

MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY THOMAS J. HOLTON...CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH-CAROLINA.

I WILL TEACH YOU TO PLUCK 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. III. SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1833. NO. 148.

Miners' & Farmers' Journal
is printed and published every Saturday morning at Two Dollars per annum, if paid in advance. The Dollars and Fifty Cents if not paid in advance; Three Dollars at the end of the year. ADVERTISEMENTS (not exceeding 20 lines) for the first insertion, and 25 cents for each succeeding week—or \$1 for three weeks, for one square.—A liberal discount will be made to those who advertise by the year. On all advertisements communicated for publication, the number of insertions must be noted on the margin of the manuscript, or they will be continued until forbid, and charged accordingly. All communications to the Editor must come free of postage, or they may not be attended to.

AGRICULTURAL.

Manure & the Surface.
The following extracts are in answer to inquiries made of me with regard to the novel mode of manuring, which we had heard of by his judgment and experience. It was said to be fast gaining among his neighbors. The name of the manure could be presented that would be considered as better authority for the merits of any doubtful practice. A similar application of manure, but in a partially rotted state, to corn, after planting the crop, has been extensively used on the borders of the Rappahannock. We would be glad to receive an accurate account of this practice, and its supposed advantages and disadvantages. If either or both of these modes of applying manure are only equal in benefit to ploughing it under, they offer to the farmer an immense advantage in the greater choice and length of time for manuring.—Ed. Farm. Reg.

DOVER, Goochland, Jan. 31st, 1833.
The surface manuring mentioned by my neighbor, Col. W. has become very much the practice in this section of country. I have myself applied my manure mainly in that way for several years past, and with good effects. I have also selected my wheat fields as the most advantageous application of the manure, that is, for the benefit of both wheat and clover, as my wheat fields are uniformly sowed down with clover. I have ascertained satisfactorily from practice, that land of inferior grade will be better taken with clover with a light application of manure on the surface, than land much better without it: nor have I any doubt but that it is the best practice, if wheat alone is the object. My practice for the application of the manure has been, to be well prepared with teams and tools for the speedy hauling when the land is frozen, in order that no injury may be done the wheat. The spreading may be done at almost any time provided you do not let it remain long enough to bleach or injure the wheat. I am well assured that the best application that can be made of manure is on the surface, for both wheat and clover; and through the agency of the clover, I would say the best for the land. I have no doubt that it may be extended doubly as far, advantageously. I also consider wheat straw worth more on the surface than any other application of it; indeed, I use but little in any other way, and use leaves from the woods as litter for my stock yards.

Yours, respectfully,
RICHARD SAMPSON.
[The age and condition of the manure having been distinctly stated, farther remarks were made on those points, which are as follows.]
February 23d, 1833.

As to my practice with the use of manure, it varies somewhat according to the nature, having such a variety of soils, and condition in which the land is found. From the actual gullied and galled manure, it suffices to say, that when a piece of land is intended for cultivation which is entirely exhausted, gullied or galled, the first process would be to give it a more even surface by ploughing in and leveling gullies, &c. When this is done, I litter freely, for the purpose of turning in with the plough; leaves from the woods I prefer, as they are more readily turned under than wheat straw, which enables me to keep more straw for applying on the surface, where I greatly prefer it. I usually plaster the litter before turning it in, say at the rate of a bushel to a bushel and a half per acre. On land thus prepared I seed oats, but reap but little as might be supposed. I follow this land again, and seed wheat at the fall, when the litter thus turned in is pretty well rotted. On the wheat I top dress lightly, and plaster again, say three pecks to a bushel per acre, which produces a saving crop of wheat, and enables me to get the land well taken with clover, which I think an all important object where improvement of the soil is wished. My wheat straw I generally apply on my pasture land, twelve months, or more

or less as may be convenient, before ploughing in. The manure which I use for top dressing is generally pretty well rotted, having been made the winter previous to using it. For instance, the manure of this winter's making, I apply the next winter, taking advantage of all leisure times with teams, &c. in spring and summer, to collect my manure from the different yards in which the different kinds of stock are kept, some of which are better than others,—say, from stable yards, sheep, cattle and hog pens, from ash banks, and wood yards, together with leaves which have been heaped the winter previous in the woods. I haul to the fields intended to be seeded with wheat, (during the summer as above mentioned,) manure from the different places named, forming heaps that will contain from 30 to 50 heavy wagon loads as the case may require, making those deposits at the most convenient places for speedily applying them on the wheat when the land is firm, (or frozen would be preferred,) hauling alternately from all the kinds enumerated, so as to form a regular layer of each, where it remains until seed. I then cut it down from top to bottom as they are removing it, which mixes it in such a way as to give a due admixture of all the manures on every part on which it is applied.

