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## TERMS.

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## AGRICULTURAL.

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

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

### NUMBER II.

The experiments made at Harmony, in Pennsylvania, at Vevay, on the Ohio, and Harmony, on the Ouabache, both in Indiana, merit the utmost attention of the United States. It appears that in the present uncleared and uncultivated state of the country, Harmony, on the Ohio, in Pennsylvania, was probably too far north for making wine, though not for fruit. That Vevay & Harmony, in Indiana, are in more suitable climes for the vine, will appear from the following letter from a respectable gentleman at Vevay to a very respectable friend of his, lately on a visit to Philadelphia. It is dated on the 28th of August, 1819. The intelligent and experienced writer from Vevay thus expresses himself; He "thinks the whole of Alabama doubtless better adapted to the culture of vines than the more northern country of the United States;\* because the only two species of grapes that succeed in the U. States are of the late sort, having not time at Vevay, Ind. to ripen. The Alabama season, being longer, will give more time, especially the Madeira grape, which gives the best wine of the two, where it can ripen, and yields most. But it will not do at all at Vevay; and does better at Glasgow, Ky. The various gardeners of Kentucky can furnish some. Vine-dressers would go to new vineyards from Vevay. They have had 500 gallons of wine per acre at Vevay; more often 150; and 260 is a good crop. The Madeira grape would give more than the Cape of Good Hope grape, where it would prosper, but must have time to ripen, to be good. Of the labor, much may be done by women. They do about half. The men trim, make layers to fill vacancies, plough, harrow, hoe, and carry the grapes & make the wine. None of those works are heavy. But trimming requires attention and discernment, for the vine-dresser must look two years before him, when he cuts each scion; women never do it, though light work. He has seen many women do it, as well as any man. A little work in vineyards is to be done by night with lamps. When the grapes have got their size, the cricket (not of the house or field) eat, in the night, the bark of the stem of the bunches, and ring or girdle them so that they die. They injure the bunches rapidly. They must be watched and searched for with lamps, by night, and destroyed. He says the native vines will not do to graft good kinds of grapes on: he has tried it often, without success. Grape vines grafted on the same kinds do well, yet they are a different tree, being *diacis*, while the vineiferous kinds are *hermaprodites*. I have found the same wild vines in Switzerland, and the kind called Sour grapes make pretty good wines, but are a smaller bearer than the grape vine. They are in Morerod's vineyard, at Glasgow, in Kentucky. The Spanish grapes of Mexico and South America should be tried. They have been long cultivated. He is raising grape vines from the seed, to obtain flavor and quantity of wine. The vine is of long life, but it is ten or fifteen years before it bears fully from the seed. Variety, however, is an object. Vines planted by cuttings, which have taken root freely in the first year, bear fruit in three years; in five they are in full force. He has considered and inspected the vineyards of Europe, and the cultivation by the plough and otherwise. It is to be studied to save labor and make the greatest crops. If the *fendant vert* will grow as well here as in Switzerland, 800 gallons per acre might be made. They cultivate by the plough in Languedoc, about Montpellier and Lunel. We make wine here to be like Madeira, and sell it

at 37 1-2 cents per quart, and \$1 25 per gallon: but cannot make enough to send abroad, or to keep for ripening. Morerod made a cask, of 800 gallons, full of wine, of last vintage, to be kept 18 months or two years. He has seen wine (made of grapes like Vevay) at Glasgow, (in Barren county, Ky.) better than Vevay wine. The grapes were gathered a fortnight before the Vevay grapes. It is probable that wine of the banks of Tennessee will make 1-4 brandy; if of Cape of Good Hope grapes, common proof; Vevay yielded 1-5th; the best cider 1-10; so do the best Burgundy wine, that of the border of the lake of Geneva, in good years. The strongest of all the wines that I know of is that of the south of France and Spain, which yields 1-3 brandy. The peculiar mode of vine cultivation at Vevay, Indiana, is worthy of attention, being a combination of various European modes, and American improvements adapted to the country. Some young men, bred at Vevay, would be useful in other places. Mr. D. thinks the blacks may be taught to cultivate vines." So runs and concludes the letter from the judicious writer, at Vevay of the United States, settled by persons from the original Vevay of Switzerland. It is very instructive, and would seem to prove that, as so much of our country continues in the wood and forest state, and with many undrained swamps, making a humid atmosphere, and a moist soil, Vevay, in 38 deg. 30 min is not yet perfectly so favorable, even as the vicinity of Glasgow, in Kentucky; where a dry, hard soil, occasions the grape to be freer from injury by moisture of the earth, and of the air. Glasgow is also about one degree and one half more Southern than Vevay. These indications are distinct, nice, clear, and strong, in regard to the vine climate of our country, at present and in prospect.

