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RURAL ECONOMY.

"May your rich soil,
Embracing nature's better blessings pour
O'er every land."

EXTRACT FROM AN ADDRESS.

Delivered before the Masticello (S. C.) Plaster Society, on the 11th of November, 1844, by W. K. Davis.

After all that science or theory may do for agriculture, there are a hundred little things, of great importance to the practical planter, which can only be learned in the field. The mere book planter may have a soil 12 inches deep—rich in organic manures, but not knowing what kind of plough to use, or how to use it, or how to direct the work, may fail to make remunerating crops. Both science and practical experience are required in ditching, which is an object of the highest importance to successful planting. Without ditches upon our hilly lands, the hill sides will be soon stripped of soil and present a melancholy spectacle of waste affected by ignorance and mismanagement; and our bottom lands without ditches, are often generators of disease and death for miles around. And besides the many plantations which are altogether without ditches, there are many upon which much labor has been expended to little profit. In short, at least one half of our planters would save considerable expense, by paying a skilful planter in this branch of agriculture, to lay off their ditches for them, and give the proper direction of the rows of corn or cotton to empty their surplus water into the ditches.

Implements of husbandry, and their skilful use, are important objects in the advancement of agriculture. It is evident from the most conclusive facts, that some planters have so improved their ploughs, and the skill of their plough hands, that two acres of cotton can be hoed with less labor after such ploughing, than once after ordinary ploughing, at the same time with more ease to the ploughman and mule. This art, however, can only be acquired fully, by a planter or overseer who has a mechanical talent. Hence it should be an object with the planter, who does not possess this gift, to look out for an overseer who does; or short crops and broken down mules will be the certain consequence. It is lamentable to witness the inattention of planters to this important object; at the same time we may derive some consolation from a knowledge of the fact that we are certainly making advances in agricultural improvement. Forty years ago, many honest farmers reaped wheat with the rap-hook because they did not know how to use a scythe and cradle; and ten years since some planters, who had grown grey in the service of agriculture, believed that stable manure was decidedly injurious when applied to any field crop. A little attention would find it to our interest to use implements of the best kind to answer the purpose intended—and to keep these implements always in good order. The hoes should be the best steel hoes, and the workers should be required to keep them as sharp as possible, otherwise the work cannot be done neatly with them.

It is a fact, difficult to be accounted for, that planters in North Carolina generally continue to purchase horses and mules, rather than raise them, at the present low price of cotton. Even to calculate all expenses of corn and pasture, a d loss of work of the mare for two months, it would not cost \$20 to raise a mule until two years old, when it would be fit for light ploughing. Yet from \$35, to \$75 is given by the planter for mules, to be paid for by cotton at from 4 to 5 cents—and his bought mules, probably bred from a could blooded dill mare, instead of one of spirit and bottom.

Amongst the most important objects for deliberation with planters in North Carolina, is to determine what we shall do to relieve ourselves from the incubus which is at present paralyzing our efforts. Present prices (and there are no sufficient grounds to expect better in future), will not produce an income sufficient to relieve those of us who are in debt, and at the same time support our families, with our present habits. By raising all the supplies of stock and grain, with great industry and economy, an estate out of debt may be held together. But a fair interest can not be made on its capital. If capitalists should find it to their interest to establish cotton, woollen and silk factories in our States, so as to furnish a market for provision, the division of a provision and cotton crop would afford considerable relief, and at the same time the cultivation of less cotton would afford time to improve and reclaim our lands instead of wearing them out. The belief is becoming general that factories of coarse and heavy goods would be more profitable in the South with our slave labour, and with our inexhaustible supply of water power,

which is never interrupted by the freezes of winter, than such factories would be in the Northern States. By this diversion of labour, the culture of cotton would be somewhat diminished and the consumption increased. And it is certain that any other crop or business that would net the same income to the planter that cotton now does, would be a better business; as no crop so much interferes with improvements on a plantation, as the cotton crop; so much so that the future income is cut off by impoverished lands.