Manure accumulated in the different stock yards from the commencement of winter, and remaining until midsummer or later, possibly some until fall, will not run into great heat; and should it be so disposed, the fermentation will be over applying it on the wheat in winter.

Yours, respectfully,
RICHARD SAMPSON.

ALTERNATE HUSBANDRY.

There are few stronger indications of bad husbandry, to a secluded mind, than are furnished by the advertisements for the sale of farms—"Suitably divided into meadow, pasture and plough land," are common recommendations, showing that the old system still prevails of assigning to each of these objects a portion of farm in perpetuity—in despite of the examples of better husbandry, and the admissions of common sense. No meadows will bear cutting many successive years, without deteriorating in quality. No land can be subjected to perpetual tillage, without a greater supply of manure than most farmers are able to give it. The grasses will run out in one, and fertility will become exhausted in the other. There are comparatively few meadows, which if drained, (and if wet they will not produce fine grasses,) will not yield good grain, roots or pulse. And there is no tillage land but will produce grass. Alternation of crops is the main spring of farming. Grass and grain are in this way made to benefit each other. The roots and hawn of the grass become food for the grain, while the culture of the grain pulverizes and ameliorates the soil for the succeeding crop of grass. Good economy requires that the meadow should be ploughed, and the ploughed land stocked with grass, whenever a manifest diminution in the crop is perceptible. Upon light soils, when even well managed, this will ordinarily happen once in every three or four years. Experience must have shown every farmer, that he cannot raise a good crop of wheat or corn or flax, &c. upon the same field for several years in succession. And why? Because every species of plant takes from the soil a specific food which other species do not take. The same law applies to grasses and grains, with this difference, that grain consumes more than grass of the food common to both, and therefore sooner impoverishes the soil.—Gen. Farmer.

American Sunday School Union.—Since the establishment of this Society, it has been instrumental in forming 14,550 schools, in which 109,000 teachers have labored gratuitously. Of those schools, 2,399, embracing 13,118 teachers and 45,688 scholars have been formed within the last year. The average annual increase for nine years has been, 1,600 schools, and 54,000 scholars. The most beautiful feature in this institution is that there is no sectarian spirit in it, and all appear to be laboring for the benefit of the rising generation.

Ingenious Defence.—A notorious rogue being brought to the bar, and knowing his case to be desperate, instead of pleading, took to himself the liberty of jesting, and thus said, "I charge you in the king's name, to seize and take away that man (meaning the Judge,) in the red gown, for I go in danger of my life, because of him."

A Long Pause.—An old gentleman riding over Putney-bridge, turned round to his servant, and said, "Do you like eggs, John?" "Yes, sir." Here the conversation ended. The same gentleman, riding over the same bridge that day twelve-month, again turned round and said, "how?" "Poached, sir," was the answer.

Strive to be kind, forbearing and forgiving both to friends and foes.

From the Raleigh Register. ON OUR STATE CONSTITUTION. NO. IV.

"All political power is vested in and derived from the people only."—Bill of Rights.
To the Editors:—The list or table, which I furnished you in my last essay, is what I consider a necessary piece of information to the People. It is mortifying to witness the apathy which is felt and the ignorance which prevails about the real condition of our State. Men of respectable understandings—they indeed who have acted in the high capacity of Legislators—are either shamefully ignorant, or criminally indifferent to her impending fate. Let your readers answer, each for himself, whether they had not neglected all their life to learn what were her revenues and what the expenses of her government; and if they have thrown away in a spirit of indolence, the statement I have published, I demand it of their patriotism to resume the paper that contains it, and follow me in a review of those intolerable evils that this system of County representation has entailed upon North-Carolina. I do not now speak of its gross inequality; I shall not now dwell upon its practical injustice to particular portions of the State—I here allude only to those evils it has brought upon, and that certain ruin which it threatens to ALL the People in all sections.

The State engaged in a Bank speculation about 1811 and 1812; and if her resources had been husbanded with a prudent economy, she might at this day have boasted of a full Treasury. A fund might have been accumulated, equal or nearly equal to the noble enterprise of educating the sons of the poorer citizens in the State. This hope, however, has failed in common with others, that a spirit of State pride and patriotism should have engendered. All will soon know that the Treasury is exhausted, but few will stop to inquire how it happened. The electioneering County Candidates will ascribe it to a cause very foreign from the truth. Some will do so from ignorance, others from a desire to find fault with their competitors, and not a few under the influence of both these motives.

