this State from abroad, at least fifty remove from it? Why is it so? Let me not be told that the richer lands of the West attract *unavoidably* our population. When agricultural men are comfortably situated, carrying on their operations with their proper industry and suitable knowledge, they are too happy to wish for a change, the advantages of which are, at least, doubtful. Our soils are good, so is our climate. Our lands are cheap, and easily obtained for the settlement of numerous families; why then go elsewhere, to encounter, most probably, an unhealthy climate? Where is the patriotism of those who say, "it cannot be helped," when the smallest exertion to prevent it has never been made? Where is the *amor patriæ*, the love of the very soil that witnessed their birth, and the sports of their infancy; their love of their children and their posterity, when they suffer things to go on thus to certain destruction, without taking one step to avert the impending calamity? Whence will you draw your power to suppress insurrection at home and oppose aggression from abroad, when you will have suffered, by your own indolence and apathy, your own strength to be thus dispersed and wasted away? These are solemn questions, which every one may answer to himself as he best can; but at the same time it is the duty of all to act seriously, and put a stop to the destructive process going on under the protection of our negligence and blindness. Rouse your energies, you men of the soil; claim your share of the expenditures of your government, whose coffers are filled from the proceeds of your labors; have your profession placed on a footing of true respectability, by placing it on the road that leads to perfection, and thereby save your country. Or go on as you have hitherto done, and your loss of freedom and independence is at hand. It is passing strange, that, with inferior means, proceeding from soils and climates, our Northern neighbors are far exceeding us in the successful cultivation of those things for which we are so eminently situated! They are entering largely on the culture of the vine and the silk-worm; they have extensive flocks of sheep; they raise a superabundance of bread, meat, horses and mules, for their own use, and with the surplus of them they drain our purses. All these we might raise, at least, as far as our consumption may render it necessary, and some of the articles, such as wines, silks, olive-oil, wool, &c. might be, before long, most profitable objects of exports. That time is past, when we might have rested satisfied with two or three principal staple objects of exports, without aiming at an increase, either of them, or of our population. The world is progressing rapidly in industry and knowledge, we must not remain behind, and this we shall surely do, unless we make now the most vigorous efforts to regain our proper rank. See how power is accumulating in other parts of these United States by means most undoubtedly within our reach, if we will but avail ourselves of a part of our natural advantages. "Knowledge is power;" but like the productions of the soil, it must be planted, and carefully and sedulously cultivated, before it can produce a profitable harvest.—We have all the materials for its successful production; let us not throw them away; on the contrary, let us make uncommon efforts to raise gradually, though energetically, a fabric which may serve to perpetuate our approximations to perfection; a fabric which will extend, not merely over ourselves, but over our latest posterity, an imperishable regis. These are not times that will allow of remissness; for as truly as it is that we are now too passive and regardless of our real interests, so truly will the direst calamities await us, if we neglect any longer to rise and be doing. Believe me, though these are only the admonitions of

advantage. If he has a variety with small ears, which he deems good in other respects, he plants it in the rows with another kind with large ears, that flowers at the same time; and, at the time of the tassels appearing, carefully cuts away the male flowers (or tassels) of the large eared kind. By this operation, large ears are produced of the small eared kind. There are some kinds of early corn, which, though excellent in other respects for green corn, are very much injured by the coloring matter of their red cobs. This he attempted to remedy last summer by transferring the corn from the red to the white cob in the same way, and he thinks with success.—He planted some of the red cob Tuskarora, which he thinks the best early green corn, in the rows with the largest eared white cob sugar corn he could find, about half and half. As the tassels of the sugar corn made their appearance, he carefully cut them away, leaving the whole to be supplied by the pollen from the tassels or male flowers, of the red cob Tuskarora. The result was, he had the Tuskarora corn on the white cob of the sugar corn, as he desired. From his experiments the Editor concludes, that any variety of corn may at pleasure, thus be transferred to the cob of any other variety that flowers at the same time; and that if a large eared kind can be found that flowers at the proper time, the smallest eared kind may be made to produce large ears by the above process. He has not extended his experiments to the improvement of the cob of field corn; but, has no doubt, that, by the same process, the thick cob of some kinds may be improved. Suppose the thick cob kind were planted in the row with some other that usually has a small cob, and the tassels of the latter cut off as above directed, would not the desired variety of corn be obtained on the small cob? TWO PICTURES. We have often thought that nothing would be more beneficial to the citizens of our republic, than the delineation of our government, its institutions and expenses, contrasted with some of the monarchies of the old world—for instance, of England. Two pictures of this kind, drawn by a skilful artist, representing the true principles of the two governments, the general prosperity of the people under one, and the poverty and distress of millions under the other, together with the principal causes which secure our prosperity, and entail misery and indigence on the people under the British government, would be invaluable property to citizens who are free, and who intend to perpetuate their freedom. The painter who should attempt to sketch the pictures to which we have alluded, would represent a President of the United States in a plain dress and of unassuming and republican manners, with a salary of only twenty-five thousand dollars a year; while his Majesty would be burdened with the trappings of royalty, and drain from the hard earnings of the poor a salary of five hundred thousand dollars! Next in order would be exhibited a Vice-President, with a modest salary of five