

## Agricultural and Industrial.

## ANNUAL FAIR LIST.

North Carolina Agricultural Society, Raleigh, October 10th to 17th.

W. N. C. Agricultural and Mechanics Fair Association, Salisbury, October 27th to 31st.

Roanoke and Tar River Agricultural Society, Weldon, October 20th to 23rd.

Cumberland County Agricultural Society, Fayetteville.

Sampson County Agricultural Society, Clinton.

Georgia State Agricultural Society, Atlanta, Ga., October 19th to 24th.

Virginia State Agricultural Society, Richmond, Va., October 27th to 30th.

Maryland State Agricultural Society, (Baltimore, Md., October 6th to 10th.

## The Results of Free Labor in the South.

BY DANIEL R. GOODLOE.

The present year will complete a decade of free labor farming and planting in the South. On the whole, the system has worked better than Southern men anticipated; though not so well as the sanguine friends of the abolition of slavery expected. On the part of the former, it was believed that nothing but the authority of a master could induce negroes to work; that the ordinary motives which operate on the minds of men, inducing them to labor today, in order that themselves and their families may live comfortably to-morrow, would be without effect on the liberated slaves, and that from year to year their condition would grow from bad to worse; that they would neglect to take proper care of their children; and that as a consequence, their numbers would be found to diminish. On the other hand, the friends of impartial freedom predicted, as a speedy result of abolition, that the South would rapidly emerge from the temporary paralysis of its industry and prosperity; that land would rise in value, and that in a very few years the aggregate wealth of the people would be greater than before the war.

After ten years of experience it is safe to conclude that the soothsayers, whether giving utterance to gloomy forebodings, or to roseate pictures of prosperity, were mistaken. The negroes have not given up regular labor; they have not abandoned their families to starvation; and except in a few localities, where they have been misled by designing demagogues, they have not, as a class, been reduced to a state of destitution. On the contrary they still constitute the great majority of the laboring class; they still produce four million bales of cotton, with corn, wheat, tobacco and sugar, as formerly; and tens of thousand of them have accumulated property, and secured for their families permanent homes. They exhibit a laudible ambition to acquire knowledge, and to elevate themselves in the scale of being; and no people in the history of the world ever made more rapid progress in the acquisition of learning. It is to be lamented that the poor and illiterate class of white people of the South are inspired by no such ambition as actuates the blacks. The former, indeed, seem to be dead to every generous aspiration, and without hope. The negroes have their special friends, the abolitionists of the North, to look after them, to send them teachers, and to awaken in them a spirit of manhood and progress. Even the beasts of burthen have found friends in Mr. Bergh and his benevolent "Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals." But whose mission shall it become to inspire with hope, and elevate the poor, ignorant, friendless whites of the South? Their poverty and ignorance of books are not their greatest misfortunes. It is their ignorance of the arts of life—even of agriculture; and the difficulty, if not impossibility of finding regular remunerative employment. In the days of slavery they were rarely employed by the planters; their labor was not wanted; and they eked out existence as tenants of the pine barrens, by the aid of fishing and hunting—not the manly sport of hunting with dogs and guns,—but by trapping poor hares and birds. If the South can be induced to engage extensively in manufacturing cotton, there may be hope for this class of poor whites. They can soon learn the simple art of the factory operative, and, collected together in villages and towns they may be educated and civilized.

But I am digressing. I am next to show that the abolitionists were mistaken when they predicted a rapid development of Southern wealth and prosperity, and a speedy rise in the price of lands, as a consequence of emancipation. We have seen on the contrary, that agricultural operations have been crippled; that the crops have not, as a whole been so

large as before the war; and that land is less valuable than it was in the days of slavery. Common experience has demonstrated also, that the practice of cultivating large plantations with free labor, works badly, or differently well; and that thousands of men of experience in planting under the old system of things, have failed in the new experiment. This fact by no means proves, however, that the thing is impracticable; and all that can be inferred from it is, that Southern planters, as a class, with their limited experience, under unfavorable circumstances, are not equal to the task of managing large bodies of emancipated slaves. The planting experiments of Northern men who have come South since the war, have been still less successful than those of natives; and so far as my observations go, they have generally proven disastrous. As a rule, I believe, the class of men referred to were not agriculturists by profession and their temerity was as great as would be that of the Southern planters should they go forth and engage in manufacture or commerce.

But it is highly probable that the plantation system, of cultivating many hundreds of thousands of acres under one ownership, and management, will gradually be abandoned, and that agricultural operations in the South will, in the course of a generation or two, be assimilated with the uniform customs of other free communities. The growth of towns and cities, and the multiplication of population will tend to this result. They will conpire with the inherent difficulties of plantation management, already pointed out, and tend to break them up into smaller parcels. In Great Britain, there is a tendency to the concentration of real estate in few hands; but the proprietors are not the cultivators. They lease or farm their lands to men of smaller means, who pay annual rents to the proprietors. The true definition of the term farmer, is a lessee or tenant of land. There is no considerable class in that country corresponding to our small proprietors of the Northern States who cultivate their own lands, nor to our large planting class of the South.

