

**Communicated.****Crops in Halifax and Edgecombe Counties -The Grange -Clingman on Bread Reform.**

MANSON, WARREN Co., N. C.,  
August 9th, 1875.

Editor of the State Agricultural Journal:

I have just returned from visiting parts of Halifax and Edgecombe counties, and have been both pained and pleased with the crop prospects. Those portions of the country visited, have, some of them, been blessed with abundant rains, while over others the heavens have been like brass the whole summer. Going East from Enfield, after leaving Sheriff Parker's, one reaches a stretch of country six miles in length and extending to the Beech Swamp bridge, where the cotton will not average more than twelve inches in height, everything is burnt up. I presume an acre of such cotton would not make more than one-tenth of a bale. The corn is in even a worse condition. The Scotland Neck country, just above, has also suffered a great deal. It is reported that the river lands East of Halifax, will this year involve their owners in considerable loss in consequence of drought. I was informed by a gentleman from Northampton county, Virginia, that the leaves of cotton plants in that region were burned to a crisp. This prospect is dreary enough, but as we go south and southeast from Beech Swamp, the crops look more and more luxurious. When we reach Edgecombe county we have already got accustomed to extensive fields of cotton, reaching far back from either side of the road, which promises a yield of three-fourths a bale per acre, and even more. The crops of Col. J. L. Bridgers, near Tarboro, are the admiration of every beholder. His cotton on the Lloyd farm is just the right height—about waist high, locking in the row and crowded with bolls and blooms.

In Halifax county, I have been pleased to observe a fair amount of enthusiasm among the Patrons. The Patrons of Indian Branch Grange have a neat building on the premises of the late Wm. R. Cherry, to whose liberality they mainly owe its possession. Elma prege, with headquarters on the also of Dr. M. S. Savage, is its own. I need to have a house of most enthusiastic ladies are about the Patrons.

While speaking of the ladies, permit me to say that I have seen nothing so deserving of universal acceptance as that portion of Gen. Clingman's letter which urged a revolution in the matter of bread making. I heartily concur with him in his views. As a people, we devour too much grease, and the consequence is the universal prevalence of dyspepsia. The women of the North West recently rose against the dram-shops; the women of the South would effect far more for good were they to rise against grease and soda. It has struck me with surprise that Mrs. Spencer, Editress of the Young Ladies Column in the *North Carolina Presbyterian*, who has abounded with many valuable and practical suggestions with reference to the education of girls, has never yet remonstrated against the almost universal ignorance of the art of cookery. In these days of incompetent household servants, the mistress of the house should know how to prepare wholesome food. I would make a suggestion: How would it do for Ceres of the State Grange to inaugurate a warfare for the reorganization of the table. Bread is the staff of life. The championship is hers of right: let her marshal the Sisters of the order in strong rebellion against the tyranny of grease and soda.

Yours fraternally,

WARREN.

Western North Carolina.

RALEIGH, N. C.,

July 31, 1875.

There is no part of the South perhaps so little known and seldom spoken of as Western North Carolina. Being almost entirely cut off from railroad communication—until quite recently—it has been seldom visited, and yet when seen, there is no prettier country under the sun.

Lying on the upper verge of the cotton belt, it is an abundant region for corn, wheat, rye, tobacco, grapes, nuts, and fruits of all kinds. The country is quite broken, being penetrated by several mountain ranges. Along the sides of highest of these, occurs the "no frost" section; in which fruit and crops pass to their natural period of maturity without injury from cold, while both above and below this belt on the mountain side, the usual early and late frosts are experienced as in all mountainous countries.

There are very few of the lands of this region too steep for cultivation, and the mountains produce

grass to their very summits, almost spontaneously. This fact renders this part of North Carolina eminently adapted to sheep growing or dairy business. While Texas and California are both profitable regions for stock-raising, yet owing to the intense heat of those States, and almost entire absence of spring water, they can never become famous for cheese and butter.

Western North Carolina on the other hand, not only abounds in springs of soft, cool water, but has less extreme heat than the best dairy regions of New York and New England. It is not expected that Western North Carolina could compete with those Northern States, in supplying the Northern markets; but it is claimed that instead of relying upon New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, as we now do for a supply of butter and cheese for the cotton and tobacco districts, our mountains region might more than supply this market, at a great saving to the planter, and a fine profit to the dairymen. A little enterprise is all that is needed. With large tracts of land to be had at a mere nominal price, say 75. cts to \$5 per acre, many plantations with a good deal of cultivated land, beautifully situated in some of those mountain valleys, with streams full of the finest trout, meandering through them, rich pastures extending from base to summit of the highest peaks, but little winter and a long, cool summer, this portion of the Old North State cannot long remain unknown and undeveloped.

Another great advantage of this section is its extreme healthfulness. There are no miasmatic diseases; chill and fever are unknown and the average age of people has frequently been remarkably high. People who have visited Lake Superior during the summer, have been impressed with the similarity of the atmosphere of this mountain region to that of that great inland sea, they find the climate of our mountains equally invigorating and the country comparatively free from insect pests.

The immigrant who searches among the mountains of Western North Carolina for the broad, fertile expanse of the *far west* will be disappointed. If he goes in quest of a healthful land where he can raise wool and mutton, and make cheese and butter, he will find what he seeks. If he has a family of a consumptive tendency, he may be morally certain that the pure, dry, cool summer air will prove beneficial.

In conclusion, I can only add that as soon as Western North Carolina shall become thoroughly known, that portion of the State will become as distinguished for its wealth, "resulting from the development of its agricultural, mineral and manufacturing capacity as it already is for the grandeur of its scenery, and the salubrity of its climate."

JOHN HINMAN.

**Cows vs. Cotton.**

We left our hero, the cotton planter, in utter despair seeking some sensational item to drown his sorrows. Now let us review the situation—perchance there is yet hope for him, and by taking a speedy "right-about" course he may place his temporal affairs on a foundation safe and sound, and if he fails not to follow his old instincts ever again, he may, we hope, reach the coveted goal.

It is well known that many of our best farmers who have raised cotton to the exclusion of other farm produce the past ten years, are now prostrate and in many cases unable to proceed successfully with the cultivation of their farms for the lack of means. This fact naturally calls forth the inquiry: will it pay to raise cotton, and to what extent?

The net cost of production in this section of the South is estimated at from ten to twelve cents per pound by the most economical planters, while some assert that it cannot be produced at a less cost than fifteen cents.

If there be any truth in these estimates, where lies the hopes of the cotton planter when his best staple only brings him 12½ to 13½ cents, with conjectures from those best informed, placing future prices far below this point.

Before the war, farmers raised cotton from necessity—they had their slaves to support, and what they produced, whether it brought them much or little money, was the only bridge that carried them over safe. Now they have only their own families to look after, and if they raise enough for the support of themselves, they are independent of all the world, and how much better off than if they produce ten or one hundred bales of cotton at a loss of ¼ cent per pound.

As an evidence that we may not expect higher prices unless the amount produced is materially reduced, we present a table showing the average price of middling cot-