

Mediocrity experience of Farmers upon the application of some concentrated manure. With one, the success is astonishing and complete; with another a failure; and so on in every grade between the two extremes. Usually, such experience ends in the adoption of the improver by those who have succeeded, and its abandonment by those who have failed, without inquiry as to the cause. A moderate proficiency in agricultural chemistry would reveal all the mystery. Perhaps a spurious article was used when there was a failure; possibly, the soil abounded even to the production of barrenness in the very element which was introduced to produce fertility. Practical agricultural education would remove all such embarrassments and prevent all such failures. The first and great step to be taken is to educate our young men to agricultural and kindred pursuits—look for our own engineers, geologists, mechanics and architects, and instructors of youth, amongst our own sons. Thus dignity will be given to the most ancient as well as honorable occupations of life. They will fill our Legislative halls and occupy the high places in our government. Their counsels will always be conservative, for their interests are not based upon speculation, but the steady accumulation of labor.

Peace is their policy, because peace is their interest. Their estates very visible and fixed, are most liable to the influence of change from national disaster, and always the subject upon which taxation falls. And more than all, the country will smile under the hand of enlightened culture, whilst population and happiness will increase with incalculable rapidity. Our people will be satisfied with homes which yearly afford new attractions, and the exhausting drain of emigration which has so fearfully depleted us will be stayed. I would grieve the ploughing people of the State to an appreciation of their importance and their responsibility. Let them remember they are the bone and sinew of the Republic, the proper possessors of its power and influence, and if that power is not felt and that influence not employed in a salutary manner, the blame rests with them. Education, knowledge and learning develop mind, and mind governs the world. Intellect and virtue, knowledge and industry, are the aristocracy of this our happy land, and a patent for this nobility is within the reach of all who may devote themselves to the pursuit. One generation of farmers, and those of kindred pursuits, educated for their profession, would do more for North Carolina than all the politicians have been able to effect in the half century which has passed. Instead of being their tools, make them in fact your servants. Assume the direction yourselves, and more will gain and you will lose less. There is a great work before the farmers of North Carolina.

I have glanced at one of the causes of the present state of depression and neglect which our agriculture discloses; but let us not do injustice to those who have gone before us. It is true that much of our native forest has fallen by the axe and been wastefully destroyed; large surfaces of exhausted land pain the eye and sicken the heart; melancholy mists spring up within us when we speak of emigrants to other States, composed of those to whom we should have looked to uphold our own. We find ourselves censuring the wasteful agriculture of our ancestors, and concluding that the policy in use has been unwise and ruinous which dictated such a course. In such a conclusion, we take cognizance of our feelings, rather than of sound and discreet judgment. We are deciding a question and determining a system far removed from the circumstances which controlled the first settlers of this country. They had a great mission to perform, and well and truly did they do their work. The history of colonization affords no parallel to that which stands forth on the North American continent, occupied by the Anglo-Saxon race. We shall look in vain for anything which approaches it, either in the rapidity of its progress, the magnitude of the results, or the brilliant success which crowned the whole enterprise. Landing on a foreign shore, far removed from cultivation, they encountered the hazards of climate and perils of a savage population. They found a wilderness which they resolved to subdue, and having tamed its wildness, to leave it for a home and a legacy to their children. The resolve itself was sublime, but there was a higher nobility in its execution, perfected amidst the inadequate resources which could compare with none but man's own. None but man's own resources could compare with none but man's own. None but man's own resources could compare with none but man's own.

To clear and to drain soil, to exhaust cultivation. They were laying the foundation of a great Republic, and their first duty was to provide for the nurture and support of the people, who were to give it foundation and endurance. Circumscribed by forests, which, for all practical purposes of production, were as complete a barrier as the sands of the desert, they prostrated them by their indomitable industry, and a great and powerful people occupied the country which they had redeemed from the wildness of barbarism. Agriculture was, of necessity, in a primitive state. He who removed the trees, and gave space for the production of bread, was a great benefactor, and the necessity of improving soils never occurred to those before whom a boundless and fertile country spread its inducements to advance still farther. They fulfilled their mission, and gave us institutions, in which we, in common with the friends of civil liberty throughout the civilized world, rejoice. The sin of exhausting the country and bringing it to its present state, rests not upon them, but upon those who adopted this system, after the necessity which produced it had ceased! It cannot be justified by pleading the example of those to whose wisdom and experience we looked for guidance and direction. Their mission was fulfilled. The reason ceased, and the practice ought to have ceased with it. There was the natural state of agriculture in every new country. It is only necessary to visit one of the frontier States and look over the immense fields, where crops grow amidst deadened trunks, standing almost as thick as the original forests—where the exuberant fertility of the soil makes up for imperfect cultivation, and you have a picture of many portions of North Carolina a century ago. This state of things, with all its disadvantages, has this blessing connected with it: No want of the necessities of life is ever found in such a state of agriculture. It is only where the density of population gives rise to constant apprehension of famine, that the earth is taxed to its utmost capacity of production, and the influence of the usual application of stimulating manures. He who has vouchsafed this security to the adventurer into the forest and the tiller of the rough soil of our country.