In the hilly Spanish colonial country of North America, about the 29th degree of North latitude, South of the Rio bravo del Norte, there is authentic evidence, in a report to the government, that the vine grows well, though its culture was forbidden by the crown, produces good crops of fine wine, and supplies the province and its neighbors. That country being as far south as any part of Florida, it is ascertained that, where this country has become, or shall be made dry enough and cleared, the vine region runs to the Southern limits of the United States, even if we should maintain our right to Louisiana *in extenso*, in consequence of the apparent frustration of our offer to limit ourselves by the Sabine.

The most distinguished wine of Spain is the true and best Xeres, or Sherry of the district around the city of Xeres de la Frontera, in Andalusia. The vineyards of that district are, in situations corresponding in temperature with the most extreme Southern parts of East Florida and Louisiana. It is interesting to our inquiry, that all the Portuguese European wines are produced in situations North of Xeres, such as those called by us the Lisbon, the Carcavela, the red and white port, or Oporto. It is observable, also, that the Malaga, or sweet and dry mountain, wines of Spain, long highly esteemed by medical men, those of Alicante and Catalonia, which three kinds we principally import, and all the Spanish brandies we consume, come from districts as far North as that of Xeres. The wines of Castile, and other interior districts of Spain, which are consumed at home, and are not exported, are from places also North of Xeres. We can have no reason to doubt, then, that, as our country now is, and shall in future be, cleared and drained, and if ridges, hills, and mountain sides, with South exposures, shall be carefully selected, the most Southern of our states, territories, and districts, will be as suitable for the vine, its wines, and dried fruits, as the most proper and fruitful parts of the Peninsula of Spain and Portugal. The works of travellers, agriculturists, and men of distinction in the arts and sciences, upon the subject of the vine, and wines, and dried grapes, of Spain and Portugal, are therefore strongly recommended, by our best interests, to the attention of our citizens, especially concerning the vineyards of Xeres, St. Lucar, Malaga, and Oporto. The Portuguese send to us no brandy; the Spaniards a little of that spirit, which is not estimated as good. It seems, from the excellence of the French Cognac brandy, the best, and the farthest North of any denomination of brandy which we know, that the extreme South is not the most favorable for the delicacy, though it is for the quantity of that spirit. The *Cette* brandy of France is not liked here, but it has been said that much Armagnac brandy is used in Paris. The celebrated

French chemist\* of the grape and of distilled and fermented wine spirits, was a native of Montpellier, and took very great pains to improve the vine, and all its liquors, in that Southern region.

*A Friend to the National Industry.* Philadelphia, Nov. 1, 1819.

\* Chaptal, whose writings on the subject should be in every planter's hands, and in every agricultural and public library. The title of Mr. Chaptal's work is "A Theoretical and Practical Treatise of the culture of the Vine, with the art of preparing wine, brandy, &c. By Chaptal, Parmentier, and Dasseux. 2 volumes octavo, Paris. A. D. 1801." In French, Chaptal, P. and D. sur la culture de la Vigne &c. Paris 1801 2 tom: oct.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, Nov. 15.

This being the day appointed by law for the meeting of the Legislature, a large majority of both Houses assembled in their respective chambers at 10 o'clock, qualified and took their seats.

In the Senate, the Hon. Bartlett Yancey, of Caswell, was unanimously appointed Speaker, Gen. Rob't Williams, Clerk, and Benj. H. Covington, Assistant Clerk.

In the House of Commons, Romulus M. Sanders Esq. of Caswell, and Gen. Thomas Love, of Haywood, were nominated for the appointment of Speaker.—On a ballot, the votes were, for Sanders 67, Love 42: Mr. Sanders being elected, was conducted to the Chair.—(Gen. Love was nominated without his knowledge.) Maj. Pleasant Henderson was appointed Clerk, and Col. Wm. B. Lockhart, Assistant Clerk.

Messrs. King, Ramsey, and Lewis D. Wilson, were appointed a Committee to draw up Rules of Decorum for the government of the House.

Tuesday, Nov. 16.

