

THE ELIZABETH-CITY STAR

AND

North-Carolina Eastern Intelligencer.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY BENJAMIN ALBERTSON, AT THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, OR TWO DOLLARS FOR SIX MONTHS, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Vol VI

Elizabeth-City, N. C. Saturday, January 20, 1827.

No. 5.

TERMS.

No paper discontinued till directions to that effect are given, and arrearages paid, but at the option of the Editor.

Advertisements of no more length than breadth, neatly inserted three times for a dollar, and twenty-five cents for each continuance; longer ones in the same proportion.

Advertisements will be continued until forbid, and charged accordingly, unless otherwise marked by the writers.

No advertisement will be inserted for less than one dollar.

Persons at a distance must accompany their advertisements with the money, or they will not be inserted.

Letters addressed to the Editor must be postpaid, or they will not be lifted.

New and Cheap Store.

The Subscribers have the pleasure of informing their friends and the public, that they have taken that commodious Store, next door to Capt. Pickett's Tavern, where they have now opened and propose to keep constantly on hand a general assortment of

Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery Ware, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. &c.

which they will sell low, for cash or produce.

J. S. A. ARMISTEAD & Co.
Elizabeth-City, Dec. 23

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE.
We have received an assortment of Ladies and Misses Morocco and Seal skin SHOES.
Jan. 6.

Hertford Academy.

The exercises of this institution, will commence on Monday the first of January next under the direction of Mr. Thomas J. Hardy. The course of instruction will comprise the various branches of an English education, and the rudiments of the Latin language. For terms, &c. apply to the teacher.

By order of the Trustees.
Good accommodations for boarders may be obtained in the Town.
Dec. 23.

FOR RENT,

A Store House 25 feet in front, and 18 feet deep, with two brick chimneys and a piazza, and a new Ware House in the most central part of Durants Neck, on the main road. It is a most eligible situation for mercantile business, being in the midst of a thickly settled neighborhood, and convenient to several landings on Little River, Albemarle Sound, and Perquimans River.—There is on the adjoining lot a new house where comfortable board may be had if required. Apply to THOS. LAYDEN on the Premises.
Dec. 23, 1826.

CHEAP PROPERTY.

The subscriber having made arrangements for a removal from his present residence, will sell upon a liberal credit, that well located and improved Property in the Town of Hertford which he at this time occupies, embracing three Lots, with a commodious Dwelling House and every necessary out house, now in good repair. No property in the said town can be better calculated for a private residence and at the same time for business.—His present price is Fifteen Hundred Dollars, only
Jonathan H. Jacobs.
Hertford Nov. 2.—Dec. 22.

JUST RECEIVED

Per Brig Mary Hart from Tobago.
32 puncheons RUM
For sale by
Alpheus Fobes, jun.
Elizabeth-City, Dec. 9.

SALT.

Just received by Schooner Philinda, Linnell, from Antigua via St. Bartholomews, & also by Schr. Superb, Hope, from Boston

7 barrels Sweet Cider,
20 barrels Beef,
7000 lbs. Cheese,
Irish Potatoes,
Linnen Wheels,
Flour, &c. &c.

For Sale by

A. Fobes, jun.
Elizabeth-City, Jan. 13.

List of Letters

Remaining in the Post-Office, at Elizabeth-City, 1st of January 1827, which if not taken out before the 1st of April next will be sent to the General Post-Office.

Wm. Apley 2, Allen Ames, Nehemiah Baker 2, Obed Baker, Silas Bowen, Thomas W. Butler, James Barber, E. Crocker, Gushon Clark, Daniel Clark, Wm. Cooper, Esq., Jason Chase, Wm. H. Davis, Joseph Foster, Dexter Gilbert, Agnes Gilbert, C. C. Green, Isaac Griffin, Wm. B. Gregory, Willis Gallop, John L. Hoberson, J. W. Hinton, Wm. Haseal Wm. N. Ivey 2, Daniel Jay, Amelia Japman, John Kay, Ephraim Kite, Ambrose Knox 2, John Knowlton, Seth Clark Macion, Catharine Mullin, Margaret Morris, N. Mitchell, Wm. M. Nixon, G. F. Overman, Isaac Overman, Wm. Prider, Edward Peck, Dempsey B. Pendleton, Solomon Pool, sen. Thomas Reed, Henry Readen, Wm. B. Shephard 3, Orrin Sears, Robert E. Smith 2, Adam Shaw, Alson Spence 2, William Sinclair, Wm. Sawyer, Wm. Turner, Wm. Wilson, John R. Warrington, Anthony Whitehurst, Richard West.

