

THE NORTH CAROLINIAN FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

For the Carolinian.
EMIGRATION—SWAMP LANDS
COTTON.

POLICY OF THE STATE.

Among the numerous individuals who have visited the Southern and South western States for the purpose of selecting a permanent place of abode, I am gratified to see that many have returned perfectly satisfied to remain in their native state, after having thoroughly canvassed all the advantages and disadvantages incident to a removal. Had this plan been adopted years ago, our state now would be enabled to show more wealth and a decidedly greater population, whilst the fortune of many individuals would thereby have been greatly promoted. The age in which we live is not only progressive in improvement but is marked by a restlessness of disposition in almost every community, by which our attachment to our native state becomes deadened, and we finally stake our all upon the doubtful success of emigration. However fortunate some may have been, others have returned to proclaim their disappointment and to plant themselves more firmly upon the soil of their native state. In proof of this I could cite cases in perhaps every county in the state, and certainly in many of the eastern counties. Amid the great improvements of the present age no branch of industry has perhaps been more benefited than that of Agriculture. The science of chemistry has been brought to bear directly upon it—to develop the ingredients of every soil and to point out the proper means of fertilizing the same. The importance of the subject has, of late, created an interest hitherto unknown in this country. Our [unintelligible] Government has taken measures to encourage it whilst almost every county, in almost every state in the Union, has a society devoted to Agriculture where all that is useful may be developed and that which is detrimental may be exposed. And among the many benefits resulting from an improved state of Agriculture by which the production of the soil is increased, I would refer to the reclaiming of Swamp lands as by far the greatest, and one which is destined at no distant day to render North Carolina doubly rich in the productions of Agriculture. This is not a new theme. Many years ago, the reclaiming of swamp lands was a favorite object of the state, and laws were enacted from time to time not only regulating the entry of Swamp lands generally but also the drainage of particular Swamps; and although but little was done, at any one time, to bring those lands into successful cultivation, the subject was never at any time abandoned, but continued to progress (though slowly) until within the past few years public attention has been again called to the subject, and many of our Swamps have been successfully drained. The result has proven that no lands in our state are capable of so great a production in corn and hay, and many of them are especially well adapted to the production of cotton and (I believe) of Wheat, Oats and Tobacco also, whilst at the same time the soil is easily cultivated. In regard to the production of cotton I would say that, in former years, the successful growth of cotton was limited to what was then called the cotton region—being confined (if I mistake not) between the 30th and 32d degrees of north latitude. Within this region it was supposed cotton would mature in greater perfection and yield a far greater profit to the planters, and indeed so strongly fixed was this impression, that it was deemed necessary by many to obtain a new supply of seed every 3d or 4th year from the Petit Gulf on the Mississippi, which not only lay within the favoured region but where the seed was believed to retain their original purity. As the price of cotton advanced, however, the cotton region became more extended, until now its limits are far beyond what heretofore was deemed practicable. The cotton plant has been a favorite object in certain portions of our state from its introduction to the present time, and from its continued and successful cultivation throughout all the vicinities of high and low prices, an indication may fairly be drawn that the cotton region had at first been too narrowly confined. Cotton has been successfully planted for years in many of our counties, especially in the east, and many of our planters rely upon it for the entire profit of the farm.

Among the numerous counties that are now engaged in the successful culture, no one county has perhaps bestowed upon it so much care and attention as the county of Edgecombe; in consequence of which she stands without a rival, and may justly be considered the Banner county of the state in the production of cotton. It may appear surprising to some that we should contend for the successful growth of cotton in this latitude; but there are facts connected with its growth favorable to our latitude and soil. Although cotton is a southern plant, has a greater length of season at the south, can mature higher up the stalk, and, withal, can afford generally a greater yield, yet there are many disasters to which it is liable at the south from which it is certainly free in North Carolina. The army worm, so destructive to cotton at the south, and the bollworm, which is equally destructive, are both comparatively unknown among us, beside many other disasters to which the cotton plant is liable at the south. I may further add that storms are more frequent at the south, which often injure the crop to a considerable extent after it has matured. In view of all this the cotton crop may be considered more certain here than at the south, which fully compensates for the shortness of our season and brings us somewhat upon an equality in point of production. The settled fact that so large a portion of our state is well adapted to the production of cotton, should be regarded as a matter of more than ordinary importance. Its bearing is as extensive as commerce itself. The United States produce about three fourths of all the cotton that is consumed, and Europe is absolutely dependent upon its production—so much so that various attempts have been made in other countries to produce it. Great Britain has tried it and failed. Not many years ago the Grand Sultan tried it in his dominions under the skillful management of a citizen of one of the Southern States. The experiment failed, and Great Britain is now making her second trial. All this goes to prove the great value of a country capable of producing cotton.

