

CAROLINA CENTINEL.

VOLUME II.]

NEWBERN, N. C. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1819.

[NUMBER 87.]

TERMS.

THE CAROLINA CENTINEL IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

JOHN I. PASTEUR,

At THREE DOLLARS per annum, one-third payable in advance.

No paper will be discontinued until all arrearages are paid up, except at the option of the publisher.

ADVERTISEMENTS inserted at 50 cents per square the first week, and 25 cents a square for each succeeding insertion.

AGRICULTURAL.

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

On the Grape Vine, with its wines, brandies, and dried fruits.

NUMBER I.

No principle of action in the business and industry of the United States has been so beneficial to them as the adoption of new objects of culture by the planters and farmers, whose old objects of culture were likely to become redundant, and to fall in price. Cotton and sugar are well known and important examples. There are good grounds for estimating our whole cotton of our best year, (September, 1817, to September, 1818,) at forty two millions of dollars, according to the price on the wharves of our sea-ports for that which was exported to foreign countries, and the price at our factories, stores, and dwellings, of that which was manufactured at home. It is now manifest that the East Indian and South American cotton greatly injure our markets; and as this arises from growing, permanent, and substantial causes, there is reason to expect the continuance of the injury to us from the foreign rival cotton cultivation. A brief and plain view of the history and prospect of cotton will be found in the Philadelphia edition (A. D. 1818,) of *Rees's English Cyclopaedia*, by Murray, Bradford, & Co. under the article or head of the "United States." The facts there stated, with many known subsequent circumstances, will give rise to serious reflections in the minds of the landholder and the statesman, upon this subject of the protection of the productions of our own soil. The industry of the landed men of the United States is manifestly and unalterably much greater than any, and than all, the other branches of our domestic or national industry. —The mercantile and manufacturing branches result almost entirely from the landed industry. While, therefore, the legislative & executive governments raise revenues of 27 1-2 to 60 per cent. on a great quantity of foreign cotton cloths from India and Europe and a greater revenue from the foreign manufactures of tobacco, and a still greater revenue from the foreign manufactures of grain, of fruit, and of the cane, to the great fundamental and convenient support of American manufactures; and while they are free to go further, if they find it right, in the joint encouragement of our agricultural and manufacturing industry it will be found beneficial to the landed interest to enquire into other means of promoting the prosperity of the *Colossus of our country*—the agricultural industry.

There can be no doubt that between the sites of the vine-yards of the Lower Schuylkill, of Southwark, of Pennsylvania, Butler, of Pennsylvania, Glasgow, of Kentucky, New Vevay, of Indiana, and Harmony, of the same state, on the north, and the coasts of the Gulf of Mexico, on the south, the United States possess the climates and soils of "the vine covered hills and gay regions of France." The sweet orange grows, in safety, in groves and gardens, in the vicinity of New-Orleans, at a greater distance from the sea than any place of equally safe growth, in Provence of Languedoc, of France. As our country shall be cleared and drained our climate will be still less severe in the states on the Mexican Gulf. In the north, our climates of New Vevay and Harmony, in Indiana, Glasgow in Kentucky, in 37 to 38 degrees 30 minutes N. which are the present northern extremes of successful experiments in the vine cultivation, are as favorable and mild as the climates of Champagne, Tokay, Lorraine, Burgundy, and Hockheim, which are fine northern regions of the vine in France and Germany. Between our New Vevay, in Indiana, and the Gulf of Mexico, the states of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, South and North-Carolina, Tennessee, Indiana, and large parts of Virginia and Kentucky, must give us all the vine climates of France, Germany, Switzerland, and Upper Italy. This vine district of the United States is much larger than all those vine countries of France, Germany, Switzerland, and Upper

Italy. The crop of wine and brandy in the vine country of France alone—though our vine country is more than twice the size—has been estimated at 100 millions of dollars. Let us then consider the propriety of a diligent enquiry into the cultivation of the vine, and the preparation of wines, brandies, dried fruits, and cremor tartar, in the United States, in order to maintain the prosperity of the landed interest by the variety and prices of our crops.