The law of primogeniture in Great Britain and Ireland has kept the land of the ancient proprietors in the possession of their eldest sons from generation to generation. Occasionally a great family breaks down, and disappears; but instantly a new man, who has grown rich by commerce, by manufactures, or the law of primogeniture secures it to the eldest son of the new house, in perpetual succession, just as it did to the representative of the old one. This feudal law of inheritance which was framed with a view to the perpetuation of a landed aristocracy, has been seconded in its design by the natural tendency of capital to increase in the hands of its possessors, and thus to make the rich richer. The result is that the whole real estate of Great Britain is owned by about thirty thousand persons; while full half of it is the property of a few hundreds.

The tendency of wealth to accumulate in the hands of the few, even in this country is manifest; but in the absence of a law of primogeniture, there is no likelihood of such a concentration of real property in a few families as exists in Great Britain. Our law of inheritance, which distributes real, as well as personal property equally among all the children; and the universal sanction it has in public opinion, causing men to make their wills in conformity with it, tends to a sub-division rather than to an augmentation of estates. As population grows more dense, by natural increase, parents will divide their lands up among their descendants. Persons who accumulate wealth in other avocations will be ambitious of securing homesteads; and thousands of immigrants will purchase farms. These causes operating, with an indefinitely increasing population on the one hand, and a fixed area of land on the other, the effect must necessarily be a sub-division of the plantations into small farms. Or if we suppose that capitalists will be ambitious of owning the land, they will then cease to be cultivators, and will lease it to farmers, as is the custom in Europe.

The plantation system is characteristic of a colonial condition, in which agriculture is the exclusive occupation of society; in which the planters produce one or two staples for a foreign, or distant market, by the labor of slaves; and in which all other arts of life wilt and perish. The commerce of a colony, or of a community in which the plantation system prevails, must always be in foreign hands, and the manufactures consumed by it must be brought from abroad. The absorption of capital which results from the ownership of labor, leaves none for commerce and manufac-

tures; and the nature of slavery is incompatible with any pursuit other than agriculture, except on a very small scale.

The South has long aspired to commercial and manufacturing independence of the North. "Commercial Conventions," whose object was direct trade with Europe, were held in Norfolk, in Memphis, in Savannah, and other places, prior to the war; but no single good result from them can be pointed out, unless it be that the abortive effort, while slavery existed, served to illustrate the truths above stated.

A community which relies for subsistence mainly on the exportation of raw products, can never be wealthy or independent. It is dependent on the variable foreign or distant market which buys its staples; it looks abroad for its currency, or for the standard which regulates it; and while its staples may go for a low price, the necessaries which it requires in exchange, may be high. It spends its money abroad, instead of spending it at home; it can have no cities or considerable towns, because it has neither commerce nor manufactures; and in the absence of these, it has no sufficient market for the necessaries of life; for grain, for hay, for vegetables, and fruits, for beef, mutton, pork, for fowls, for butter, cheese, and eggs; and the consequence is that the production of these necessaries of life is neglected, and often have to be brought from a distance—from the very communities which buy the staples. What the South needs to-day, more than a direct trade with Europe, is large and small, but healthy, thriving towns and cities. In the Northern States the urban population seems to have grown out of proportion to the rural; there are there too many idle or vicious people drawn together by the excitements and allurements of city life, who ought to "go West," or South, and go to work in the fields. But with us, the fault is the other way. We have not enough of city population to infuse life and enterprise among the country people; to sustain an independent Press; to foster literature; to encourage education; or, as above stated, to furnish a market for the necessaries of life. A single occupation gives us but one class of ideas. Our social life lacks variety; and in a word, before we can attain to a high civilization, we need to be socially and economically regenerated and born again. We must get out of the colonial, chrysalis condition, which fetters the wings of commerce, hampers the inventive faculties, and renders life dull and monotonous. It is this sameness, this absence of fine cities, and towns, of various modes of life, which renders the South, in spite of its natural beauties, so little attractive to travelers. Our own people, our young men and maidens, our brides and bridegrooms, all go North in search of pleasure and sight-seeing. They rarely go South; and the Northern or European tourist who ventures into this *terra incognita* is gazed at by natives as people gaze at a strange bird from distant lands.