Experience has proven that swamp lands have a decided superiority over river bottoms, not only in production but also in the great safety of the crop. River bottoms are subject to inundations; not so with swamp lands when properly drained. I have not taken the trouble to ascertain the quantity of swamp lands in the state, nor is it a matter material to the present purpose. It is sufficient to know that all the southern and eastern counties of our state are well supplied with swamps of the richest mould, and nothing is required but sufficient drainage to render North Carolina one of the largest corn growing states in the Union. It is worthy of remark that most of our swamps when drained and cultivated have proved healthy, and are generally bounded by sand hills upon which a settlement can be made sufficiently near the swamp for cultivation. It is perhaps unnecessary to remark that our sand hills are healthy and afford good water. Whatever may be said of North Carolina in regard to her

tardiness to embark in speculation or enterprise, I am inclined to the opinion that she stands decidedly first in reclaiming swamp lands—and, if so, then she has done as much for the benefit of Agriculture as any state in the union. The drainage of Mattamuskeet lake in the county of Hyde was marked with signal success, and it is believed that the average production of corn in that county is from 40 to 50 bushels per acre, whilst the average production of the lake swamp is much larger, say from 60 to 75 bushels per acre. So far then as regards the drainage and value of swamp lands there remains not a doubt. The question then presents itself, why is it that more swamps have not been drained? It will be borne in mind that our system of obtaining lands is by entry, and it rarely happened that any one individual entered an entire swamp, so that when the individual became desirous of draining his part of the swamp, he found it necessary to ditch through other portions of the swamp which he did not own. He was therefore unwilling to bear the whole expense—and in some cases where the individual was willing to bear all the expense, he has been driven to the county court for an order to ditch through his neighbor's swamp—for the reason that his neighbor objected. This of itself has formed a great impediment to the drainage of swamp land. Again, it will be found upon examination that a portion of nearly all our swamps are owned by minors, and this presents a difficulty still greater than the first. The greatest impediment, however, to the drainage of our swamps lies in the fact that most of them are supposed to be destitute of a good and sufficient fall; or rather that the amount of fall is not sufficient to warrant the expense of drainage. And this can be ascertained only by reference to the supposed value of the swamp when drained; for it is evident that most swamps are susceptible of being drained if the ditch is carried far enough to obtain the necessary fall—but in doing this an expense might be incurred which might exceed the value of the land when drained. And hence it is we say that most of our swamps are lacking a sufficiency of fall. My own opinion is that many swamps now deemed impracticable to drain on account of expense would be better than any other investment of capital. If a bank stock is bound in duration by the character of the Bank; it must then seek another investment. Swamp land when drained and put into cultivation has no limit—it endures forever. In these times of scarcity, public attention should be especially directed to agricultural improvement. Some of our swamps are too large for individual enterprise. The State should drain them. The enhanced value of the land would defray the expense, exclusive of the revenue hereafter to be received by taxation. A people to be independent or happy should be able to furnish their own food. We have frequently been called upon to aid in feeding the poor in other counties. We have hitherto had the will and the ability to do it. The time may come when our ability may fail us; then would the pride of every son of North Carolina be lowered, and the freedom of a republican state tarnished in the miseries of her people. We have already seen the flag of distress flying in the distance; county after county has already taken measures to meet it, and relief was obtained by the purchase of grain of our own state. Yet it was mainly the product of those very swamps that have been reclaimed, and this of itself should stand as an undying memorial of their value. What if every county in your state is checkedered by Rail Roads! It amounts to but little if you have nothing to transport. The free enjoyment of luxury once passed is aggravated by the approach of scarcity or famine. Never is it my purpose or desire to depreciate Rail Roads, but merely to show that they are secondary to Agriculture, which is or ought to be the basis of every improvement. Agriculture should be in the ascendant in every state. It was so among the Romans during the accomplished reign of Augustus, when the glory of the empire reached its zenith, and so it should be with us. A decline in agriculture is always followed by a decline of the state in every other branch of industry. What is a state if she be without the means of supporting an army?—the stoutest valor is powerless and the purest patriotism unavailable.