Man is too selfish a being to act for the general good, until self interest prompts him to act for the public weal. But the time has arrived when self-interest could clearly dictate that a half cotton crop, and the other half in many other productions, would afford in a few years, with the advantage of improved lands, a larger income than a full crop of cotton, at present prices.

DRAINING OF LANDS.

There are perhaps no part of the duty of a farmer more neglected than the proper draining of his lands, nor is there one in the whole catalogue of duties which would more richly repay for labors bestowed. Many fields, which, from their present wet and neglected state, are little better, in moist weather, than beds of mortar, and which, in times of drought, become almost as hard as stone, could, by judicious draining, be converted into mould, rendered easy of cultivation, and, from being sterile masses of untractable clay, be transformed into productive soil; for it only requires that the superabundance of water should be let off to produce these results. Besides the advantage to be gained by draining, in a pecuniary point of view, in many instances, the improvement in the health of a place would more than compensate for all the outlay of money which might be incurred; and we hazard nothing in saying that, in neighborhoods where marshes abound, if those marshes could all be drained, that the whole type of fever and ague and intermittent fevers, would, in a few years, wholly disappear; and that such marshes, when laid dry, would prove to be among the most fertile soils any where to be found, provided lime were applied to neutralize the acids which have been accumulating for years.

Amongst the most important grass lands we have ever seen, are the meadows on either side of what is called the Neck road, in the neighborhood of Philadelphia. These lands have all been reclaimed by draining and ditching, and having been set down in grass, bring prices for grazing lots which render them highly productive to their owners. We visited them some eight years since, in company with a friend, who rented a hundred acres, and who assured us, that besides fattening a bullock to the acre each season, he was enabled to cut as much grass off the lots he had in his occupancy, as served fourteen head of cattle and four horses through the winter. And from the luxuriant appearance of the grass, when we saw it—at which time there were 50 bullocks grazing on our friend's farm—we have no doubt that each acre would have yielded, if the cattle had been kept off, three tons of good hay. What has been done on the Philadelphia Neck lands, may be done any where else, where marshes are susceptible of being laid dry, and they may be in any situation where there is only a moderate fall, provided the ditches are boldly constructed, of sufficient width and depth to draw off the water from the surrounding soil. Where this main open ditches are thus constructed, they should be so contrived as to carry off the water through some convenient outlet, so as to prevent its becoming stagnant and injurious to health. As auxiliaries to the main open ditches, covered or French drains should be provided, at convenient distances, leading through the body of the marsh or swamp so as to attract and convey the water with the greater certainty into the open ditches. These covered drains should not, of course, be made until from the drainage, produced by the open ditches, the soil had become sufficiently settled to render the work safe.

The open ditches which we examined on our friend's farm, were fully six feet wide and four feet deep—they extended all round each of his two fifty acre fields, while through the centre of each, there was another one of equal dimensions, which served the double purpose of a drain and division, acting in the latter capacity instead of a fence.

CRANBERRIES.

Mr. William Hall, who resides in the north part of this town, sent us last week a box of Cranberries, as large and fine as we ever saw. We understand that they grew on a little patch of boggy land, which bore only weeds and rushes—and which bore only weeds and rushes—and which bore only weeds and rushes. Mr. Hall having had some Cranberries, which were brought from the westward, sowed some of them in the spring, upon the snow and ice. The seed took well, and has entirely root, and last year he gathered about six bushels of Cranberries from a patch of land about three rods square,

which a few years since was entirely profitless.

The Massachusetts Ploughman states that a man in that state has sold the Cranberries on a piece of land not exceeding one eighth of an acre, for fifty dollars, the purchaser to gather the fruit. We have long been aware that this berry was easy to cultivate, as well as profitable; but have never known an instance of their having been raised by sowing in the manner pursued by Mr. Hall—and we recommend to all who have such patches of ground to make trial of it. The expense is little or nothing if it fails—the profit is great if it succeeds.

