

The Raleigh Record.

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RURAL ECONOMY.

"May your rich soil,
Ereberent, nature's better blessings pour
On every land."

From the Farmer's Cabinet.

POTATOE PLANTING.

Mr. Editor: I too, must beg permission to endorse the account which follows. I have planted it, therefore I speak with confidence as to the results. In a visit to an excellent agriculturist, I found him cutting his potatoes for seed, and prevailed upon him to select the tops only for planting, the remainder of the potatoes for culinary purposes; he will by this time have taken up the crop, and would he be one of your subscribers—inform us of the result.

In my memorandum-book I find these entries:—29th March, planted, this day, fifty pounds weight of the tops of potatoes which had been reserved, while preparing bulbs for cooking for the use of the household, by merely cutting off a thin slice and throwing it in a basket, during the winter, which was placed out of the reach of the frost. 24th September, dug up the potatoes which were raised from the cuttings from the tops of the roots while preparing them for the house; they are uniformly large and fine, particularly clean from scab, and, without exception, the best crop I ever grew; the quantity planted was just fifty pounds, and from them I have this day taken up one ton. But now allow me to turn to the account spoken of above, which is copied from the Agricultural Almanac for 1823, and which is never the worse for keeping.

The following improvement in the culture of potatoes, is taken from the American Farmer, and is extracted for the Almanac, not only under a conviction of the reasonableness of the practice, but from actual experience of its utility. Whenever the writer has himself superintended the cutting of his seed potatoes, he has uniformly succeeded in this mode of preparing the seed, but when the persons employed were left to their own government, all the parts of the potatoes were indiscriminately cut and planted; the difference in the crop has evinced the necessity of the farmer's attention to the whole detail of the affair; this branch of the culture is too generally committed to boys or ignorant and careless laborers. The bottom of the potato is no better than the starch of grain, intended by nature to nourish the tendrils thrown out in the first efforts of vegetation; the residue rots and perishes in the ground; therefore the practice of preserving it for the use of the household is a waste instead of a saving. By judiciously cutting the bulb, there will be enough of the pabulum for the tendril or young fibre thrown out by the eye, to subsist upon; indeed, if only the cut containing the eyes were generally used in planting, it is clear that the crop would be most abundant; this practice had been known to, and often proved by me, many years before the account of it in the following extract was seen.

From the American Farmer of the 12th of April, 1822.

"A correspondent has requested us to insert the following:—The first year, he says, I cut the potatoes in three pieces, the top, the middle, and the bottom parts, and planted them in three rows. The top plant was three days earlier than the middle plant, and a much greater crop; the middle plant was earlier than the bottom and a better crop, the bottom producing but a very indifferent crop.

For some seasons past, I have only planted the top eyes, and I may safely say I have the best crop and the finest potatoes in the country. None need be deterred from this plan on the ground of waste, for after the top is cut off, the remainder keeps better and longer fit for use than if the potato were preserved entire; and as a proof of this, lay a whole potato on the ground, or in any exposed place, and it will show that the top plants grow and are many inches in length before there is any growth from the bottom."

P. S. If house-keepers in towns were to preserve the cuttings of the tops of their potatoes during winter, and preserve them as above, there would be more than sufficient to plant all the country, without the cost of a single cent for seed!

It has been discovered in New Hampshire at the base of the White Mountains, in a bog so pure as to yield from 40 to 50 per cent.

The Mississippi Union Bank had a capital of \$15,000,000. Of the assets \$2,000,000 are returned "unavailable resources." This comes from advancing on cotton, on most of which the Bank lost \$3 per bale.

AN ACT.

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND BETTER REGULATION OF COMMON SCHOOLS.

1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the net annual income of the Literary Fund, (exclusive of monies arising from the sale of Swamp Lands,) shall annually be distributed among the several counties of this state, in the ratio of their federal population, to be ascertained by the census next preceding such distribution.

2. Be it further enacted, That the Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the counties which voted for "schools," under the provisions of the act of one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight, entitled "an act to divide the counties into school districts, and for other purposes," at the first term which shall be held after the first day of January, in each and every year, or at the succeeding term of said court, a majority of the justices of the peace of said county being present, the said court shall appoint not less than five, nor more than ten, superintendents of common schools, who shall hold their appointments for one year, and until others are chosen.