The present duties on foreign distilled and fermented spirits and liquors, (brandy, gin, rum, arack, wines, beer, ale and porter,) and on dried fruits, though laid for revenue, afford a great and sure encouragement to the establishment and the manufacture of the grape. The demand will increase with our population, and the facility and certainty of the culture and crop will grow with the clearing and draining of our country. Ridges, hills, mountains, rocky lands, any steep ground, gravelly, stony, sandy, and other inferior lands, (if only dry,) will yield profit in large crops or in fine qualities of wine, or both. Fresh and dried grapes are both favorable to health and frugality. Ripe grapes have been administered to whole regiments of troops in France, who have been ravaged by fluxes and dysenteries.* The quantity of wine computed to be produced in France is ten millions of casks, of nearly 63 gallons each, on 2,000,000 of arpents (not 2,200,000 acres) of land, often not fit for wheat, rice or tobacco, valued very low, on a medium at fifty francs the cask or French hoghead. This is three times the value of the cotton crop of the United States, on a medium value, produced in 1818 or in 1819, and demands our early and serious attention, particularly from the Gulf of Mexico to the end of the 39th degree, when the country in that degree shall be cleared, and drained in its wet or marshy parts.

It has been already observed, that ridges and hills are the most suitable shape or form of country for vineyards. The most proper exposure is from south-east to south. It is believed that all southern exposures will do. The propagation may be by seeds, or by cuttings, or by bending and covering a part of an old vine so as to make it grow out in another place at a proper distance. The plough is of much use in the cultivation, so that care must be taken to plant the vines at such distances as to facilitate the use of the plough and the harrow. The best grapes which can be obtained should be used, in order to put the culture forward. These may be foreign or American, native or imported. A harsh grape to the taste may produce a better wine than was expected, and more and better brandy. The finest grapes of Europe & the African isles are supposed to be native wildings improved by culture and selection. The region of the plum and peach appears to include the region of the vine. Although the south is the proper sphere of the grape, its cultivation there will leave the bread grains, tobacco, hemp, the grasses and cattle, to the more exclusive and profitable culture of the states north of the proper region of fine and abundant crops of wine. We pay annually to foreign nations a sum of money for wines, spirits, and materials to make spirits, and for fresh and dried grapes, as great as our whole specie medium. So important is this subject, in various points of view, to all the states, that it is respectfully recommended to the superintendants of all our public, agricultural and philosophical libraries, to procure all the treatises on the culture of vines and making of grapes which are to be found in the languages of France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and Great Britain.

A FRIEND TO THE NATIONAL INDUSTRY. Philadelphia, Nov. 1, 1819.

* See Dr. Tissot's advice to the people of Lausanne.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FROM THE AURORA.

Mr. Duane: I observed some time since, in the Aurora, an article copied from a Baltimore paper, on the subject of a national dress.

I have waited a considerable time, in the hope that a measure so obviously tending to the good of the community, would readily find numerous and able supporters: I thought I had reason to hope that almost any measure which tended to dignify the American character, and release our citizens from the thralldom of foreign habits of extravagance and folly, would have found advocates among the humane, the intelligent, and the patriotic.

The establishment of a national dress, which should at once combine neatness, el-

gance, convenience, & durability, would be a desideratum in national economy—it would be a bold step towards republican simplicity, and republican dignity and morality.

Are the citizens of the U. S. who claim that "birthright which is the noblest boon of Heaven"—who pretend to stand on the proud eminence which distinguishes them above all the nations of the earth—where man justly renders to his fellow being all that he claims for himself—shall they become the servile imitators of all that is base, prenicious, and ridiculous, in the slavish monarchies of Europe?

If the people of this country value their liberties, they must devise some measure to check the increasing habits of luxury, extravagance, and folly, which now pervade the land, with a hand sickly and palsy to freedom. Already do we feel the desolating effects of our folly, by the pecuniary distresses of all classes, resulting from the excessive importations of foreign superfluities, and the consequent importation of foreign notions and ideas, which ought forever to remain exotics from a people who avow an equality of rights.

Should we proceed in our present course of illiberal thinking, and the spirit which is too prevalent of admiring, may adoring, mock-greatness and idle show, we may read our fate in the histories of all the republics which have gone before us. We must learn to be proud of our virtues only, and frown down vice, whatever may be her fascinating form; for the fact is fully established, that virtue and patriotism are the only foundation on which a republic can long exist.

The advantages resulting from the establishment of a national dress would be immense. I am aware that it would not be readily acceded to by some of those mushrooms of pride and folly who wish to distinguish themselves by their extravagance and dissipation; but the rational part of the community can never raise any possible objection to a measure so obviously beneficial.

The plan, if carried into operation, would be one part of a system of independence, which it is the policy of the citizens of this country to pursue. It becomes us, as republicans, not to cherish and support domestic manufactures only, but domestic habits, domestic principles, and domestic morals.