NEWCASTLE.

There are very large bodies of marsh lands which are now bringing their owners little or nothing, that might, by draining, be converted into Cranberry meadows. If farmers owning such lands would devote an acre to the culture of this fruit, they would find as much profit in such acre, as are afforded by any other ten acres on their farms. In preparing for the Cranberry culture, it is desirable that regard should be had to arrangements, looking to the flooding of the vines in winter, with a view of protecting them from frost.

Importation of Potatoes.—We learn that several thousand bushels of potatoes have been imported into the port of New York from England and France, within a few days, and that much larger quantities are expected to arrive by the packets during the ensuing month. The N. York Express states that the importers of these potatoes make a profit on them after paying freight, duty and all other expenses.

The Massachusetts Ploughman, also states, that 100 tons of potatoes have also been imported into Boston from England.

We learn by the steamer Acadia from England, just arrived, that the last crop of Potatoes was the greatest ever known in Ireland.

MONEY WHEAT.—At the Farmer's Club, yesterday, a small bag of wheat was presented by Mr. Maxwell, and distributed among the members, which was the growth of a few seeds taken from an Egyptian tomb and the case of a human skeleton. The vegetative properties of these seeds should have been retained for so long a period—and if capable of being thus retained for that time, why not under the same circumstances, for 100,000 years? The wheat seeds of the Egyptians have realized what the Egyptians hoped and believed in relation to themselves.

N. Y. Amer. Rep.

From the New York Evangelist.

FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY.

BY REV. JOHN S. C. ABBOTT.

The predictions respecting the downfall of Edom extend even to the most minute particulars. The pen of the historian could hardly describe the present condition of desolate Petra more accurately than it will be found to be described by the pen of the prophet in the old Testament.

"The cormorant and the bittern," saith the prophet, "shall possess it, and the owl also, and the raven, and there shall the vultures be gathered. There shall come up in her palaces nettles, and brambles in the fortresses thereof; and it shall be a habitation for dragons, and a court for owls."

"The bird katta, or cormorant," says Burkhardt, "is met with in immense numbers. They fly in such large flocks, that the Arab boys kill two or three at a time merely by throwing a stick among them."

"Eagles, hawks and owls," says Irby and Mangle, "were soaring above our heads, seemingly annoyed at any one approaching their lonely habitation." "The thorns," says Laborde, "rise to the same height with the columns. Creeping and prickly plants hide the remains of the works of man. The thorn or bramble, reaches the top of the monuments, grows on the cornices, and conceals the base of the columns." "The scorpions, still called fiery from the terrible inflammation of their bite, are so numerous," says Volney, "that the Arabs avoid the ruins in consequence of the multitude with which they swarm."

There is generally connected with mouldering ruins, which bear the hoary impress of uncounted centuries, emotions of awe and reverence. But God said, "I will make thee despised among men." And Laborde tells us that the Arabs give one of these ruins a ridiculous and indecent name. Thus, in unnatural correspondence with the prediction, the mounted Arab points to these awful ruins with derision and scorn.

One of the expressions of the prediction has ever been regarded as peculiarly obscure, "And he shall stretch forth upon it the lines of confusion, and the stones of emptiness." But how graphic does this language now become, when we see those massive dwellings hewn out of the solid rock, empty, and huge stones strewn over the foundations of long lines of buildings, fragments of columns, and vestiges of paved streets. The obscure phrase,

"he stretched forth upon it the lines of confusion and the stones of emptiness," thus becomes graphic in the extreme.

"I would," says Stephens, "that the skeptic could stand, as I did, among the ruins of this city, among the rocks, and open the sacred books, and read the words of the inspired penman written when this desolate place was one of the greatest cities in the world. I see the scroffer arrested, his cheek pale, his lip quivering, and his heart quaking with fear, as the ruined city cries out to him in a voice loud and powerful, as that of one risen from the dead. Though he would not believe Moses and the prophets, he believes the handwriting of God himself, in the desolation and eternal ruin around him."