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An error, when has been productive of great evil in the progress of agricultural improvement, consists in the opinion, that farming can be successfully prosecuted without the occasional aid of active capital; that the earth, stimulated by labor, can furnish wealth continually, with its suitable returns to sustain its productive powers; that money made by cultivation, must find some other investment, and that it is bad management to expend any of it upon the land again. Some even say that the true policy is to wear out and exhaust one tract of land, to afford the means of purchasing another. Such a policy has only to be named to be repudiated. Carried fully out it would reduce the country to a bare desert, destroy all the charms of home with its sacred associations and its domestic virtues. But others, who would disavow such a bold and unpatriotic system, practice upon one which must ultimately lead to results of a similar nature. There are those who make money from cultivation and expend large sums for buildings and other improvements, who would hesitate or refuse to make a small outlay for manures, which would at once repay the money advanced in a superior crop, and leave the land improved to an amount fully equal to that outlay. Let it be supposed, that objection is made to improvements in our rural territory. No money is more prudent than that which adds to the value of the houses, and the property of those who reside upon the land. No indication of poverty is more conclusive than the state of repair, even the elegance, of the farmhouses of the farmers of the State. The decayed trees, and the neglected fences, and the

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U. S. Constitution, and the Law—
the Guardians of our Liberty.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9.

Public Thanksgiving.

Gen. Reid, in compliance with the resolution of the General Assembly, has issued his proclamation setting apart Thursday the 21st of the present month, to be observed as a day of Public Thanksgiving, and recommends that all secular employments be suspended, that ministers of the Gospel of the respective denominations assemble their congregations for public worship, that the people of the State unite in giving thanks to Almighty God for past blessings, and supplicate a continuance of his goodness and mercy, especially for the advancement of religion and virtue, and for the perpetuity of civil and religious liberty.

Thursday the 24th of November, has also been set apart for the same sacred and grateful purpose in the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Alabama.

Dr. Mitchell's Letter.—Our readers will find in today's paper a brief communication from Dr. Mitchell on the subject of the coal fields, copied from the Greenborough Patriot, which, while it corrects many erroneous opinions in regard to the views herebefore advanced by Dr. M., also contains some gratifying information in reference to the value of the coal deposits in Chatham and Moore.

Upon reading this letter we have no doubt that many who have heard Dr. M. speak of what was styled his unfavorable opinion of the coal fields, will be surprised that he has been so misunderstood and misrepresented, when his views were so clearly expressed.

Mr. Venable's Address.—We have given in today's paper, a portion of the able Address of the Hon. A. W. Venable on the occasion of the late State Fair. It will be concluded in our next. Our readers, especially the Agricultural portion, will be well paid for a perusal.

Town Commons.—A proposition was made in the Board of Commissioners, on Saturday last, to have the Commons in the western part of the town laid off into lots and sold, after advertisement according to law, that the proceeds may be applied to the discharge of the town debt. The motion was rejected—yeas 3, nays 4. One commissioner who voted in the negative, declared himself in favor of the measure, but desired that the citizens should first be consulted upon a question of such importance. The proceedings of the Board will be given in our next.

Collector Brown has replied to the letter of Secretary Guthrie dismissing him from office. The reply is a sensible, a perfect answer, and the Secretary's friends we think will consider it, if it does not. We will endeavor to make room for Mr. Brown's letter in our next.

Temperance Movement.—A second communication from "One that signed the pledge," appears in our paper today. We propose to submit but a few remarks in reply.

After making a quotation from the Recorder in which the apprehension is expressed that the effect of the pledge will be to prevent the cooperation of many good citizens in the effort to suppress the practice of treating, our correspondent says that he is aware that *liberals* in this city have been made, and that some good citizens "have threatened opposition to troops of any kind that may be made to suppress the practice."