I most earnestly request the attention of the people to this subject, which, though it may seem inconsiderable to some, I consider of the greatest importance. It would not only establish a costume by which Americans would be known and respected in foreign countries, but would secure their dress from that eternal, vexatious, and ridiculous mutation to which it must always be subjected by foreign fashions, so long as it is controlled by them. I trust little need be said on this subject to convince republicans of the egregious folly of such a dependence upon foreign and despotic nations—those hot-beds of luxury, vice, and moral depravity.

Americans! are you content that your dress, with all its constant changes, should be under the supreme arbitration of half a dozen British tailors, to whose imperious nod you must bow with the most servile adoration; and are you willing that your habits, your manners, and your ideas of politeness should be copied from the adject pimps and minions of a degenerate European court?

ANAXAGORAS.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Proceedings at the New-York Lyceum of Natural History, at the sitting of Oct. 16, 1819.

The ordinary business having been concluded,—Various specimens of the granites and other minerals from the neighborhood of New-York were presented and examined.

An elegant slab of the serpentine marble from the vicinity of New-Haven was exhibited. It was Green and yellow, with brownish variegations, and interspersed with the chromate of iron. The polish was splendid. It was forwarded by Mr. David Ritter, Agent of the quarry, for the Historical Society.

That singular & beautiful inhabitant of our salt water, the sea anemone or animal flower, was produced alive in several complete specimens. Their motions and changes as they contracted & dilated, & as they expanded & retracted their arms, afforded great entertainment to the members. They are radiary animals of the genus *Holothuria*, and were taken near the North Battery. Some of the specimens are called sea Cucumbers.

A fine specimen of the Long Island Duck-hawk, the most neat and exquisite of the North American falcons, was produced, as prepared by Mr. Forester. It appears to be the *Falco Eperverius* of Wilson's Ornithology.

The donation of Buffon's Natural History of Birds, in French, with Plates, in four vols. 8vo. was made by Frederick W. Porter, Esq.

A visiter read a paper on the Nurob Fish, or Cramp Fish of the North American seas. It is the Raja Torpedo of Mitchell's Ichthyology, living only in channels, or on the flats, at the distance of from half a mile to three miles from high-water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows from 9 to 16 feet. When touched it instantly benumbs man to such a degree as to render him helpless. The fish communicates the cramp through the iron, handle, and warp of a harpoon, and cramps the hand of the harpooner. A bottle of the torpedō oil was produced, and its medicinal virtues described, such as, when taken internally, to be an excellent remedy for pains in the stomach, and externally an admirable application for stiff joints, and for rheumatism and gout.

After various other business, the president read the lecture for the evening, consisting of the history and voyages made by the Norwegians and other Scandinavian nations during the 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries of the Christian era, to Iceland, Greenland, Finland, & North America; showing the probability that our continent, from lat. 41 to 50, was discovered and surveyed by the Herjultsons and the Ericksons, 400 years or more before the advent of Columbus, near the close of the fifteenth century. The discourse, which was chiefly an abstract of Schroders Swedish pamphlet, published at Upsal, in 1818, and done into English by the kindness of Henry Gahn, Esq. attracted an extraordinary degree of attention.

A member read a letter from the Professor of Botany in the University of Transylvania, stating the discoveries made by himself in that science, and in Zoology. Their number and value rendered the intelligence highly important. The paper from Alden Spooner, Esq. on the antiquities of Marietta, in Ohio, now in the possession of Dr. Hildreth, was heard with great interest.

A map of the deserted region of the city, by George B. Rapley, Esq. was exhibited, with the names of the persons who had sickened & died. But the time did not permit a detailed examination of the origin, progress, and termination of the malignant fever thereon represented.

OLD MR. FRANCISCO.

From the correspondent of the New-York Commercial Advertiser.

WHITEHALL, (N. Y.) OCT. 20.

dark, last evening, I went, in company with some ladies and gentlemen, to see the celebrated old Mr. Francisco, an account of whom was published in the New-York papers some time ago, and who resides about 2 miles from this village. When we entered his dwelling, he was in his chamber, but his children observed to us they would call him down. In a few moments the aged veteran appeared, and addressed us with all the warmth of an old acquaintance. He says he was sixteen years of age on the last day of May, old style, subsequent to the 10th of September on which Queen Anne was crowned. This was in the year 1702. He also has a perfect recollection of the battle of Blenheim, which was in 1704. He calls himself one hundred and thirty-three years of age. I have seen many at the age of eighty who appeared much more infirm than this old gentleman. His voice is good, but his sight rather impaired. He was asked what kind of life he lived in his younger days, and answered that he lived moderately, and rose early. He added that he could not now enjoy himself, if idle, one hour. His employment chiefly consisted in the light work attending weaving, such as "quilling and spooling." He attended the cattle show a few days ago at Castleton, Vt. and I am informed ploughed with several yoke of cattle. He had by his first wife six children, and by his present fourteen. I saw his youngest daughter, who appeared nearly as old as her father. His fourth son by his second wife I knew some years ago in New-York. He was a member of the Methodist church, and I suppose about 50 years of age. At the age of 110 Mr. Francisco was able to complete a day's work on a farm as soon as any man of fifty.

