

REFLECTIONS

On the capacities and internal improvements of the State of North Carolina.

NO. III.

This extensive State possesses, in several of its districts, highly valuable breeds of horses; and as those animals are more tender and difficult to raise, train, and manage than horned cattle and sheep, there is every thing to encourage the attempt to improve our cattle and sheep farming. It is notorious that great quantities of North-Carolina horned cattle are driven annually to her own seaport, and those of the other States. It is equally well known that the breeds are in too many places far inferior to the breeds of horses. The loss from this circumstance is very great. It is earnestly recommended that care and pains be immediately taken to cure this great and extensive disadvantage. Good bulls and good cows should be procured for breed at liberal prices. The profit will be immense. In the life of the English Doctor Johnson, it is some where noted that an English Farmer sold a fine cow for 120 guineas, and another for 130 guineas, at 466 cents per guinea. The West Indies are so near, that North Carolina may send thither horned cattle, horses, mules, jack asses and jennies, sheep, hogs, and all kind of poultry, with less risk and expence than any of the Northern or Eastern States. Good breeding animals of every kind are therefore the most important to them. Small stud horses are not allowed to run at large in some of the States; and the laws of North-Carolina should forbid the allowing small bulls to run at large. So many of the people of North Carolina will be easier be employed in raising and manufacturing cotton, tobacco, indigo, figs, olives, grapes, madder, &c. than fine beef, cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry will be wanted for their use more than ever. Let then all the breed be quickly improved.

Indigo and madder may easily be raised in North Carolina to dye the cotton and wool. All the counties along the South-Carolina line will produce indigo. It succeeds in the west range of counties, and probably may do in all parts of the State. The high, cool county of Burke has certainly produced indigo—neither that plan nor madder require rich land.

It would give a noble, *Esprit ducors* (or united spirit) to the North Carolina militia, if they were all clothed with cotton—died with their own indigo and madder. Indigo gives blue, madder red, and the two united give purple. National dresses are good methods to avoid the nonsense and extravagance of foreign fashions. A British wollen is taxed with all the excise, which fall upon the goods of manufacturer there, and they are innumerable and immense. We pay them all if we consume the goods.

The use of cotton next to the skin, has been found very favorable to health in warm climates. The European troops in the West Indies preserve themselves from that fatal climate by cotton shirts cotton drawers, and cotton stockings. The more we wear domestic cotton manufactures, or even foreign manufactures of our cotton, the more we promote agriculture. We should attend to this point with our merchants. East Indies cotton goods should be postponed to English, French Dutch, or German cotton goods, which may and often will be made of American cotton.

The cultivation of the olive and of the Palma Christi, or Cassia Oil Tree, would enable North Carolina to establish a great and extensive manufactory of the Castile, marbled, and fine white soaps, like those of Spain, France, and Italy, the Cassia Oil Tree will yield 150 gallons to the acre. It grows north of the Chesapeake, and in St. Domingo; therefore must grow in North Carolina. The methods of procuring it are either by an oil mill, which makes it most excellent, and capable of long preservation; or by breaking the nuts, and then pouring on them the extremest hot water. By the time it grows cold, the broken nuts are found at the bottom, and the oil on the top, when it is skimmed off and put up for use. The process is simple. This oil is excellent for lamps. It is well known to be a mild, but effectual cathartic, or opening medicine.

The iron ore banks of our western district, and other parts, are a vast mass of treasure to North Carolina. It is supposed that one thousand tons are made yearly in Lincoln county alone; and Burke, Rutherford, and Buncombe have great abundance of it. There is no doubt that it might be sent by capital manufactures, down the two great branches of the Santee, to the Ocean, and that it might be made the basis of great numerous, and various Iron Manufactories in those counties.

RALEIGH.

No. IV.

It will be found, that internal industry in agriculture, and in the arts and manufactures, which are necessary to support agriculture are the best and surest depen-