Such is a brief description of one of the most modern developments of the fulfillment of prophecy. There is thus opened to us in these later ages of the world, a new leaf of demonstrative evidence of the truth of revealed religion. He, who caused the history of Egypt to be engraved in ineffaceable letters on the mausoleums of the Pharaohs, where every eye could see and no eye read, where interpolation and forgery were physically impossible, and who has preserved them there, in their awful silence, for four thousand years, and who has now opened them to the perusal of the present generation, thus confirming beyond the possibility of doubt the authenticity and veracity of the ancient scriptures, he guided the artisans in their labor of ages, in hewing out these imperishable chambers of Petra, and decorating them with carvings and statuary and every variety of architectural ornament, the irrefutable evidence through all time of the opulence and the power of those who once inhabited these dwellings. And then he surrounded these massive works with the solitude and silence of the desert. And then he rolled centuries over them in utter desolation. And now he has brought them out to the view of the astonished world, and we find, in the Bible, their history and their state so minutely recorded, as to afford new and miraculous evidence of the truth of God's word. It is thus that God has carefully strewed the evidences of revealed religion along the path of time. It is thus, as Newton has beautifully expressed it, that "prophecy is a growing evidence." All along the road of nature, we find the fulfillment of the thing abroad the light of their resistless evidence.

This is one very solemn reflection which this subject introduces to the mind. Let your thoughts run back through the long lapse of centuries to the period when the metropolis of Edom was in its glory and its power. Think of the pleasure parties who strolled upon those cliffs in the evening moonlight; who trod those floors in the giddy dance, and who made those fretted arches resound with their songs and their glees. Young men were there, enterprising, full of hope, rejoicing in prospective pleasure, opulence and fame. There was youth and beauty's unfaded cheek, glowing with the excitement of the evening song, with the heart-felt laugh, and with all those secrets of the youthful heart's affections of love, envy, jealousy, hope and fear. There was fashion elated with her new attire of eastern jewels and purple dye. There was the equipage of titled nobility and hereditary wealth; young spendthrifts squandering their father's fortunes, and the daily collisions of aristocratic pride, with prosperity and ambition emerging from obscurity. There were merchants amassing wealth, and depositing their thousands in costly dwellings and furniture, and ministering to the ambitious desires of sons and daughters. And there were other merchants pale and careworn, sleepless and appetiteless, in apprehension of the approaching pay day unprovided for. There were thousands exulting in the bright May day of hope, and other thousands with aching heads and aching hearts, drooping in the serene and autumnal leaf of sorrow.

Idumea's far famed capital contained just such hearts, each one a busy world in itself, as are now congregated on our pavements, and a throbbing in the hopes and fears, with the joys and griefs, which gather around our fireside.

But where now are Edom's youth and beauty? Where her sanguine young men, her youthful merchants, her young mechanics, her nobles, her rulers, her shouting, joking, drinking, carousing populace? All are gone. The last funeral procession has disappeared. The very tombs time has emptied. Not even a skull bone, with eyeless sockets, can be found, to tell that there was once a sparkling eye, and a laughing lip. Not even a handful of dust can be gathered in those dreary sepulchres, to tell that there was once a scheming, exulting, weeping man. The winds of twenty centuries have swept Petra's deserted streets and empty sepulchres. And the countless thousands, who there once toiled and loved, and hated and died, have gone to their account.

Prayer.—It is not the length, but the strength of prayer that is required; not the labor of the lip, but the travail of the heart.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE.