Isaiah Fearing, P. M.

Elizabeth-City, Jan. 6.

THE SUBSCRIBER

Has just received a large supply of Books, which he offers for sale cheap—Among them are the following:—

The Life and Correspondence of R. H. Lee, in 2 vols.—Gourgaud's Napoleon—Walm's Life of La Fayette—Jefferson's Notes on Virginia—Mackenzie's 5000 Receipts—Bancroft's Life of Washington, in 2 vols.—Napoleon's Expedition to Russia, in 2 vols.—Franklin's Life and Essays—Lights and Shadows of Scottish Life—Reid on the Mind—Philadelphia Souvenir—Cook's Voyages, in 2 vols.—Self Knowledge—Bibles and Testaments. Besides a variety of Novels and Poems, viz: the Scottish Chiefs, in 3 vols.—Thaddeus of Warsaw, in 2 vols.—Beauties of the British Classics, 2 vols.—Fanny in London—Tales of the Genii, 2 vols.—A Sailor's Friendship and Soldier's Love—Paul and Virginia—Decision, a tale—Robinson Crusoe, 2 vols.—Pope's Works, 2 vols.—Milton's do. do.—Washington or Liberty Restored—Wreath, &c.

Also a large collection of School Books now in use, viz:—

Murray's and Webster's Spelling Books—Looking Glass—Murray's Grammar and Exercise—Do. Introduction—Do. Reader—History of Rome—Do. of Greece—Do. of England—Scott's Lessons—Pike's Dabolls and Jess' Arithmetics—Gummings' and Morse's Geography with an Atlas—Walker's Dictionary, large & small—Chronology—Blair's Lectures—Do. Philosophy—Lonsycastle's Algebra—Roddiman's Latin Grammar, and a number of Primers and small books with pictures—Copy Books, Copper Plates, Paper, Slates, Pencils, Quills, Inkstands, Ink, &c. &c.

W. M. D. GORDAN, Agent.

Elizabeth-City, Nov. 25.

Blanks for sale at this office

Farmer's Repository.

Sketches on Agriculture.

By A. W. Foster, Esq. of Greensburgh, Pa. President of the Westmoreland Agricultural Society.

It appears to be the fate of all newly settled countries, to exhaust the soil nearly exhausted before any considerable improvements in agriculture are commenced. Such was the case in the eastern parts of this state, unless in a few places where the soil was alluvial, or from its natural and almost inexhaustible fertility, it could scarcely, under any bad system of farming be materially deteriorated.

The observation of Mr. Kalm, a Swedish traveller, in the account he gives of the husbandry of the then British colonies, as he found it in 1749, is a correct picture of all the new settlements subsequently established.

"They make scarcely any manure for their corn fields," he says; "but when one piece of ground has been exhausted by continual cropping, they clear and cultivate another piece of fresh land, and when that is exhausted, proceed to a third." It is not necessary, however, to go so far back into antiquity, as those who were acquainted with that section of the state, thirty-five years ago, and have seen it of late years, will have perceived how much has been added, by the improvements in agriculture, to the annual productive value of the freehold.

In a country like ours, where land is plenty in proportion to the number of inhabitants, and where individuals are proprietors of large farms, the disposition appears too prevalent to be more anxious as to the quantity cultivated, than the manner in which it shall be done. The temptation is strong, but it is a great and radical error. The labor is greatly increased, in procuring the same quantity of grain from twenty, that might be produced from ten acres; and this difference exists between what will be estimated a tolerably good crop, and one of the first quality. Between these two points exist the profits of a crop, and they will be increased or diminished as they approximate to either.

In every good system of agriculture the quality of the soil, the order in which it shall be, at the time of sowing or planting, and the season for performing either operation, will be considered as articles of primary importance.