dence of North Carolina. It is necessary to observe, that in Europe every thing is considered as *Manufactured*, which is taken up in its natural state, and improved by money and art, or industry. Salted, smoked, and barrelled meat and fish, are set down in the estimates of manufactures, as well as butter, cheese, soap, candles, or piece goods. Tar, pitch and turpentine, animal and vegetable oils, ships, boats, oars, and handspikes, tree-nails, slaves, heading, hoops and shingles, come within the description of *manufactured* objects. In order to promote improvements, the extensive field of agriculture and manufactures, it is suggested to the good people of North Carolina, as expedient and necessary forthwith to establish in every district or county, at the seat of Justice thereof, a society for the encouragement of "*Agriculture and the useful arts and manufactures, with a standing committee thereof for the procurement, encouragement and protection of emigrants.*" Numerous institutions have been formed in other states for these purposes. These societies have produced very great benefits to those states, and to the whole union. The Philadelphia society have excited this country to the cultivation and manufacture of cotton from the year 1787, inclusively. Then we shipped less cotton than we imported: now we ship 21 millions of pounds weight. Various cotton ginning or cleaning mills have been introduced from the West Indies, or invented. The patentee of one of them has received from South Carolina 50,000 dollars to buy the use of his invention. The Philadelphians make and sell all kinds of labour-saving machinery for cotton carding and spinning; and they print calicoes and cottons with blocks cut after the European manner. Their agricultural society has done much to excite the *Cheese* manufacture, the clover cultivation, irrigation or watering hills, slopes and mountain sides, vineyards, the procuring the best breeding animals, the cultivation of farmers' vegetables, improvements in the construction of farmers' buildings, and in the form of barn-yards, and the saving of stable manure and making compost. The use of lime and plaster of Paris. Our fellow-citizens in the north are incessant action for these profitable ends. Mr. Matthew Carey, now of Philadelphia, a valuable emigrant from Ireland, several years in the book printing business, at Philadelphia, has lately started the idea of a *Book Fair for American* editions. At the first meeting in June last, half a million of volumes were bought and sold by barter, which has manifested the great increase and complete establishment of the important arts of book printing, engraving and book-binding. In Carey's American Museum, and in the Philadelphia and New York Magazines will be found the plans of most of the American institutions for the encouragement and promotion of arts, manufactures, agriculture and useful knowledge.

County and district libraries would be honorable and beneficial to North Carolina. They should commence with works upon farming, horticulture or gardening, manufactures, mechanics, hydraulics and water works. These are very frequent in some of the states, and have contributed greatly to the reputation and prosperity of the neighbourhood in which they are established. No money can be more usefully laid out than in such collections of books. They are of deep consequence to the rising generation and the future respectability of North Carolina and the union. It is by means of the best modern books that we can easily obtain the theory and practice of all the useful and profitable business of the civilized world. The farmer of North-Carolina can readily do what the farmer in another state, or in a foreign country has clearly laid down, as his constant and profitable practice. Fifty farmers and residents at the county seat of Justice, might buy for two dollars per annum each, one valuable octavo book on farming, gardening, or manufactures for each; and thus by joining stocks in a county library company, they might, for their fifty annual subscriptions, buy fifty volumes containing in the whole a great quantity and a variety of useful knowledge. The pleasure and profit of such a collection of books is very great. The division of North Carolina into about sixty counties, renders it practicable by these means to spread precious books over the whole surface of the state. Extracts from those books, made with judgment, and published in the gazettes, would spread in every direction.

The subdivision of the counties of North Carolina into townships or hundreds, with the necessary township officers, as in Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, &c. merits attention.

If any man wishes to judge of the value of manufactures as a support to agriculture, let him consider what would be the value of hides and skins in this country, if we did not make shoes, boots, slippers, &c. to the value of eight millions of dollars for 5,600,000 people, and harness, carriage

tops, fire buckets, leather breeches and other articles. Let him say what iron ore would be worth, if there were no surfaces, bloomaries, forges, rolling and slitting mills, naileries, black and white smiths, steel makers, ship smiths, carriage makers, and other workers in iron. Let him say what peach orchards and rye would be worth if there were not 4000 mills in North Carolina. Let him say what our increasing cotton would have been worth if there were not so much manufactured in North Carolina, and all the other states. Our manufactures have kept pace with our growth and production of all other raw materials, except cotton and iron ore. It is to these two raw materials (iron ore and cotton) that our best, our increasing attention is due to contrive use and manufactures for them, and they are the more promising of success, because water works and mills and other machinery can be so extensively employed upon them. The introduction of at least one cotton spinning jenny into every village of North Carolina as a beginning and example, is worthy of the earliest attention of the state. The whole might be imported for 3000 dollars, and would sell for cost to private persons. They can be procured from Mr. John Butler, No. 3 North third street, Philadelphia, for fifty dollars for a spinning jenny of 84 spindles, with a tin cylinder, complete. The new invention of Edward West, of Lexington, Kentucky, to cut nails, should also be procured, likewise steel works, furnaces for castings, rolling and slitting mills should be erected. No time should be lost by individuals, associations, the town governments or the government of the state, to set on foot the most active and judicious exertions to attract and fix manufactures and machines, and valuable emigrants, to improve agriculture, to procure books of useful information, to obtain choice breeding animals, and in general, to give activity and extension to the great various and obvious capacities of the territory and people of North Carolina.

RALEIGH.

NEW-YORK, August 16.

As the public mind has been considerably agitated in consequence of the arrival of three French ships of war in this port, and the expectation of three others, we have made it our business to become acquainted with their situation, as to health, and their object in coming into this port.

In the first place, it is proper to state, and we do it from the best information, that the frigate *La Consolante*, (which vessel has been permitted to anchor off Fort Jay) is a healthy ship—that she has had no death on board since her arrival off Guadeloupe, and that though there are upwards of 200 blacks on board, not one has died or been sick—the cannot, however, approach the town—none but the officers and the crewmen of one boat are allowed to come on shore.