3. Be it further enacted, That said superintendents shall assemble within fifteen days after their appointment, at the office of the clerk of the county court, and appoint one of their number chairman.

4. Be it further enacted, That the clerk of the county court shall be ex officio clerk of the board of superintendents, and shall record, in a book to be kept for that purpose, the proceedings of the board, and such other papers touching the subject of common schools, as the board may direct; and shall safely keep all papers which may be committed to his custody by said board.

5. Be it further enacted, That the share of the literary fund, to which each county may be entitled, under the provisions of this act, shall be due and payable on or before the first day of September, in each and every year, and shall be paid to the chairman of the board of superintendents, or his lawful attorney, upon the warrant of the comptroller; Provided, however, that before such distribution shall be had, the payments which may have been made to the counties, under the act of one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight aforesaid, shall be added to the net annual income aforesaid in the treasury; and the amount which may have been paid to any county shall be deducted from the share of said county, and the excess only paid over.

6. Be it further enacted, That the Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of each and every county, a majority of the justices being present, are hereby authorized and empowered to levy a tax in the same manner that other county taxes are now levied for other county purposes, which shall not exceed one half of the estimated amount to be received by said county for that year from the literary fund; and the sheriff is hereby required to collect and pay over the same to the chairman of the board of superintendents, on or before the first day of October ensuing; and his bond, given to secure the payment of county taxes, shall contain a condition for the faithful collection and payment of the school taxes to the person authorized to receive the same; and for a breach of said condition by the sheriff, the chairman of the board of superintendents shall have the same remedies against him and his securities as are given to the county trustee for enforcing the payment of ordinary county taxes.

7. Be it further enacted, That the board of superintendents shall have power and they are hereby required, within three months after their appointment, to lay off their counties into school districts, and number the same, of such form and size as they may think most conducive to the convenience of the inhabitants of said county, with power to alter the boundaries of said districts, causing said boundaries and such alterations to be recorded by their clerk, in the book in which the record of their proceedings is kept.

8. Be it further enacted, That the free white men of the several districts, who are entitled to vote for members of the House of Commons, on the first Monday after the expiration of one month after the said school districts shall have been laid off, as herein before directed, shall laid off, as herein before directed, shall be entitled to vote for three men, to be entitled "The School Committee," who shall hold their appointment for one year, and until others are chosen; and that said election shall be held at such convenient place in the school districts, severally, as the said superintendents may designate; and the three persons having the highest number of votes at such election, shall be declared elected as the "School Committee" of their respective districts; and the superintendents shall have power to fill any vacancy which may occur in said committee, by death, removal, or other cause. The chairman of the board of superintendents shall give public notice in writing, at three or more public places in each district, of the election directed to be held as provided in this section, at

least ten days before the day of such election; and the board of superintendents shall appoint two freeholders of the district to conduct such election of the school committee. The said freeholders shall give to the said board, within three days after such election, a certificate under their hands, of the number of votes received by each person; and the said board shall declare the three persons receiving the highest number of votes the "school committee," as herein provided; Provided, nevertheless, that whenever the districts fail to make an election, the board of superintendents shall appoint the school committee, who shall continue in office till others are chosen at the next annual election.

9. Be it further enacted, That each committee of the several school districts shall be, and is hereby constituted a body corporate, by the name and style of "School Committee of District number of the county of" as the case may be; and in that name shall be capable of purchasing and holding real and personal estate for school purposes; and prosecuting and defending all suits for and against said corporation.

10. Be it further enacted, That whenever suit is brought against any School District, the process shall be by summons; a copy of which shall be left with some one of the committee of said district.

11. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the school committee to designate and purchase, or lease, a suitable site for a school house, as near the central part of each district as may be convenient; to hire, purchase or build a school house of such form and dimensions as they may deem suitable; and to use, for the procuring of a site and school house, such funds as the superintendents may place in their hands for these purposes.

12. Be it further enacted, That the school committee shall in one month after their appointment, report in writing to the chairman of the board of superintendents the number and names of the white children in their districts of five and under twenty one years of age.

13. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of school committees to contract with a suitable teacher for their respective districts, for such time as the monies to which said district may be entitled will permit; and to pay him by giving on order on the chairman of the board of superintendents.