THE GOLDSBORO TRAGEDY.
We find that there were several errors in the account which we published in the last Register of the tragical affair which occurred in Goldsboro on Thursday last. The Goldsboro correspondent of the Petersburg Express gives the following statement of the affair, which we presume is perfectly correct, as it was written by one of the editors of the Goldsboro Tribune who was an eye witness to all the proceedings: I gave you a telegraphic report of the awful tragedy that occurred here yesterday. Never have I seen such an excitement in a small place before and hope never to again. Business was almost entirely suspended during the whole of yesterday. Men, women and children, black and white, were running to and fro. Dr. Jno W. Davis, one of our best citizens—a whole souled, benevolent, good man—one whom everybody loves, was shot down yesterday morning, between 6 and 10 o'clock, by a German, who keeps a shop here, and his step-son. The German had warranted D. on an account part of which was forged. The constable went to Dr. D. several days ago with the account, and delivered an insulting message from the German, and seeing part of it was a forgery, Dr. D. the German and caned him. The German kept pushing the Constable on, and insisted on his bringing Davis to trial. Yesterday the parties were summoned by the officer to come before a magistrate, and they met in a store, where the shooting occurred. Both the Germans were heavily armed, having five or six pistols between them, each one having a revolver—and the younger one had also a Bowie knife. Poor, generous, unsuspecting Davis was unarmed, had not even a stick or a knife. A dispute arose as to the account. Davis being given the lie, I believe, by the elder German, picked up a small shovel, and flourished it, as if to strike, when the young German—a mere boy of 16 or 18 years of age coolly drew a pistol and deliberately fired. The ball passed in at the right breast, and came out at the side penetrating the lung. Davis made at him, when the old German commenced shooting, and between both five shots were fired at Davis, doing no other injury, however, save the shot in the breast, and nearly shooting off a finger on the right hand. Old Odehinner in aiming at Davis, shot his son-in-law in the back, giving him a painful wound, though not a dangerous one. Davis would have been killed instantly, but for a nephew of his (noble boy), about 15 or 16, who ran in just as the elder German had a pistol at his temple, and picked up a spade sitting by, and felled him to the floor, badly fracturing his skull. Father and son were both conveyed at once to jail, where they were attended by physicians. Dr. Davis was carried in the arms of his friends to the office of Dr. Creighton, near by, where all has been done that mortals could do up to the present. Though the wound is considered by him and other physicians a dangerous one, he is considered better this morning, and strong hopes are entertained of his recovery.—*Raleigh Register.*

"I say, old boy," cried Paul Pry, to an excavator in North Shields, whom he espied at the bottom of a yawning gulf, "what are you digging there?" "A big hole," the old boy replied. Paul was not to be put off in this fashion. "What are you going to do with the hole?" "Going to cut it into small holes," replied the old boy, "and sell it for gate posts." Paul was sold.

From the Washington Times.
WASHINGTON, N. C., July 5, 1857.

Dear Sir:—We have been asked by a number of merchants in this place, to give our opinion on the construction of the 24th section of the Revised Act, ch. 34, of the acts of 1856. We feel a difficulty in doing so, because a literal interpretation would be so injurious, that we cannot believe the Legislature ever intended such a result. We have suggested therefore that you should be consulted; that is, if, the effect he injurious it should at least be referred throughout the State, and the pressure borne equally by all. Please inform us officially of the views of the Government on the following case:

1. If A. sells Turpentine or Cotton of his own production in this State to B.—and B. sells to C., who ships and sells it abroad, are both B and C bound to pay the tax of 1d of 1 per cent, on the Turpentine or Cotton? It is this so regardless of how many times it may be sold before exportation?

2. If A. jobber, imports goods from New York, and sells to B., who retails to the consumer, are both A. and B. bound to pay the tax of 1d of 1 per cent?

You will perceive that these cases are substantially the same—the first relating to goods produced in the State, and exported for consumption; and the second, to those imported for consumption.

If the first is answered affirmatively, it will go very far to break up the internal trade in our staples. If the second is answered in like manner it will break up the jobbing business, a large one in our Eastern and probably the interior towns, and compel every retailer to buy his goods abroad.—Further, if we had any foreign import trade, such legislation would seem aimed directly to break it up, as ports of all other States would have a preference over our own to the amount of the tax.

3. If A. sells goods imported from New York and takes Turpentine, or Cotton in payment, is he, as a purchaser of both his New York goods and of the Turpentine bound to pay a tax on the two sums?

If this is answered affirmatively, it will break up the latter business, and produce infinite inconvenience.

4. Do sections 24, 26 and 27 impose any tax on the dealings of merchants prior to 1st July, 1857. Are not the taxes then payable by them, anticipatory of their business from 1st July, 1857, to 1st July, 1858, applicable only to their dealings in that interval?

5. Does Sec 27 apply only to those who have not been dealing in merchandise before 2nd July, 1857, or also to those who were so dealing before 1st July, 1857, and "open store" after 1st July, 1857, by continuing their dealing?

If section 24 imposes a tax *not on property, but on conduct* (to wit, purchases, *prior to its passage*) it would seem to be an *ex post facto* law, and more in the nature of a confiscation than a revenue act; and its constitutionality very doubtful. Our clients desire to discharge all their duties as good citizens, however onerous; they are satisfied that the defects of the law do not arise from any intention in the Legislature to oppress, but from want of consideration merely; the greatest evil of an obscure taxing law,—and the remark applies equally to one whose severity makes its construction doubtful,—is, that it never operates equally; the most conscientious bear the burden; those less so, evade it. They desire to know, therefore, what is the construction which the government officers intend to enforce, so that they may act accordingly. The importance of the subject warrants us in requesting an early reply.