To arrive at the profits of the Bank speculation, we must add together, all that the State have received for Dividends, Bonus and Taxes, with the present value of Stock, and deduct from it the price of the Stock. The difference is the profits. Thus:

For Dividends to 1832	\$860,000
For tax of 1 per cent per annum	240,000
Present estimated value of Stock	570,000
Total	\$1,670,000
Deduct 7127 Shares Stock at \$100 per Share	712,700
Less 360 Shares given to the State for Charters	36,000
Total	676,700
Total	\$993,300
The profits are nearly one million of dollars!	
Since 1814, the amount received for dividends on Bank stock, exceeds	\$860,000
Amount received for Bonus from Banks of Cape Fear and Newbern	36,000
Amount received for 1 per cent tax from same	240,000
Amount of funds belonging to the State which were invested in the 3 Banks in 1812, exceeded	125,000
Total	1,261,000
The ordinary revenues since 1814, at an average of \$67,000 per year, amount to	1,237,000

The aggregate amount of these is \$2,534,000

I make no account for the monies received for entry of vacant lands, for they are appropriated by law to the Literary Fund; I say nothing of the proceeds from sale of Public or Indian lands, because they are appropriated to Internal Improvements, yet here is a revenue of Two millions five hundred thousand dollars and upwards.

Now, let us see what are the present resources of the State. There are 7127 Shares of Bank stock, and 8000 dollars in cash, chargeable however, with a depreciation in the Stock of 1-5—with a debt due to the State Bank of \$84,000 for 840 Shares of the Stock, and with the sum of \$90,000 unredeemed treasury notes, which were issued to pay for Stock, viz:

Added to	\$712,700
	8,000
Total	\$720,700
Deducting 1-5 depreciation of Stock	142,500
Bank Debt	84,000
Treasury Notes	90,000
Total	316,500

This leaves only \$404,200 Which is less than half the bank profits. The other half is gone, together with \$125,000 of the funds invested in the trade. Here has been a revenue of \$2,500,000

reduced to \$400,000.—Two millions of dollars and more have "taken to themselves wings and flown away." After a hazardous and oppressive speculation in the banks has turned out most profitably on paper, the purse of the people—the treasury of the state is as empty as it would have been, if the \$125,000, owned in 1813 and 1814, had been put at simple interest, and that interest invested regularly as it became payable, and the expenses of the government had been at the same time limited to her ordinary revenue. I will not undertake to show you in detail the manner in which this result has been brought about. But I am concerned to know that the evils which contributed in a great degree to produce it, are not remedied, and if they are not speedily removed, they will entail greater mischiefs on the People. This I proceed to demonstrate.

1. Our necessary expenses are greater than the ordinary revenues of the State.
2. Our General Assembly is too numerous, and consequently costs too much.
3. Our Legislation is unwholesome, because the members are too much excited by sectional party spirit, and assemble together too often.
4. This spirit is gaining by degrees an influence over our People.

In the discussion of these topics, I shall be confined to narrow limits by the form in which I must address through you the people of this state: but the hints I crowd in that compass, may be useful and profitable to those who will reflect on these subjects.

1. I need offer no proof to sustain my first position with such as read the annual report of the treasurer. That excellent and valuable officer has told us in his last report to the assembly, that "the ordinary revenue of the state is \$60,905 and that the amount annually expended for the necessary expenses of the government exclusive of specific appropriations, &c. may be stated at an average of \$80,000." The same officer says—"The ordinary public revenue of this state has not been adequate to this purpose for many years"—that for the last ten years this defect has varied "from 12,000 to 17,000 dollars annually." I refer you to the report of the committee of finance, in the last assembly, which reiterated this statement and confirmed it.

2. When our constitution was adopted, the state was divided into 36 counties, and the general assembly was composed of 114 members. The counties are now multiplied to 64, and the general assembly consists of 199 members. Even after the number of counties was greatly increased, many years ago, the expense of an assembly did not exceed sometimes \$15,000, and very rarely \$20,000; but now the accounts of the treasurer and comptroller exhibit to us an annual expense of \$40,000 for the pay of members. I say nothing of printing and other contingencies though the latter makes no trifling sum in our public accounts. The whole necessary expenses of our government used to fall short of \$40,000, as any man may see who takes the trouble to examine the subject. Our fathers were satisfied to receive \$2 per day for serving in the assembly. Many among us profess to venerate their conduct as a model worthy of our imitation in all things, and the people may be a little curious to know why, in this respect, any exception should be made by later assemblies. Our fathers thought 114 members of the assembly sufficient to manage the affairs of state when we were surrounded by difficulties unknown to us in later days.—Many among us profess to believe that they conducted the business of the people well, and experience should teach us that it has not been so prudently and prosperously managed since the number of these workmen is increased to nearly 200. Our fathers inculcated economy in public expenses as a principle of the republic, but we have disregarded it by our practice.