14. Be it further enacted, That any branch of English education may be taught in said schools; and all white children under the age of twenty-one years, shall be permitted to attend the school of their district as scholars, and receive instruction therein.

15. Be it further enacted, That said school committees shall have power to visit the schools from time to time, and generally to perform all such duties as they may deem necessary to the successful operation of said schools.

16. Be it further enacted, That within one month after the school committees shall have reported to the chairman of the board of superintendents, the number of children in their respective districts, the chairman shall call a meeting of said board, who shall determine how many teachers are necessary for each district of their county; and the monies received from the literary fund, and from the county taxes, shall be distributed among the school districts of their county, in the ratio of the number of teachers required.

17. Be it further enacted, That the board of superintendents shall have power and they are hereby authorized, to make such other regulations relating to the schools of their county, not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, as they may deem necessary to the usefulness of said schools.

18. Be it further enacted, That the school committees shall annually, on or before the first day of October of each and every year, make a report to the board of superintendents, showing the number of children in their respective districts who have received instruction at their schools the preceding year; the length of time the same was kept up; and such other facts in relation to their schools as they may deem expedient.

19. Be it further enacted, That the chairman shall annually, within fifteen days after the first day of November, report in writing to the President and Directors of the literary fund, or to such officers or board as may be appointed by the General Assembly to manage said fund, the amount of money he may have received the preceding year, and from whom, and to whom he was paid it, setting forth the name of each individual, and the amount paid to him; the number of children who may have been taught in the schools of his county the preceding year; for what time the schools may have been kept up in the several districts; with such other facts and suggestions as he may deem useful—and he shall make two copies of so much of said report as relates to the monies received and disbursed by him; one of which he shall file with the clerk of the board of superintendents, and the other he shall put up for

public inspection in some conspicuous place of the court house of his county.

20. Be it further enacted, That the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions which shall appoint the board of superintendents shall have power to require the person who may be appointed chairman of said board, before he enters on the duties of his office, to give bond and security for the faithful application of the funds which may come to his hands, in such penalty as said court may prescribe; which bond shall be payable to the state of North Carolina, and shall be approved and received by a majority of the superintendents, and shall be filed by them with the clerk of the county court; Provided, however, that when the chairman is required to give bond as aforesaid, he shall be allowed to retain five per cent. of the monies which shall pass through his hands, as a compensation for his services.

21. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the sheriffs of the counties in which a majority of the votes, under the provisions of the act of one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight aforesaid, were for "no school," when they advertise the next election for members of Congress, to give notice at the same time, by public advertisement in every election precinct, that an election will be held to ascertain the voice of the people upon the subject of common schools; and all persons who may be entitled to vote for a member of the house of Commons, shall be entitled to vote in said election; and every voter in favor of the provisions of this act, will deposit his vote with the word "School" upon his ticket; and those opposed to it, will vote "No School" on their tickets. And it shall be the duty of the poll keepers to count the votes given at such precinct, for "school" or "no school," and to return the same to the sheriff, who shall count together all the votes, and certify the number for "school" and "no school" respectively to the Governor, within twenty days after said election, and to the county court of his county next ensuing said election; and any sheriff failing to comply with the requisitions of this act, shall suffer all the pains and penalties imposed by law for failing to discharge his duty in any election for members of Assembly.

22. Be it further enacted, That the county courts of the counties in which a majority of the votes were for "no school," under the act of one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight aforesaid, shall not appoint superintendents, or take any other action on the subject of Common Schools, until a majority of the people of such county shall have voted for the system agreeably to the provisions of the preceding section.

23. Be it further enacted, That in each of said counties, where a majority of the votes shall be for "schools," such county shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges, and the county court shall perform the same duties, and be invested with the same powers as in the counties where a majority of the votes were cast for "schools," under the provisions of the act of one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight aforesaid; and any county court in said counties, subsequent to said election, a majority of the justices of said county being present, shall have power, and they are hereby required, to appoint superintendents of common schools agreeably to the provisions of the second section of this act.

24. Be it further enacted, That the President and Directors of the Literary Fund, as soon as it shall be ascertained what counties vote against the provisions of this act, shall vest so much of said fund as said counties would have been entitled to receive, under the ratio provided for in the first section of this act, in the stock of any of the banks of this state, or of the United States, or to loan the same to individuals, upon such terms as may, in their opinion, be best calculated to improve the value thereof.