In clayey soils, particularly those impregnated with a calcareous substance, an advantage will be found from putting on the manure from the barn yard at an earlier stage of decomposition than on those of a light or sandy nature, where it will not so rapidly decompose; and in such soils, a greater benefit will be found from ploughing down clover, buckwheat, millet, or other vegetable substances, than in a light and sandy soil.

Experience has fully proved, that the more perfectly the soil is pulverized, the more capable it is of conveying nourishment to the tender fibre of the plant.—This is an important desideratum in agriculture. A judicious farmer will always have an eye to this, particularly in breaking up his fallows. (when this system is pursued;) as, if this operation be performed in a clayey soil, when the ground is wet a winter's frost will be necessary to separate the particles of earth which have been formed into solid masses or clods. There is another fact deducible from certain philosophical principles, that the more perfect the state of pulverization of the earth on the surface, the greater will be the quantity of moisture retained in it in dry seasons, which also, in addition to other reasons, furnishes a strong argument in favor of deep ploughing.

The system of fallowing ground, however, is a most ruinous one; and its necessity arises from a previous defect in the cultivation of the ground. If a field has been some years in blue grass, it will be in vain to think of ploughing it shortly before sowing wheat, and have it in any proper degree pulverized, or to expect, by a single ploughing, to destroy the blue grass, which (being an indigenous plant) would most assuredly come forth the next spring, and destroy all prospects of a wheat crop. It, therefore, in such cases, becomes necessary for the farmer to destroy its ascendancy, by breaking up his fallows early in the spring or summer, expose his soil to the exhausting rays of the sun, give his ground a second ploughing before har-

vest, and, after harvest, by a third ploughing, commit his grain to the earth—which are necessary to destroy this grass (which is universal in Pennsylvania) and pulverize the earth. Whereas, by putting his ground in clover, he may have tenfold the pasture during the time the land is not cultivated in grain, and by once ploughing in the fall of the year, and harrowing in his grain, have his ground as perfectly pulverized as in the other mode; free from the exhausting effects of exposure to a summer's sun; enjoying the additional quantity of pasture, and improving his soil by ploughing in his clover, and the decomposition of the roots of the plant. It is not saying too much to aver, that not a single field of blue grass should be permitted in the state. Not a field should be seen that was not either in grain or clover, or some kind of grass superior to the common natural grass of the country; unless where a corn crop had been raised the preceding year, and when the proprietor is desirous of putting it in fall grain without further exhausting the soil by a summer crop. The sowing of buckwheat and ploughing it down, which may be done twice in the same year, would add little to the expense, and greatly to the fertility of the soil. The first crop being ploughed down immediately before harvest, would, on ploughing down the second crop in September, be decomposed, and afford immediate nourishment to the wheat crop. The second crop would have undergone a complete fermentation early in the ensuing spring, when the beneficial effects of both would be visible.

In the present state of agriculture, when so many fields are suffered to grow up with blue grass, and where the system of fallowing so extensively prevails, even after stirring this ground, which might be done early in June, if sowed with millet, would (if the ground be of such a quality as to produce good oats) produce an excellent crop, which might be cut about the first of September, producing an abundant crop of seed, and excellent fodder, or even if cut earlier, and cured with the seed, before the same be perfectly ripe, would afford food for cattle equally nutritive with the best timothy and clover hay; or if ploughed down in all its luxuriance, what a mass of manure would be afforded! An unjust prejudice has for some time existed against raising millet. It is true it may not have answered the expectations formed respecting it; nevertheless, it is confidently believed that it could be beneficially used in a judicious course of agriculture, in either of the modes before suggested; and if cured for food, would add greatly to the resources of the barn yard—an object of primary importance.

In England, where the whole kingdom almost is in a state of garden culture, not a weed is suffered to go to loss; all is added to the barn yard for manure.—The very soot of their chimneys is preserved and used as a manure.

The importance of a rotation of crops to a successful course of agriculture, falls within the observation of every one—some of the substances essential in the formation of grain, become exhausted by a continued routine of cultivation. The same kind of grain should never be sown in succession on the same ground; nor should more than two crops of any kind of grain follow in immediate succession, the intervention of grass crops being essential to restore to the soil those substances necessary to produce a perfect grain crop, unless the supply be formed by the annual addition of stable manure.