On motion ordered that Mr. Scott, and Mr. Hill, be a committee on the part of this House to wait on his Excellency the Governor and acquaint him of the readiness of the two Houses to receive his communication.

On a balloting for Engrossing Clerks, John F. Forest was the only one elected—there being 11 candidates.

Mr. Scott from the committee appointed to wait on the Governor, reported that his Excellency would make a communication to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

Received a message from the Senate proposing to raise a joint committee to draw up the Rules for the government of the two Houses, with instructions to require each house to perfect its own bills. This resolution on a motion of Mr. Love, was disagreed too.

Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Mr. Ramsey, from the Committee to prepare Rules of Decorum, made a report, which was agreed to, and the Rules ordered to be printed.

The Message of His Excellency the Governor was received by Mr. Plummer, his Private Secretary, which was read and ordered to be printed.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE N. C.

RALEIGH, NOV. 17, 1819.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina.

GENTLEMEN—It is under circumstances somewhat inauspicious & consequently with sensations other than those of a pleasurable cast, that I have entered upon the discharge of the present duty.

To portray the civil, religious and political advantages of our highly favored country, would not only be more fashionable, but would assuredly be a more grateful task to the patriot and philanthropist than a survey of the dark and portentous side of the picture; but while my bosom swells with gratitude to the All-Wise and beneficent disposer of events for the benefits bestowed on us; I feel too much respect for your intelligence and discernment to believe that you have assembled for the purpose of being congratulated and congratulating each other on the residuum of political happiness which we enjoy, while so much remains to be done to improve and ameliorate the condition of society. I shall, therefore, without further apology, I address you frankly but respectfully, and submit to your deliberate review and consideration, a few subjects important in themselves and in their consequences. And in the first place as claiming a pre-eminence above all others, allow me to call your attention to the subject of the education of youth, the only durable basis of

every thing valuable in a government of the people; and to press on your attention the moral and political obligations which you are under, created and imposed by the solemn injunctions of the constitution, to patronize and encourage a general diffusion of knowledge: For when we advert to the languishing condition of some of our nurseries of science, and observe the apathy which prevails in regard to their advancement, it becomes a subject of no less astonishment than regret. It is the boast of a republican government that all men are born equal; but what is it that keeps them so? on a proper solution of this question depends the perpetuation of the liberties of this as well as every other free government.—Let the few monopolize the science of the country and they at once monopolize its sovereignty.

Amongst the leading grievances of the times may be ranked the debased condition of our circulating medium. The Banks, the present regulators thereof, in their too eager pursuit of the game, or in other words, their inordinate solicitude for the dividend, have led the citizens of our once happy country into the wilds and mazes of speculative life, and ultimately into a labyrinth of difficulties, from which I apprehend it will require all your sagacity to extricate them. The extraordinary fluctuations in the price of property, and indeed of every necessary and convenience of life induced thereby, has not only had a tendency to plunge many into the depths of poverty: but has also had the effect to subvert their habits of industry and morality, and so long as it is in the power of the Banks to increase or diminish the currency of the country at their pleasure, without being made to feel the consequences of an injudicious issue or withdrawal, so long shall we be liable to a recurrence of similar embarrassments.

By the establishment of the State Bank of North-Carolina we were promised a medium of exchange that would invigorate the operations of commerce, and by banishing a depreciated currency from circulation, place the character of the state upon honorable and exalted ground: But what has been the fact? At the same time that they have banished the old paper currency which was a tender in payment of debts and of course a shield to the people; they have embosomed in their vaults or driven from the country all the specie, and the notes which have been substituted, instead thereof, not being convertible into gold or silver, the country presents the melancholy spectacle of a people deeply involved in debt without a legitimate circulating medium. Never indeed have our citizens experienced such a pressure, and unless something is done for their relief, they must inevitably fall a prey to the iron grasp of their unrelenting creditors. It therefore behoves you to probe the wound to the bottom, and if possible, to arrest the alarming visitation with which they are threatened. The investigation is due to the public as well as to the banks, for it is of the last importance that the currency of the State should be resuscitated and placed on a stable basis.

I am far, however, from being sanguine in the belief that you will be able immediately to devise ways and means to effect a radical renovation; but as our most useful knowledge is often that for which we pay dearest, I am disposed to think that some lessons fraught with wholesome instruction may be extracted from our present difficulties and distress. And while I am upon this subject, permit me to caution you against the two frequent practice of bestowing on a few importunate applicants, desiring to be associated as a body politic, the exclusive privileges & immunities which usually attach to chartered companies without a due consideration of the latent principles contained therein, or the remote bearings and influences which they may have on society; for in this way have we been parting with our sovereignty from time to time, and if the practice is persisted in we shall ultimately become a government of corporations, instead of a government of the people.