25. Be it further enacted, That the President and Directors of the Literary Fund shall prepare proper forms, to enable the chairman of the board of superintendents and the school committee men to make the returns required of them by this act; and shall cause the same to be printed and distributed to the counties which have voted, or may hereafter vote, for schools; and shall delay the expense incident to the printing and distribution of said forms out of the literary fund.

26. Be it further enacted, That if any superintendent or committee man, appointed agreeably to the provisions of this act, such superintendent or committee man having accepted the appointment, or any clerk of the county court, shall refuse or neglect to perform the duties required of him by law, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars, to be recovered by action of debt, in the name of the state, in any court of record in this state; and such penalty, when recovered, shall be paid over to the chairman of the board of superintendents of the county in which said default may occur, to be applied as the other monies which shall come to his hands from the literary fund and the county; and it shall be the duty of the county attorney for the state to prose-

cute suit in all such cases, for and on behalf of his county.

27. Be it further enacted, That if the chairman of the board of superintendents shall fail or neglect to pay, on demand, any draft which he may by law be bound to pay, he shall be liable to suit before any tribunal having cognizance thereof, in the name of the person in whose favor said draft may be drawn; and the plaintiff shall be entitled to recover, over and besides the amount of said draft, twelve per cent damages for its unlawful detention.

28. Be it further enacted, That this act shall not be construed as to prevent any county which has levied and collected a tax, agreeably to the provisions of the eighth section of the act of one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight aforesaid, upon complying with the other requisites of said act, from drawing from the literary fund, at any time before the first day of September next, the amount to which said county may be entitled under the provisions of said act; such payment, however, to be deemed in the nature of an advancement to said county; it being the true intent and meaning of this act to make all the counties, favorable to our system of common schools, as nearly equal as possible, by the distribution to be made from the literary fund by this act, under the ratio provided for in the first section.

29. Be it further enacted, That the teachers of any common schools shall be exempt from performing military duty, working on the road, or serving on the jury, whilst engaged in teaching in said schools.

30. And be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Read three times and ratified in General Assembly, the 11th day of January, A. D. 1841.

THE VERSATILITY OF FORTUNE.

The tendency of our Republic in situations to scatter accumulated wealth, and prevent the perpetuity of a great monied power in the same family, has often been remarked upon. The children of the man who is now at the topmost round of fortune's ladder, may be at the foot, and the beggar of to-day, may be the rich man of to-morrow. We have in our mind two striking examples of this versatility of fortune. We well recollect the appearance of two youths some three-five or forty years ago, both of about the same age, but moving in the two extremes of society. The one was a poor, ragged boy, the son of humble parents, his father laboring at a precarious occupation, and the son to all appearance, destined never to rise above the station of his father. The latter was a dashing, gay young fellow, moving in the first circles, his father a wealthy and extensive merchant, and poor, apparently, against the shafts of adversity. The former has carved out for himself a fortune, by industry and perseverance, and does business as a merchant on his own capital; while the latter is destitute of every thing, and has become the inmate of an almshouse.

These are by no means solitary cases. Every man who has lived a score or two of years can call to mind similar instances. Indeed we can scarcely name more than one or two of our many opulent merchants who have inherited any considerable portion of their wealth, nearly all of them have risen from humble life, and by preserving industry, intelligence, and indomitable energy, have been the makers of their own fortunes.

And yet these are the men whom envy demagogues are perpetually stigmatizing as proud aristocrats—as though the possession of wealth, acquired by slow and laborious process, and which must inevitably be parcelled out into several portions after the decease of its possessors, were fraught with all the evils of the hereditary aristocracies of the old world!

Salem Gazette.

