

Amos B. Cook.

Willsborough Recorder.

UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE LAWS—THE GUARDIANS OF OUR LIBERTY.

Vol. XVIII. FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1837. No. 862.

RURAL ECONOMY.

“May your rich soil
Exuberant, nature's better blessings pour
On every land.”

From the Farmer's Register,
REMARKS ON THE USES, VALUE, AND
CULTURE OF SWEET POTATOES.

Columbia, S. C. January 5, 1837.

The interest on agricultural subjects seems to have much diminished of late in this part of the United States, and as much as I can perceive, in other parts also. When we have done with presidential-making, and the meetings of abolition societies at the north and west, we can talk of nothing else than rail roads. It is very well, each in its proper place; but it seems to me, that we neglect too much our own natural, noble pursuit, agriculture. Formerly, this country furnished many parts of Europe, and the West India Islands, with bread stuffs; but now Europe sends us flour, wheat, and other grains in great quantities, and *mirabile dictu*, even hay. I shall not attempt to seek for the causes of this anomaly, less it should lead me into the innumerable speculations about banks, currency, abundance or scarcity of money, gold, bad, and indifferent. It seems enough to say here, what few will dispute, that there is something wrong in all this. Leaving, then, these elevated and fanciful subjects of discussion, I shall take the humbler task of making a few observations on the culture of the sweet potato.

At the 47th page of the number of your Farmers' Register, for the last month, in a piece signed S. Carter, this gentleman very reasonably disbelieves the assertions of some of his neighbors that the potatoe vines are poisonous to cattle; or at least they occasion them to sicken. As for the latter effect, it is very possible that potatoe vines, as well as other rich succulent food, may, when eaten too greedily, or too abundantly, have that effect. It is, however, little to be feared at the season of the year when Mr. Carter speaks of cutting his vines for provender; for then, much of their succulence has dried up, and probably given place to highly nutritious matter. The saving of the vines of the potatoe for cattle is not practised in this state, that I know of; but it is not that they are not worthy of it; but because we are too careless in taking every advantage offered us by a beautiful climate. It may also be on account of the difficulty of curing these vines, so as to keep them in bulk. As to their nutritive quality, there are very few vegetables more wholesome and nutritious. Many years ago I was informed, on authority scarcely to be doubted, that in the island of St. Domingo, horses and mules were in many parts entirely fed all the year round on potatoe vines; and my informant assured me, that he knew a cultivator in the vicinity of Cape Francois, who made yearly about \$10,000, by sending, every day, potatoe vines to the city, where they were bought for the exclusive food of horses, mules, and cattle. On the plantation or farm of this cultivator, the vines, and not the roots, were the chief object.

I am glad to have it also in my power to strengthen the authority of Mr. Carter, as regards his experiment of planting small potatoe roots, for the purpose of producing sprouts to be transplanted in due time, into the beds prepared for them. This is a practice much followed in this state, and many persons, I among the rest, think these sprouts produce much the best potatoes for the table. It is a method well suited to those countries where the summer is too short to produce the potatoe in perfection by any other. The usual way is to prepare a nursery bed of small dimensions, in a warm and sheltered situation, by manuring it highly with stable manure; make drills in this bed at very short distances from each other, from five to ten inches, and in these drills put small potatoe roots, so close as to touch, and cover them lightly. This should be done earlier than the usual season for planting the crop; and for fear of frost, the seed may be covered with straw, leaves, or some such matters. A bed about four feet wide, and fifty or sixty feet long, will furnish sprouts enough to plant at least an acre of ground. It is necessary to have the beds ready to plant the sprouts, so as to take advantage of every shower of rain to transplant what ever sprouts are large enough, that is a few inches high. The nursery bed will soon again be covered with a new set to plant at the next suitable weather. Potatoes produced in this manner, are generally smooth and well formed, and the crop very abundant. Every facility afforded, for the extended cultivation of this valuable root, is undoubtedly a great advantage; for it is nutritious and wholesome to a high degree. Many planters in this

state feed their negroes for several months exclusively on sweet potatoes, and during that period, they are all, young or old, healthy and fat. I have very little doubt but it might be advantageously cultivated for the manufacture of sugar, which it would probably produce in greater abundance than the beet; for not only sugar can be extracted from its readily formed saccharine matter, but also from the starch which it contains in great abundance. This is, at least, well worth the trial.

I am, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,
N. HERBEMONT.

THE PRINTER.