Respectfully yours,
W. B. RODMAN,
R. S. DONNELL,
To D. W. COURTS, Esq., Pub. Treas.

TREASURE DEPARTMENT OF N. C. July 18th, 1857.

Gentlemen:—I am in receipt of your favor of the 6th inst., and will proceed to answer your questions in the order stated, not repeating them, as I presume you retained a copy of your letter.

1. By Section 24 Revenue act, every merchant is to pay $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent, upon his capital employed, saving the amount of his purchase of ready-made clothing, upon which he is to pay 1 per cent. How is the amount of this capital to be ascertained? I think the answer is furnished by the Act.

The Capital aforesaid shall be the aggregate sum of the purchases of goods, wares and merchandise, made within the year preceding the first day of July, and herein shall be included the amount of the purchase of goods, wares and merchandise and spirituous Liquors or other things not herein particularly enumerated whether of this or any other State. The tax is the most conscientious bear the burden; those less so, evade it. They desire to know, therefore, what is the construction which the government officers intend to enforce, so that they may act accordingly. The importance of the subject warrants us in requesting an early reply.

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ST LOUIS, July 15.

Advices from Leavenworth say that the 13th regiment of infantry will leave for Utah on the 13th, the 6th regiment on the 21st, and the regiments about the first of August. Gen. Harney will go with the latter. Gov. Cummings will start for Washington in a day or two for his final instructions.

TROOPS FOR UTAH.

Mr. Editor.—

It is thought by some that good land in the old States sells at enormously high prices when it brings from \$50 to \$100 per acre. When compared, however, with the price paid in the old country—England and Ireland for instance—the selling value of our lands would seem to be moderate enough. The Shenandoah (Va.) Teath Legion has been furnished with a statement, by Mr Daniel Flaherty, at Powell's Fort, of several sales of land, in the county, Kerry, in the South of Ireland, furnished him by a friend living there. A farm containing 40 acres was sold for £50; one of 80 acres for £6,010; one of 90 acres for £6,300; one of 60 acres for the sum of £6,200; and another of 40 acres for £2,000; one of 130 acres for £34,200. An English pound is about \$4,874.

SYRACUSE, July 29.—The grand contest of reaping machines is over. The results will be announced at the U. S. Society's Fair, to be held at Louisville, in September next.

BOSTON, July 29.—Boylston, one of the oldest newspaper editors in New Hampshire, died at his residence in Amherst, on Sunday, aged seventy-five years.

BOSTON, July 28.—The loss of the French frigate, before reported, on the coast of Newfoundland, has been confirmed. She is said to be a large iron steam frigate named "Newton" commanded by Sagol De Varouux. She was wrecked off the port of Aucox. The crew were all saved.

A contemporary describing a dance at a village, in the neighborhood, said: "The gorgeous strings of glass beads glistened on the leaping bosoms of the village belle, like polished rubies on the delicate surface of warm apple dumpling."

CINCINNATI, July 21.—A man named Rohler a German, strangled his wife this morning, and killed a Mr. Horton, of the firm of Hortion & Macey, then set fire to the house, and finished by cutting his own throat. Horton had reprimanded Rohler for abusing his wife. He is not expected to live.

The General Assembly increased the tax on Dividends and other property for 12 months prior to 1st April last, and I cannot see that they have not the power to tax the capital of Merchants, in the same manner.

5. I think Sec. 27, applies only to those who have not been in business prior to 1st July, 1857.

Very Truly Yours,

D. W. COURTS, pub. Treas.

Messrs. W. B. RODMAN, & R. S. DONNELL,

Washington, N. C.

"I say, old boy," cried Paul Pry, to an excavator in North Shields, whom he espied at the bottom of a yawning gulf, "what are you digging there?" "A big hole," the old boy replied.

Was to ask in a whisper, "Have you seen San-to-day?"

But since the election, they've changed it we hear,

And the brethren now ask, "Have you seen San-to-day?"

Watchword changed.

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Get up Jeany!"

FROM KANSAS.

FLEA HILL.

MR. EDITOR.—

If there is any truth in appearances, the democats in this section of old Cumberland are

united to a man, and are determined to do

their duty to the party in this contest without

a dissenting voice or vote. This precludes you

know, is the old rallying ground, and I tell

you will poll a lordly vote here for Winslow, Free Suffrage, Taylor and Mims.

Yours truly—

COMMUNICATIONS.

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