Most Extraordinary of all!—The Rutland (Vt.) Herald, after giving the particulars of the cattle show at Castleton, in that state, mentions the following extraordinary circumstance:—

"They day was rendered peculiarly interesting by the presence of Henry Francisco, of the age of 137 years; who ploughed a furrow with the oxen that day exhibited. This veteran, who in the year 1702, bore arms at the coronation

of Queen Anne, in the year 1819, held the plough at the first exhibition of the Rutland County Agricultural Society, and witnessed the assemblage of many thousands of wealthy, industrious and respectable inhabitants, in a section of the country which was uninhabited and scarcely known when he had attained to his three score years and ten.

SELECTED FOR THE CENTINEL.

From Bristed's Resources of America.

The general diffusion of elementary and popular intelligence among all classes of society, gives to the inhabitants of the United States a larger average of mental activity and power than falls to the lot of the mass of the people in most other countries. The sovereignty residing in the people; their political equality, their stake in the commonwealth, by the right of suffrage, gives to the citizens a greater moral elevation, a higher consciousness of self-importance, respect, and dignity, than are to be found in the people of any other country under the canopy of Heaven.

Whence, in the prosecution of the arts of peace, whether at home or abroad; in agricultural toil; in mechanical skill; in mercantile enterprise, the Americans exhibit an aggregate of physical strength, activity, and perseverance; of mental quickness, acuteness, and comprehension; of moral energy, loftiness, and power, surpassing that of any other entire nation. And in the perils of warfare, amidst the noise and fire, and smoke, and carnage of the battle, whether on the ocean or on the land, the American squadrons do by no means yield the palm of deliberate valor, accomplished skill, and heroic patriotism, to the embodied legions of ancient Greece and Rome, nor to the well-appointed hosts of the greatest nations of modern Europe. There must be much of intrinsic, radical excellence in the political institutions of a country, which have lent their efficient aid to form the physical, intellectual, and moral character of such a people as are now spreading themselves over the vast and various territory of the United States, and daily and hourly reclaiming the waste and wilderness from the dominion of nature to the cultivation of man. And while these general causes continue to operate, the people of the United States will continue to average a physical, intellectual, and moral superiority over those of every other nation; and so long may they well continue to cherish their present form of government as admirably adapted to their feelings, their affections, their habits, and their interests.

Is Russia now, and for the time to come, deemed formidable to Europe? Behold another and a greater Russia here. With a better territory, a better government, and a better people, America is ripening fast into a substance, an attitude of power, which will prove far more terrible to the world than it is ever possible for the warriors of the Don or the defenders of Moscow to become. Let it not, for a moment, be imagined, that I seek to lean upon the exalted character, or to detract from the well-earned prowess of Britain! Under the blessing of Divine Providence, the world owes to her unrivalled exertions, to her vehement and sustained fortitude, a liberation from the most galling, base, profligate, and cruel bondage that ever stained the annals of the human race. Braver than Britons men cannot be. It is not in human nature to do more than affront death with cool, collected, steady, unyielding valor. Is it possible for them that are born of women to display more unbending, more triumphant heroism, than was exhibited by the British on the field of Waterloo and in the harbour of Algiers?

But it is meant to assert, be cause it can be proved, that the United States, from their territorial extent, their local situation, their political institutions, their peculiar circumstances, do produce a greater amount of physical, intellectual, and moral enterprise, and force in the great mass of their people, than is or can be produced in the aggregate population of any other country.

A late minister from the Court of St. James, near the American government, Mr. Jackson, who had surveyed with a statesman's eye, every court and every country, every cabinet and every people in Europe, both insular and continental, told me, "That he had passed through and diligently studied the States of New-York and New-England; that he had never seen such decided materials of national greatness, as their population exhibited; that the American people were right-minded, strong-minded, sound-minded, & high-minded." And in all the solemnity of solemn truth, the people of this country have verified the prophetic word of the departed statesman; they have, in