No precise, uniform rule, for a rotation of crops, can be prescribed, as something will depend on the nature of the soil, and much upon the particular state in which the ground may be at the time of commencing such a system. A few observations will, however, be made, as to the proper course to pursue under particular circumstances. An upland meadow, where the advantage of irrigation does not exist, will, unless where the soil is naturally moist and remarkably fertile, in the course of a few years, become grass bound on the surface, and produce little or no timothy or clover, indigenous grass of the country taking its place. It is true the timothy and clover may be longer preserved by the most expensive of all possible modes of manuring, spreading it over the surface, (where it is subject to be carried off by rains, or exhausted by the rays of the sun) or by the use of gypsum, which is also too expensive for general use in this country at present. If such a piece of ground be ploughed deep, in the month of March, and well harrowed about planting time,

and lightly marked out for planting corn, so as not to disturb the soil, each grain of corn will have a batch of manure beneath it; and in the month of June, the middle may be ploughed, when the soil will be decomposed and thrown up to afford an additional quantity of manure to the new roots, which will be shooting out from the stalk; there will be no trouble from weeds, which will always be the case in mellow ground, several years in the cultivation of corn, &c. and the crop, in most cases, will be abundant. The ensuing spring sow the ground with barley or oats; or by cutting the roots, a little after the usual time of topping, as now generally practised; which is an admirable plan for procuring a large additional quantity of excellent fodder, and adding greatly to the stock of the barn yard, (the very best substance for manure.) The ground may, if not too wet a soil, be sowed in wheat, or fall barley; and in either case be sowed with timothy or clover alone, producing a better hay and a larger quantity, and no difficulty will be experienced in consequence of the different periods at which these grasses ripen. The clover stalks will be smaller and more tender than when raised alone, and will be supported by the timothy from falling down or lodging, in which case the leaves rot as well as the stalk. The clover is also prevented from ripening so soon, and it will be an advantage to the timothy, as respects its quality, to be cut some weeks sooner than is now generally practised. Let this course be fairly tried, by any judicious farmer, and it will never be discontinued. Such grass, well cured, will alone, be equal to timothy hay, as now cured, with the addition of eight quarts of oats per day to each horse. On this subject I speak from experience, and with the fullest confidence.

When, by the previous course of farming, any piece of ground is become free from grass, it ought, if of a good quality, to be immediately sowed in some kind of grain, according to the season. If not of such a quality as will produce a good crop, it should be sowed with some kind of seed, with the view of ploughing down a green crop, or be otherwise manured, or the labor employed will be lost.

As most of the lands in cultivation in this country are pasture fields, the system heretofore pursued ought to be changed as soon as possible. Let the field having the best sward of grass be ploughed up for corn, as directed in respect to worn out meadow ground. Let another field be ploughed early, and sowed with some kind of grain to be ploughed down green, as before mentioned, preparatory to sowing wheat. The corn ground will be prepared for a crop of oats or barley the ensuing spring, at the same time sowing it with clover, which may be lightly harrowed if not very mellow, or no appearance of immediate rain, in which case harrowing the clover seed will be unnecessary. The wheat field should also be sowed with clover seed in the month of March. In the course of two or three years, these fields may be ploughed and sowed in wheat; once ploughing will then be sufficient, if the clover has been well set, whether the same has been mowed or pastured; always observing, however, that the clover seed should be permitted to grow five or six weeks before ploughing, and should, at that time be in full bloom. If any of the fields be intended for corn, it may remain in pasture for a year longer, as you then depend on the roots of the sward for a manure. The course here recommended, if pursued, would, in a few years, change the whole face of the country, and double the present value would be added to the freehold.

A greater portion of industry should be directed to raising esculent plants. The value of the potato as a palatable, whole some and nutritious food for man, as well as animals, and its productiveness, are too well known to require further observation. The celebrated author of the Wealth of Nations says, that an acre of potatoes will produce three times the solid nourishment as an acre of wheat—and he appears to be

* Vide 1st vol. Smith's Wealth of Nations, p. 291.