A good one.—An individual residing in ——— county, when under age, contracted a debt, amounting to near sixteen dollars, which he refused to pay. He was sued, and employed an attorney of this place to defend the case. What is your defence, demanded his counsel? Plead my minority, said the client, when I contracted the debt, for I have no other defence. Very well, replied the counsel. They proceeded to the justice court, where the plea was made, and succeeded. The court decided in favor of the young man, and the creditor had to pay all costs. But this is not the best of the joke. A settlement had yet to be made between client and counsel. This was soon brought about by a dun from the counsel. What do you charge for your services, Con. —? Twenty dollars, sir. Twenty dollars! exclaimed the client, why, I was sued for only sixteen dollars; I had better have paid that. So you had, replied the lawyer, and for not doing so, you shall now fork up to me twenty—so out with it, sir, and learn to pay your honest debts in future. The twenty was forked up, and the sufferer will, we hope, profit by his experience.

Milledgeville Journal.

Mr. Adams and Mr. Wise.—The cor-respondent of the N. Y. Courier and Enquirer gives the following account of the scene between these distinguished gentlemen, in which Mr. Wise gained so much credit, both with the House and with the country:—

Mr. Wise in his speech, a week ago, ridiculed, and indeed in almost all his speeches does ridicule the anti-slavery law, and speaks of it with the utmost contempt. Several times, at the present session, there have been passes between him and Mr. Adams, which, it was apparent, left unkind feelings behind.

To-day, Mr. Adams fell foul of him in a way, and with a manner for which there is little excuse. He said that Mr. Wise had set himself up for the leader of General Harrison's party—that if he did become the leader, he (Mr. A.) would never be a supporter of the party—that Mr. Wise's flag was a tri-colored flag—black, red, white—the black stripe was slavery—the red was stained with the blood of the freedmen, and the white was the dirty, pale and polluted emblem of Nullification.

Mr. Wise replied in a cool, deliberate, manly and noble manner. He referred to the noble and patriotic father of Mr. Adams—to Mr. Adams's own splendid history—to his age—in his venerable appearance—that with him his hands were tired—that towards him he could not set, he could only feel—that Mr. Adams's person and character was sacred from any attack from him, and that he would himself take down the aim which might be impudently raised against him. Mr. Wise's reply was not only eloquent—it was splendid, magnificent. At its close there was a spontaneous and smothered burst of applause from the House and from the galleries—it was almost impossible to restrain it, and if the severe practice of the House upon such occasions, as respects the galleries, and a sense of propriety on the part of members had not restrained it, the burst when Wise sat down would have been tremendous.

Loco Focoism.—In the Legislature of Pennsylvania petitions have been presented from citizens of Erie and Alleghany counties, praying for the repeal of all laws which provide for the observance of the Sabbath, and of the establishment of all penalties against blasphemers! The petitioners represent, that in their opinion every person has a right to break the Sabbath—or be as profane as he pleases! A! the signers are Loco Focos, (says the North American,) and among them are the names of the Van Buren editor, collector, prosecuting attorney, and former member of Congress.

AGAIN.—Gov. Porter has vetoed a bill to re-pay certain moneys borrowed by Gov. Ritner, under express authority of a former Legislature, on the ground that the money so borrowed was improperly expended!!

ONCE MORE.—For some Gov. Porter has issued a full pardon to the Loco Foco editors of the Magazine, at Harrisburg in advance of their trial for a libel! When the case came up for trial, the accused stepped up and presented a pardon from the Governor for all and every libel of which they have been guilty, in Adams county or elsewhere!—It is well remarked, that the Governor had better have gone one step further and granted them pardon for any libel they may hereafter publish.

Pet. Intel.

Crowing.—The New York Standard raises at the head of its editorial column a cuck crowing—Hurrah for Jackson." Under this it places the announcement of the suspension of the United States Bank. Before this cock of the Standard crows again we should advise the editor to inquire whether New York has refunded the five millions which she borrowed of this institution to relieve her distresses consequent upon the great fire of '35. If our figures are right, more than a million and a quarter of this money remains unpaid. Nor is this the worst of the case; it will probably remain unpaid for a long time, if ever paid at all. They who cry for help in their distress should be the last to crow when misfortunes come upon their benefactor. Such gratitude as this becomes nothing but locofocoism in its blind idolatry of General Jackson. We are no admirers of the United States Bank, or of its financial follies, but then there is decency in all things.

Philadelphia North American.

The Washington correspondent of the U. States Gazette writes: Mr. Van Buren has given notice to his household, that his domestic arrangements will be terminated on the 20th instant, after which day he will take up his residence with Mr. Gilpin, the Attorney General, and remain there until his final departure from the seat of Government.