The most hopeful sign of the times in the South, is the impulse which has been given to trade and commerce, and the resulting growth of the towns. On every railroad line these indications of life in the new social system based on free labor are visible. Every way-station is becoming a village; every village is becoming a town; and the towns are developing into cities. Raleigh, Charlotte, Wilmington and Greensboro are believed to have doubled in population since the war. In other words, they have grown more during the last ten years than during the eighty or one hundred which preceded. Goldsboro, Fayetteville, Salisbury, Asheville, and Newbern, have all given evidence of a renewed existence; and the same is true of scores of smaller places. Durham, now a thriving manufacturing town, of perhaps a thousand or twelve hundred inhabitants, had no existence at the close of the war, and may claim to be the first-born of the new civilization. Already it is known all over the continent for its superior manufactures of tobacco, grown in the vicinity; and it is destined, I doubt not, to excel in other arts, and become a place of real importance.

These are but the first fruits of the new order of things; but springing from perennial causes, of accelerating force, they give promise of unlimited development. The abolition of slavery caused temporary derangement in the social order, and impaired production. But it destroyed forever an evil which lay at the very base of economical progress, and sucked away its life. I refer to the wholly unnecessary investment of capital in the ownership of labor. Southern capitalists had half their funds invested in the ownership of four million laborers. Capital in free communities is put to no such useless employment, but is invested in improved lands, in good

barns, houses and fences, in factories, workshops and machinery, in ships and commercial enterprises. The South had nothing, or next to nothing to invest in these productive ways, after tying up its capital in the ownership of men. It is not necessary to own men in order to have the benefit of their labor; and an investment of that sort is, therefore, a sinking of capital. The owner it is true, is repaid by appropriating the wages of the laborer; but the aggregate wealth of society is no greater for that, and his investment is unproductive.

The effect of emancipation has been to prevent further investments of this unproductive kind. Every dollar made and saved now goes into the fixed capital of the community, and aids production of some sort. People may have less money than formerly, but they have more with which to build houses and make permanent improvements. They have no use for their savings since they can no longer buy slaves, and hence it comes about that the towns are beginning to prosper.

Another circumstance which has contributed to this result is the self-dependence of the negro population. So long as they were slaves their necessary supplies were purchased by their masters, at the the market towns where the crops were sold. This practice was injurious to the interests of the local dealers, the village and country store-keepers, and the result was, the towns and villages languished.

Another reason for the growth of the towns since emancipation took place, is the freedom of action of the whole people. Every man is now at liberty to select his occupation in life, and diversity of pursuits is the result. In proportion as education is diffused, and the artificial wants of the people are multiplied, this diversity of tastes and pursuits will be greater, and one will betake himself to his farm, another to his merchandise, a third to his workshop, or to his professional pursuit.

It is gratifying to observe that the operation of these various causes, economical and social have had the effect of arresting the tide of emigration, which for some fifty years steadily flowed out of the State. At present, and for four or five years past, few persons, at any rate, few white persons, have left North Carolina for the purpose of seeking homes in the West, or elsewhere. On the contrary immigrants are coming to the State, from European countries, and from the Northern States; so that at no time within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, has there been such an increase of population as is now going on. From 1790 to 1800, the rate of increase was 21 1/2 per cent.; from 1800 to 1810, 16 per cent.; from 1810 to 1820, 15 per cent.; from 1820 to 1830, 14 1/2 per cent.; from 1830 to 1840, less than 2 1/2 per cent. These figures indicate the drain of the new planting states of the South West upon the population of North Carolina, culminating in 1840, in an almost complete cessation of increase. But the subsequent returns of the census show that the Southern demand for labor was for the time relaxing or that the supply was drawn from other sources. From 1840 to 1850 the rate of increase was above 15 1/2 per cent.; from 1850 to 1860, nearly 13 per cent.; from 1860 to 1870, nearly 8 per cent. This second period of decline in our rate of increase dates from, and was doubtless caused by the acquisition of Texas.

The present indications are that the census of 1880 will exhibit a higher rate of increase, at least as regards the white population of North Carolina, than has taken place since the year 1800. The demand in the South West may draw off a large per cent. of the colored population, and thus reduce the aggregate rate of increase in the State; but there never has been a time when our white people were so well satisfied to remain on their native soil. Even those who went West immediately after the war are beginning to return, convinced that North Carolina is, after all, the most cherishable part of the world. This testimony is borne by returning emigrants from the South-west, the West, and the North-west.

Who can doubt, in view of all these facts, that North Carolina is opening upon a grand career of progress in wealth, in population, and power?

WARRENTON N. C., August 17, 1874.

T. B. Harris & Son, of Pittsboro, have lately sold to Luke A. Powell, Clinton N. C., 1 Cotswold ram; G. R. Griffith, Pittsboro N. C., 1 pair of Berkshire pigs; J. A. Edwards, Hookerton N. C., 1 pair of Berkshire pigs; W. J. Bullock Pantego Beaufort Co. N. C., 1 boar pig.