To the Honorable, The General Assembly of North Carolina:

GENTLEMEN: I found upon my table, on Friday last, a printed document, No. 49, herewith transmitted, purporting to be a "correspondence relative to the legal right of the Governor to receive pay as President *ex officio* of the Literary and Internal Improvement Boards," which is accompanied by copies of a resolution of the Senate, calling upon the Treasurer to report to the Senate the correspondence between the Treasurer and his excellency the Governor, relative to the legal right of the Governor to receive *per diem* compensation, as President *ex officio*, &c., for services rendered upon the Literary and Internal Improvement Boards; and also the opinion of the Attorney General thereupon, together with the amount which his excellency the Governor has received for said services; and of a letter from the Treasurer to the Speaker of the Senate, in response to that resolution; and of a letter from the Treasurer to myself, and my reply; and of a letter from the Treasurer to the Attorney General, and his reply—together with a statement made by the Treasurer, relative to the sums I have received for my services on these Boards—which statement he proposes to make "from the report of the Comptroller to the House of Commons, December 20, 1842."

As to the question of the Governor's right to compensation, I desire to draw the attention of your honorable body to the law, the practice under the law ever since its passage, and the action of the Legislature on the subject.

I had not heard the question raised, or the matter of the Governor's right to compensation for his services upon either of the Boards, doubted, until the receipt of the Treasurer's letter of 27th January, 1843, declining to pay a warrant drawn by me in pursuance of an order of the Board of Internal Improvement. This letter, proposing to submit the matter to the Legislature then in session, was received on the evening after the House had adjourned to meet at 7 o'clock at night—and the House again adjourned to meet at half past 12 o'clock on the 28th of January, and before my reply of 28th in the Treasurer.

Upon this refusal to pay the warrant upon the grounds alleged by the Treasurer, I looked into the law, and practice under it, and found no room to doubt. The Acts of 1836, Revised Statutes, Chapters 61 and 67, making the Governor *ex officio* President of the Literary and Internal Improvement Boards, assign duties to the Governor as a member of those Boards, which are wholly disconnected with his Executive duties, and which he cannot be required to perform, if he choose not to do so. The Executive is a separate and independent branch of the government, and the duties of that branch are fixed by the Constitution; and the Legislative department can no more assign duties to the Executive department, which are not Executive duties, than the Executive department can assign duties to the Legislative department; and all duties assigned to the Executive by the Legislature, which are not Executive duties, may or may not be performed by him at his option, without any dereliction of official duty, however discourteous it might be on his part to decline any reasonable request made by the Legislature.

The superintendence, in person, of works of Internal Improvement, the drainage of swamp lands, the banking operations of a loan office, and the various duties assigned the Board of Internal Improvement and the Literary Board, will not be considered by any person, as Executive duties. For if so, there are then as many Executive functionaries to discharge these Executive duties, as there are members of these Boards.

The duties assigned to the Executive, as President *ex officio* of these Boards, I have found very onerous, and responsible. I hesitate not to say, that the duties which I have found it necessary to perform in the faithful discharge of the trust confided to me, as President *ex officio* of the Literary Board alone—in superintending the plans of the Board, the drainage of the swamp lands, and the great variety of duties and correspondence connected with the Common Schools, have imposed upon me more than five fold the amount of labor, and required much more time and attention, than all the duties which properly pertain to the Executive office.

The salary of the Executive was fixed at the present sum in 1817—the Legislature of 1836 passed the Acts by which he became President *ex officio* of these Boards, and assigned to him the duties which he had to perform. Was it reasonable, was it just in the Legislature, to assign to the Executive new duties which were not Executive duties, and allow him no compensation for their performance—while it allowed those associated with him pay for discharging similar duties? Was it just to assign him these duties which might require, and have required, a considerable expenditure for travelling

expenses, to be paid out of his own private purse for unless he is entitled to *per diem* pay, he is not entitled to his travelling expenses while engaged in the service of the State.