The other two ships of war, though with very little sickness and no malignancy on board, are detained at the quarantine ground; and Commodore Caille has pledged his word to the health officer, that if any sickness should happen on board *La Consolante*, he will instantly stop the boats from going to town; and report the case or cases to him.

These ships went from Guadeloupe to Carthage, but anchored several leagues from the Spanish Main, and only sent a boat with some officers on shore.

The name of the ships of war now in our port, are, the frigate *La Consolante*, and *La Volontaire*, and the sloop of war *Salamandre*; the whole having on board between 7 and 800 blacks, taken from Guadeloupe. The frigates *La Cockade* and *La Romaine*, and the sloop of war *Le Cerf* are hourly expected.

We are informed, that it was intended to land their blacks at Carthage, but that the Spaniards would not receive them. On their determination to bring them out to America, one of the Squadron was dispatched back to Guadeloupe, for orders relative to the disposition of the black prisoners; and it is supposed they will remain in this port till such orders shall be received.

It is also said, that the poor wretches on board these vessels are almost in a state of starvation; and that application has been made for supplies, to be paid for in bills drawn on the first consul. If the paper offered in payment will not be accepted, what is to be done? perhaps, at this time, it would be advisable for our government to become *indorsers* for Buonaparte. This would please this powerful man, and perhaps prevent his future power and vengeance from being directed against us.

The reports of Saturday evening, in consequence of orders having been given to some of the independent corps to hold themselves in readiness, and prepare for battle, are truly laughable. It was stated as the cause of these orders, that the commander of the French Squadron had threat-

ened to fire on the town, and take provisions per force; that it was an insult on his nation to refuse the consul's paper. Another report was, that the blacks had been offered at so much a head in exchange for provisions; and if not taken, the town was to be bombarded! A third report was that the French commodore made a proposition to land the blacks, and let them shift for themselves; this was also refused, and the town was to be laid in ashes!

The fact is, we are informed, that some disposition was discovered on the part of the blacks, to rise and force a landing. This circumstance was communicated to the mayor of the city, who, no doubt, thought proper, in case of such an attempt, to have the military in readiness to oppose the landing on our shores of a set of men so much to be dreaded—men inured to plunder and familiar with the most bloody massacres—and ripe for every species of cruelty.

[The subsequent letters have passed between the Mayor and the French consul, on the subject of the French frigates now in our harbour.]

New York, August 14, 1802.

SIR,

I have been informed that the frigates belonging to your nation, now in this harbour, have a great number of negroes, (slaves or prisoners) confined on board. You are acquainted, Sir, with the scrupulous jealousy with which our laws watch their introduction into our country, and will therefore perceive it to be a duty, which as its first Magistrate, I owe this city, to request through you an assurance from the Commander of the Squadron, that none of those people shall under any pretence be permitted to land—I hope too it will not be deemed an indelicacy, on a point so interesting to our police to ask whether the force on board is fully adequate to prevent any attempt of insurrection or escape?

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

EDWARD LIVINGSTON.

Citizen Archambal, Commercial agent of the French Republic.

Honorable Edward Livingston, Mayor of the city of New York.

MR. MAYOR,

On the receipt of the letter which you did me the honor to write me yesterday, I communicated its contents to the commander of the French Division now anchored in this port. I hasten to transmit to you a copy of his answer, which I hope will appear to you satisfactory on all points.

I have the honor to inform you, that in consequence of the fears manifested by the inhabitants of this city on the approach of the frigate *La Consolante*, the Commander has ordered her back to the quarantine as soon as possible. We flatter ourselves that you will see in this step the sincere wish of pleasing you. I have the honor to be with respect Mr. Mayor, your very humble servant.

(Signed) L. ARCHAMBAL.

New York, 27 Thermidor 10 o'clock.

The Commandant of the Naval Division of the French Republic, to Citizen ARCHAMBAL, Commissioner of Commercial Relations at New York.

Citizen Commissioner,

I receive this instant the letter you have done me the honor to write, with a translation enclosed of the one addressed to you. I hasten to answer them by assuring you that the most severe order had been previously given, to prevent any man of colour from having any communication with the land. And this morning the same orders have been renewed. I hope this assurance will give full satisfaction to the Mayor of the City.

These persons have moreover behaved very peaceable since their importation—and this country does not seem calculated to inspire them with any ideas of revolt. But if any such should be entertained, I can assure you most positively that the land forces on board are more than sufficient to keep them in good order.

I have the honor to salute you.

The Commandant of Division,

(Signed) LA CAILLE.

[Translation]

New York, August 15, 1802.

SIR,

I have received with great satisfaction your letter of this date, enclosing the answer of the Commandant of division to my note. I hope the removal of the frigate will not prove a material inconvenience to the service—Though rendered unnecessary by the assurance contained in the Commandant's letter, I still receive it on the part of the citizens, as the evidence of a wish to promote harmony and dispel any fears that may have been entertained on the subject of the slaves.

I pray you to communicate those sentiments to the Commandant, and accept my thanks for your ready attention to the re-