There he stands at his case; his eyes are fixed on his copy, while his fingers, obedient to his will, collect the letters from their various boxes, and place them together so as to form words, sentences, complete articles of news, politics, or literature. The musician at the piano can hardly compete with the printer in the rapidity and precision of his digital motion. Like the pianist who plays with his music book and instrument before him, the printer sees and comprehends at a glance the ever varying results his fingers must produce, and does not hesitate a moment to perform the necessary action with the rapidity of lightning. Like notes from the instrument, every letter, every pause, every stop, is called forth in its proper place, till complete ensemble is formed, which the memory can treasure up, and which the mind can conceive and digest. But how different are the final effects produced in these two instances! The musician creates a series of melodious and harmonious sounds, which please the ear for a moment and die away; the feelings, gay or sad, desponding or enthusiastic, mild or violent, are excited for a moment—but the charm soon ceases, and a night but the recollection of past pleasures or pain remains upon the mind. But the printer's labor bears everlasting fruit; he spreads before mankind the arena of knowledge, and words with the sages in the laboratory of reason; he sends messengers to every corner of the human family; he invites all men to behold the beauties of truth, and seeks to make the mass of mankind conscious of those immutable rights with which man is invested at his birth by nature and by nature's God. The printer has been, since the fifteenth century, the faithful and most active auxiliary of learning. That day the printer first struck off a sheet from a rough block of types—from that day we may date the universal spread of knowledge, and the gradual disenfranchisement of mankind from the bonds of ignorance, superstition, and oppression. From that day man has gradually advanced to the general enjoyment of free, enlightened, and republican institutions; from that day, royalty and its concomitants began to decay, and fair liberty to grow in their place.

I might continue to show, in detail, the correctness of the general outline I have drawn; but the immense benefits which the art of printing has conferred upon mankind, have been described by able and more eloquent pens than mine. Let me present a single hypothesis: Suppose that the great protectiveness, and teacher of all arts and sciences—suppose that the art of printing had never been discovered; at what a stage of progress would we now find natural philosophy, astronomy, mechanics, navigation, and many arts which conduce so effectually to the comfort and preservation of mankind! Where would now be those liberties we hold so dear! Yet in the womb of futurity, the discoveries of a Newton would have been the treasure of an exclusive few. Watt and Fulton would, perhaps, have never learned the first principles of mechanics; and Franklin might never have read a book, nor published a single principle tending to the independence of his country.

The ancients of Greece and Rome certainly numbered some great and wise men; but beyond the circle in which these learned men moved, how few received a glimpse of science; how few ever learned to read; and how difficult it was to obtain instruction or books. Now, through the agency of printing, our means of acquiring knowledge are unlimited, and its dissemination universal. The consequence is, that a greater number labor to unravel and make useful the secrets of nature, and the progress of mankind towards perfection is a thousand times more rapid.

The printer, as an individual, comes directly under the constant influences of the instructive and liberal art he professes. The printer reads more, and possesses more varied and general information, than the theologian, lawyer, or avowed philosopher. It is the printer's trade to read constantly, day after day,

during his whole life; he earns his daily bread by reading—say, and reading slowly and carefully, for he must follow and put the works we read into type, letter by letter; he must dwell awhile upon every sentence. Does the merchant know the prices of cotton and other goods in distant countries?—the intelligence is perused by a printer before a merchant touches it. Does the politician discuss the affairs of nations?—he owes his knowledge to the printer, who is always ahead of him in point of information. Does the physician study the work of some profound Esculapius?—let him look to the title page, and he will see that he owes the work to a printer, who has read it over and over to see that not a letter is wanted, not a comma out of place. The same may be said of the lawyer, the minister, and the scientific mechanic. The printer stands at the door of all their learning, and holds the keys which open it.

The printer is a great traveller. There are few printers in the United States who have not visited every state in the Union. They are sure of finding a printing office in every village, and consequently do not hesitate to travel wherever their fancy may lead them, sure of finding in their brother typographers friends ready to assist them, give them work, or obtain a situation for them. The printer is consequently thoroughly acquainted with his country, in general and in detail; none can know better or speak of it more correctly. Sometimes he crosses the Atlantic; and while he prints geographies and books of travel, he takes occasion to view with his own eyes every part of the old and new world.

The printer is always a good grammarian; and it frequently happens that men whose productions are esteemed by the public, owe it to the printer that they are not written down asses. Often, very often, does it happen that manuscript is put into the hands of the typesetter full of gross grammatical errors, sentences devoid of sense, and without a single point or capital letter. When this has passed through his hands, the errors are corrected, the punctuation and capitals are all set in their proper places. The conceited author finds himself all at once a grammatical and logical writer, and basks in the sun of popularity, which he owes to some unobtrusive son of Gutenberg. He takes care not to give credit to the proper person; but on the contrary, should some of his blunders remain uncorrected, he is sure to lay them all to the charge of the “ignorant printer”; such is the false and unjust phrase ignorant writers frequently use.