3. Our legislation is unwholesome, because the general assembly sits too often and is excited by a spirit of sectional party. What a fruitful theme for discussion is here? Alas! for the honor and prosperity of the state, there is not a man who has represented the people in twenty years that will not confirm this charge: and there is no section of the state that has not felt its truth. The legislature often passes a law without due consideration of its effects, from the circumstance that they will again assemble in twelve months and it may be then repealed. This leads to a system of experiments in law making injurious to the public in every way. They sit until the middle of January, and their acts are not printed and distributed throughout the state for two months after the adjournment. It takes at least three months or more for the people to learn them, and by this time, the annual elections have come around and what chance has been afforded for a judgment by experience, upon the sagacity and wisdom of their servants? Indeed, in some parts of the state, the laws one session are hardly known before another assembly has convened and most probably repealed or changed the law. One fact is said to be

worth a hundred arguments. In 1831 the legislature passed a law imposing a fine of \$200 on every sheriff that failed thereafter to return to the county court, a list of the merchants to whom he issued a license and from whom he collected a tax. In October 1832, the treasury department imposed that fine on 22 sheriffs of this state, which were all remitted by the last assembly, because the sheriffs did not know the law before it was too late to comply with it. Very frequently too, I doubt not a good law has been repealed before a sufficient time had transpired to test its value. Not unfrequently, has it been the fate of intelligent citizens to be taxed four dollars in the shape of attorney's fees to learn from a lawyer whether the general assembly had permitted a law of their previous session to stand unrepealed, and not unfrequently others have involved themselves in serious difficulties by violating a law they did not know of, or by acting upon one which had been repealed without their knowledge. In connexion with this subject it will not be amiss to add that by convening the assembly less frequently (say once every two years) the people would save \$40,000 every other year, or \$20,000 per annum and thereby diminish the expenses of the state government one fourth at the least. Unquestionably the time of the assembly is wasted, their harmony is disturbed, their judgments are swayed, and their patriotism is destroyed by sectional party-spirit. No great question is in our day brought before that body without being interrupted by this demon of discord. It is idle and unprofitable to spend our time in tracing the path of his admission, or detailing out measures of crimination and re-crimination upon the enquiry, which party has encouraged his approach, or fostered his being. The influence he has acquired over our legislation is now so great, that the perverted vision of our best legislators see him where he ought not to be seen and give themselves to his control on subjects of the most ordinary character. It is my purpose to speak plainly, but I mean no offence to any. Let me give you a most remarkable instance of this alarming evil. The legislature of 1815 or 1816 caused the lands of this state to be valued, and according to that assessment they imposed the land tax. This assessment was lodged with the clerks of the county courts, and they were directed to issue a copy of the same to those who receive the list of taxes in the counties for their government. The tax has been imposed according to that assessment ever since. By accident I happen to have access to that paper, and the act of assembly teaches me that the land tax is "6 cents on every hundred dollars of the same." Now the assessment has put the lands of the state at fifty four millions:

Therefore the land tax imposed by law is \$32,400

While the returns of the Sheriffs and the report of the Comptroller will show that the land tax collected does not exceed \$23,500

Thus while one man pays his tax according to law—another pays according to his pleasure. While the expenses of government are increased the revenue is decreased by the bad execution of the laws. More than one fourth of the Land Taxes, and nearly one seventh of the public revenue is uncollected or not accounted for at the Treasury. And why is no act passed by the assembly to remedy this evil? The treasurer in the faithful discharge of his duty, has drawn the attention of the legislature to the subject—he has recommended that the laws on this subject might be revised—he has very justly conceived that "the permanent unappropriated revenue of the state ought to be so regulated as in any event to meet the public expenditures." He could do no more. Why then I repeat, is no law passed to meet these correct suggestions—to have the tax collected as it has been assessed by law? These are the causes.—The members of the assembly are split into factions under the well known standards of "the East and the West." "the Roanoke and the Cape Fear." And even when a Revenue bill is to be considered, their votes depend very much upon the circumstances from what quarter of the state its mover comes. Unaccustomed to consider subjects on their merits, the crowd look only for their leaders. If this revenue measure comes from the East, the opposition of the West is secured and vice versa. I know there are honorable exceptions to the rule, but truth forbids me to concede that they are more than exceptions. This very question of Land tax has been before the Assembly three different times to my knowledge. It has always been welcomed with the cry of party—talked of—referred, and then laid on the Table. And thus it is with every question of deep interest to the public. Not to weary you with any more, let me add a case of annual occurrence in the General Assembly. I promise that I am no "Western man." I reside in the "East"—my property, family,