Such injustice on the part of the Legislature, was not to be expected, and therefore that body very justly said that "the said Board (Internal Improvement) may hold its sessions wherever and whenever the Governor may direct; and the said Commissioners shall receive for their services the sum of three dollars each per day, and their travelling expenses for the time they may be employed in the public service; and who are these Commissioners of Internal Improvement, is very evident from the construction of the provisions in the 6th section of the 61st chapter; for unless the Governor be one of the Commissioners, then the other Commissioners of this Board have powers which the President of this Board does not possess. Again, Chap. 67th says, "The Literary Board shall consist of the Governor, who, by virtue of his office, shall be President, and the other members of said Board" shall be appointed by the Governor, &c. This act gives no compensation, but chapter 69, sec. 2d, says, "the persons composing the Literary Board, created under the Act entitled 'An act to drain the swamp lands of this State, and to create a fund for Common Schools,' shall be entitled to receive the same pay, and under the same regulations, as persons composing the Board created under an Act entitled 'An act to aid the internal improvements of this State.'" All these Acts were passed by the same Legislature of 1836.

No construction of this last Act can exclude the Governor from the same pay as other members of the Board, unless it be decided that he is not "a person, and not a member of the Board."

After satisfying myself as to the construction of the Acts on the subject, I then looked to the action of the Boards.

These Boards were organized in the early part of the year 1837 by Governor Dudley. I found besides the President, on the Board of Internal Improvements, Col. Cadwallader Jones and Will. D. Mosely, an eminent lawyer and distinguished citizen. On the Literary Board, besides the President, Gen. Wm. W. Esq. the two best named gentlemen, distinguished members of the legal profession.

From the organization of the Boards under the Acts aforesaid, it has been the unanimous opinion of the members of each Board, that the President of the Board was entitled to the same *per diem* pay as any other member, and to be allowed his travelling expenses as other members; and they have uniformly ordered the payment.

The Comptroller, an active and vigilant officer, has uniformly put the same construction upon the law, and passed the warrants for the payment of the Governor as a member of these Boards.

The public Treasurer, who first paid three warrants, D. W. Courts, Esq., a lawyer of distinction, and an officer of great vigilance, did not hesitate to pay them, from the organization of the Board until he retired from office in April 1839; from which time to the present, they have been uniformly and promptly paid, with the one exception referred to in the correspondence. I then had an interview with my predecessor, who had organized the boards, on the subject, when I was informed by him that upon looking to Chap. 61, he found the words "commissioners" used, as he understood the act, promiscuously, sometimes meaning all the members of the Board, and sometimes meaning only those appointed by the Governor; that he referred the question to distinguished gentlemen of the legal profession, who gave it as their opinion, that he was entitled to compensation for his service.

I then directed my attention to the action of the Legislature and its organs on the same subject. I found all the warrants and vouchers, paying the Governor his *per diem* for service on these Boards, uniformly passed upon and allowed by the Committees of Finance of the Legislatures of 1838, 1840 and 1842, and acquiesced in by these Legislatures.

And that it may be seen who composed these committees, and passed these vouchers, I give their names.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE IN 1838.—Senate—Edmund Jones, L. D. Wilson, H. G. Spruill, J. D. Hawkins, William Albright, Alfred Duckery, Caleb Etheridge, Hodge Babun.

Commons—F. J. Hill, W. P. Williams, J. McWilliams, Nathaniel Rand, Will. Huggins, Isaac Clegg, Caleb Matthews, L. A. Gwynn.

1840.—Senate—H. G. Spruill, L. D. Wilson, W. Albright, Robert McIvin, Alfred Moye, Alfred Hargrave, Archibald McDermid, Thomas Ward.

Commons—J. P. Caldwell, Asa Biggs, Isaac Burns, J. L. Foreman, David Reid, Lewis Thompson, Calvin Graves, J. O'K. Williams.

1842.—Senate—S. L. Arrington, H. G. Spruill, Whittem Stallings, Alfred Moye, E. Hester, Will. Albright, W. P. Dobson, John Walker.

Commons—Asa Biggs, J. P. Caldwell,