A revision of our insolvent laws is at this time peculiarly proper, when from the crowded dockets of the several courts and the unexampled difficulty that is experienced in obtaining the means for the discharge of debts, so large a portion of the community is likely to fall within their provisions.

Imprisonment for debt must be considered as a kind of punishment which is inflicted at the mercy of the creditor, and must often be exercised upon objects where pity and not punishment is due.—In truth it seems to be a remnant of that Gothic policy which prevailed during the ruder ages of society; a policy as barba-

rous as it is useless, and it is to me strange that it should so long have been suffered to disgrace the code of laws of a State which might otherwise boast of its freedom and humanity. An amelioration in this respect may have the effect of curtailing the extended system of credit that exists at present, as it will take from the creditor one of his most potent engines for the coercion of a speedy payment; but this I have no hesitation in believing, will be ultimately of real benefit to the community, and as an evidence, advert to the embarrassments above alluded to, owing in part, unquestionably, to causes intimately connected with the facilities of obtaining the means of engaging in speculative enterprises, the advantages anticipated from which, if realized, would only have a tendency to enervate and palsify the virtue and patriotism of our citizens.

As all improvements are progressive, permit me to indulge the hope that your attention will be efficiently called to a still farther amendment of our Judiciary system. The salutary results anticipated by the friends of the Supreme Court establishment, have so far as my observation has extended, been fully realized. The zeal with which that body engaged in the arduous duties assigned to it, the manner in which these have been executed, and the extensive dispensation of justice resulting therefrom, while it reflects much credit on the members composing that court, reflects not less upon the Legislature that had the wisdom and the independence to establish it.

At the last session, I took the liberty to recommend something like a recurrence to fundamental principles, by the restoration of the old district system, so amended and modified as to obviate and remove the principal objections that existed against it, in its original imperfect state. The reasons on which this recommendation was founded, are contained in my message to the last Legislature, to which, if necessary, I would beg leave to refer. If, however, my views in relation to this subject, should not meet your approbation, I would take the liberty to suggest the advantage which would result from the creation of two additional circuits. This will very materially lessen the labours and remove the burthens of our Superior Court Judges; and thereby enable them to bestow more thought and reflection on the important principles of litigation, which must necessarily be bro't before them, involving the dearest rights of our citizens, and on which they are bound to decide.

At present a seat upon that bench is sought for pretty much for the same reasons that a militiaman seeks for promotion.—When the title is obtained; and in some few instances, a tour of the state is made; and when in truth, the Judge becomes somewhat qualified to discharge the truly interesting & solemn functions of his office, a resignation takes place, and he returns to the bar with all "his blushing honors thick upon him;" not for the purpose of arresting the progress of vice, or infusing energy into the arm of justice, but confidently relying on his borrowed plume, and additional experience, as well as the want of them in his successor in office, and his associates at the bar, he boldly sets at defiance the wholesome and salutary restraints of law, and but too often attempts to turn into ridicule the holy sanctuary of justice.

As somewhat connected with this subject, I cannot forbear submitting for your review, the manner in which our prosecuting officers are paid. By a law passed at the last session, their services are estimated by the number of their convictions.—May this not have a tendency to convert them into zealous persecutors of the unfortunate persons brought before our courts? and indeed is it not a reflection upon the State that their very support should be made to depend on the blood that they are enabled to extract from the condemned and miserable convict? Assuredly such cannot be the true policy of our criminal law.

I deem it my duty to call your attention to a rigid scrutiny into our militia laws, for we know not how soon the present calm and tranquil state of the political world may be disturbed by an explosion of the combustible materials collected & collecting in various quarters of the globe. From the ease with which the most of our militia officers exonerate themselves from the discharge of the duties required of them by law—there must be a defect in the existing regulations; for we see nearly all, good, bad and indifferent, fly the same useless round, and pass off like meteors, without rendering any beneficial service to the cause, which in the first instance they so zealously espouse. Indeed I am not sure but that musters, reviews, &c. as at present conducted, instead of rendering the physical

\* Vevay, on the Ohio, is in 38 deg. 30 min. N.  
Glasgow is in 37 deg.