No trade, class, or profession, except those of law and physic, has furnished a greater proportion of learned and distinguished persons than the printer's craft. From the day of Franklin to the present time, our legislative halls, our places of honor, have been ornamented by talented printers. The bar is often indebted to the printing office for some of its ablest members; in this city we have living and prominent examples of the fact.

The printers, wherever they can unite a sufficient force, generally form themselves into a society for their mutual protection, and for the purpose of assisting each other in cases of need. These societies fix the rates of wages, the hours of work, and provide for the sick and unfortunate. They bind themselves by the strictest and most honorable rules to preserve the dignity of their art, and to defend each other against the injustice of grasping employers. If a printer should dishonor his trade, or work under wages, he is immediately stigmatized and disowned. It is very rare that a printer can be induced to dishonor the pledges he has given to his fellow-workmen.

LEGISLATURE OF VIRGINIA.

In the Virginia House of Delegates, on the 29th ultimo, Mr. Garland offered the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas the present disorganized state of the money market, and the distress experienced throughout the commercial world, have been attributed by many to the efforts of Government to restore the constitutional currency of the United States, and a panic is now attempted to be gotten up in such parts of the Union, with the view of inducing the President of the United States to repeal the Treasury Order, issued July 11, 1836;

And whereas it behoves every citizen, in such a crisis, to make a full and candid avowal of his sentiments on the important subject connected with the revenue and currency of the country; therefore

1. Resolved, That the late Circular Order of the President of the United States, requiring the payment for sales of public lands to be made in gold and silver, in lieu of depreciated bank paper, is legal, constitutional, and wise, well calculated to repress the enormous speculations in public lands, to curtail the excess-

ive issues of bank paper, and restore the constitutional currency of the country.

2. Resolved, That a repeal of said Treasury Order, so beneficial in its operation, would give additional inducements to the banks to overtrade, would enable speculators more effectually to possess themselves of that rich domain which was purchased by the common blood and common treasure of all, and which was intended as the home and retreat of the honest laborer; and that such a repeal would be regarded by this assembly as an abandonment of the policy of the late Administration, which had for its object a restoration of the constitutional currency—would be regarded as a disposition to legalize the issues and notes of local State banks, and to return to that system of paper money which has been so signally repudiated by the people of the United States.

3. Resolved, That the banking institutions created by the States have become so interwoven with their policy, and have taken such fast hold on the interests of the people, that they cannot be easily eradicated, and the only means by which they can be controlled and kept in their reasonable limits is for the Federal Government to adhere strictly to the letter of the Constitution, and to receive in payment for duties, taxes, debts, or sales of public lands, nothing but gold and silver, the constitutional currency of the United States—and that any attempt to restore or regulate the constitutional currency through the agency of State banks must be partial in its operation, destructive to the independence of the States, and inefficient as a means to accomplish the proposed end.

Mr. Garland, in presenting these resolutions, stated (as we understand, not being present) that he desired to lay them on the table, as expressive of his own opinions in his representative capacity, not expecting any action upon them at this time.

After some remarks by Messrs. Booker, Woolfolk, Watkins, Hunter, and Wischer, Mr. Wilson, of B. called for the previous question; which was sustained, and the resolutions were laid on the table.

Mr. Botts said he was not aware, until this evening, that it was in order for a member of the House to offer resolutions expressive of his own opinion on subjects which were not intended for the action of the House; but as this indulgence had been extended to the member from Mecklenburg, and as others had been prevented by the previous question from expressing their opinions on the floor, he would avail himself (as he differed so widely from the resolutions just disposed of) of the privilege of offering a sleeping or travelling companion, as the case might be, for those resolutions. They were intended as an expression of his own opinion on the subject, and he hoped they would be laid on the table, in company with those to which they were intended as a reply. He had no idea that an expression of opinion on so important a question should be confined to a single member. He thereupon submitted the following:

Whereas Andrew Jackson, late President of the United States, did, in defiance of the Constitution, and of all right, issue, or cause to be issued, a Treasury circular, the effects of which are now beginning to be felt throughout the whole commercial world; and whereas the National Legislature, being sensible of the impolicy, illegality, and unconstitutional-ity of the aforesaid Treasury circular, did, by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses, repeal the same; and whereas the said Andrew Jackson did thereupon not only refuse to sign the said law, but did pocket the same, in defiance of all law, decency, and common courtesy, and thereby prevent and defeat the action of Congress on the subject;

Resolved, therefore, That the conduct of said Andrew Jackson deserves the censure of the whole people in the strongest form in which it can be visited upon him.