thousand dollars per annum; beside whom would stand a Prince Regent, holding a salary of two million five hundred thousand dollars! The next figure in the group would be an American Secretary of State, with a salary of six thousand dollars inscribed on a tablet in his hand, who would be surrounded with three British Secretaries, for the Home, Foreign, and Colonial departments, with each a salary of thirty thousand dollars a year! Then you would see the American Secretary of the Treasury, with a salary corresponding to that of the Secretary of State, encircled by seven Lords Commissioners of the British Treasury, drawing from it about seventy thousand dollars annually! Next you would behold our Secretary of the Navy, with a compensation equally moderate, encompassed by the British Admiralty—seven Lords Commissioners, having first and second Secretaries, and all receiving about eighty thousand dollars! Thus the parallel would exhibit through all the departments of the two governments, a contrast equally striking; and the sum total would be for the support of the American government about two hundred and thirty thousand dollars per annum, while that of the British government would be more than four millions of dollars! or about sixteen times as much expended for salaries in that country, as in this. Is government better administered in England than in the United States? Some things are considered good in proportion to the money they cost; but the reverse often proves true of governments—at any rate it is sadly verified in the government of England. Perhaps nothing can be offered as a better criterion to test the goodness or badness of any government and its administration, than the general condition of the people under such government. What character will this test give to the government of England? Let the three millions of paupers answer the question. And if their answer be not as distinctly heard as the thunder of heaven, let the six millions who

are only one remove from pauperism, groaning under the pressure of onerous state and ecclesiastical taxes, answer the question. What would be the voice of famishing artisans, compelled to contribute to the aggrandisement of imperious lords—what would be the execrations of the despairing yeomanry, fleeced of their substance to pamper the pride and vanity of a devouring priest-hood—what would be the language of these, if they should dare to utter their sentiments? It has been by degrees that England and Ireland have been enslaved; but strong as the chain of bondage is, it may be broken as by an electric shock. The people of England and Ireland are not sufficiently abject to be borne down forever like beasts of burden, and servilely to exhaust their lives, sinews and property, to furnish salaries for kings, princes, ministers, bishops, priests, &c. They will rise in the desperation of their remaining vigour, and terrible will be the day of their vengeance. Kings and thrones will be levelled in the dust, and a haughty and usurping priesthood prostrated in shame and humiliation. [New-Belford (Mass.) Gaz. ALOIERS. The French have conquered a kingdom as large as Spain, with as fine a climate, and commanding the entrance to that land of terrors and treasures, the central region of Africa. They are going on a *la Française* in all points. They have compelled the Moors to clean their streets, and do not despair of making them wash their shirts and faces in time. They have run up a central avenue through Algiers, and ventilated the town. They have slain the mongrels that infested the streets, and reduced an establishment of dunghills as venerable as Mahomet. They have built an opera-house, ordering the wealthy Moors to put down their names on the box-list, and subscribe, as becomes patrons of the fine arts. They have arranged a circle of private boxes in the theatre, to which the ladies of the several Harems have keys, and where they listen to Italian songs, learn to be delighted with the romantic loves of Europe, and turn over a leaf in human nature which no Algerine Hourri ever turned before. A detachment of dancing-masters has been brigaded for the service, and *modistes* "from Paris" are rapidly opening shops in the "Grand Rue Royale." The ladies are, as might be expected, in raptures with the change, and go out shopping with the air of an *élegante* of the Faubourg St. Germain. Galignani daily communicates to the Algerine coffee-houses the news of a world of which they hitherto knew no more than of the news of the dog star. All is gaiety, gesticulation, and the march of intellect. If a great three-tailed bashaw feels disposed to express the slightest dislike of the new regime, they order him to be shaved, dispossess him of his turban, pipe, and scymetar, and send him to learn the manual exercise under one of their sergeants. The remedy is infallible. In twelve hours a revolution is effected in all his opinions; he learns the French art of looking delighted under all circumstances, and returns from the drill a changed man. The offending Mauritanian, is disciplined out of him, and the parade has inducted him into the march of mind for the rest of his days. The French are distilling brandy from sea weed; are teaching buffaloes to draw their cabriolets, have already formed a subscription pack of tiger hounds; and, except that they are scorched to a cinder, with the more serious evils that they must wait a week for the Paris news, and have not yet been able to prevail on Potier and Mademoiselle Du Fay to join their theatre, are as happy as sultans.—English paper. During the late war with Great Britain, a dashing belle who is now a good wife and an affectionate mother, found her progress suddenly arrested as she passed down Court-street, by a flood which prevented her passage to the opposite side-walk. She paused to consider her situation, and was anxiously looking towards the desired haven, when an honest Tar, with a canvass hat and blue ribbon bearing the name of the "U. S. Frigate Constitution," bore up and reconnoitred her position. Without any apology, or land-lubberly ceremony, he encircled her waist with his muscular arm, and wading knee-deep through the water, landed Lady Sensitive on the opposite shore.—More vexed than grateful, our belle curled her pretty lip and said, "You are an impudent fellow, sir." "Belay that my dear," said Jack, "By the powers I'll make all fast again." Suiting the action to the word, he lifted her a second time, and re-fording the stream, placed her again where he first found her, observing with a good natured laugh, "An ye love your moorings so well, hearty, snook my binnacle but you may lay anchored there to eternity." The above is a "true bill." The lady has grown wiser and less sensitive since this lecture upon squeamishness was read to her, and now often amuses her friends by relating the anecdote. [Boston Transcript.]