Mr. Murdaugh seconded Mr. Botts's resolution; which was also laid on the table.

MASSACHUSETTS ON SLAVERY.

The following resolutions were recently passed in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, by a vote of 378 to 16.

Whereas, the House of Representatives of the United States, in the month of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, did adopt a resolution, whereby it was ordered that all petitions, memorials, resolutions, propositions, or papers, relating in any way, or to any extent whatever, to the subject of slavery, or the abolition of slavery, without being either printed or referred, should be laid on the table, and that no further action whatever should be had thereon; whereas, by the resolution aforesaid, which is adopted as a standing rule of the present House of Representatives, the petition of a large

number of the people of this Commonwealth, praying for the removal of a great moral and political evil, have been slighted and contemned; therefore,

Resolved, That the resolution above named is an assumption of power and authority, at variance with the spirit and intent of the Constitution of the United States, and injurious to the cause of freedom and free institutions; that it does violence to the inherent and inalienable rights of man; and that it tends essentially to impair those fundamental principles of natural justice, and natural law, which are antecedent to any written constitutions of government, independent of them all, and essential to the security of freedom in a State.

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress, in maintaining and advocating the full rights of petition, have entitled themselves to the cordial approbation of the people of this Commonwealth.

Resolved, That Congress having exclusive legislation in the District of Columbia, possesses the right to abolish slavery in the said District, and that its exercise should only be restrained by a regard to the public good.

In the Senate.—To the surprise of every one present, says the Boston Gazette, even the leaders of the abolition party of this city—the Senate adopted the following resolutions, after a long debate—the first UNANIMOUSLY, and the second by only one dissenting vote!

Resolved, That Congress having exclusive legislation in the District of Columbia, possesses the right to abolish slavery and the slave trade therein; and that the early exercise of such right is demanded by the enlightened sentiment of the civilized world, by the principles of the revolution, and by humanity.

Resolved, That slavery, being an admitted moral and political evil, whose continuance, wherever it exists, is vindicated mainly on the ground of necessity, it should be circumscribed within the limits of the States where it has been already established; and that no new State should hereafter be admitted into the Union whose constitution of government shall sanction or permit the existence of domestic slavery.

To prevent misunderstanding in the Southern States upon this subject, it is necessary to remark, that the friends of Mr. Van Buren, in Massachusetts, are as active in this matter as others—a fact which is of course disclosed by the unanimity of the vote.

The ill-timed admission of so distinguished a Southern Senator as Mr. Rives, of Virginia, that slavery is a great evil, moral, political and social, has unfortunately given a great stimulus to abolition movements in the North,—for the abolitionists now press upon the public with force the question Mr. Calhoun put him, when the admission was made,—if slavery is such an evil, why do you not exert yourself (in the language of the Massachusetts resolution) to circumscribe it!

Ridicule Well Applied.—A certain Mr. Kelly, who helps to make laws for the people of the State of Ohio, having indulged himself in the application of some un courteous remarks to another member, in the progress of the debate, was rather startled by a significant intimation, in reply, that notice of the affront would be taken out of doors. Thereupon Mr. Kelly, in great trepidation, bethought himself of making ready for a desperate encounter, and appeared, the next day, in his seat, provided with a very handsome dirk, the hilt of which projected ostentatiously from the opening of his waistcoat; whereas, as may be supposed, the lawmakers stared with some little wonder and a great deal of merriment.

This last was increased tenfold, however, the next day, when another member entered, formidably equipped with a monstrous wooden dirk, with a huge corncob for a handle, which he allowed to project about a foot from the opening of his waistcoat, and, taking his seat by the side of Mr. Kelly, drew forth with a great flourish, every ten minutes, and made a point of exhibiting to that pugnacious legislator. The consequence may be imagined; or if it may not, we are happy to say that Mr. Kelly's cheese-waster disappeared in short order, and was speedily followed into “retiracy,” by four or five others with which some other members had thought proper to decorate their persons. New York Com. Adv.

A Bird's-eye view of the Universe.—Suppose this earth to be a ball of one foot in diameter; on that scale of proportion the sun would be one hundred feet in diameter, and the moon three inches. The sun would be two miles from us—the moon thirty feet—Jupiter ten miles from the sun, and Herschel forty miles. The loftiest mountains upon the surface of the earth would be one-eighth of an inch in height.