

The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, August 7, 1879.

H. A. LONDON, Jr., Editor

AGRICULTURE IN CHATHAM.

The Record is fully aware of the importance of the agricultural interests of this county, and with a due appreciation of their importance, will do all within its power towards their improvement. All of our people are directly or indirectly dependent upon agriculture, upon the cultivation of the soil, for their support, and hence whatever will advance that interest will promote the common good. All will admit that our agricultural interests need improvement; that something must be done to produce a change, or our prosperity will continue to be retarded. This being so, we would suggest that our farmers lay their heads together, advise and consult with each other, and make united and organized efforts. Let them form clubs in every township, and also a central club for the whole county. At the meetings of the township clubs, they could discuss all matters relating to the cultivation of their crops, compare their experiences, speak of their failures and successes, learn the latest improvements in all implements of husbandry, and in many ways instruct each other. Much practical, substantial good could thus no doubt be accomplished. Why not then make the effort? In addition to the instruction to be derived at these meetings the farmers could thus have pleasant social reunions, which could not fail to cultivate a kindly and neighborly feeling among them. Each township club could be represented in the county club, which latter might have general supervision of all the former, and the meetings of which would be held less frequently. When these clubs are organized and prove successful, then a county fair would doubtless be held every year, at which our county products would be exhibited and compared. Now, all of our farmers will no doubt admit the truth of all we have said, and agree that something of the kind ought to be done—and yet do it!

We repeat what the Record said last week, that it will not do for an agricultural people to consume more than they produce, and as such seems to be the condition of our Chatham farmers, they must make a change. They must either improve their methods of cultivation or change their crops; and doubtless both would be better. A man, in order to be successful in any business or occupation in these days, must learn to be "up with the times," that is, he must acquaint himself with and take advantage of all the latest improvements in that business in which he is engaged. This is an age of progress in all things, and of course if a man does not keep up he must fall behind. In order to be successful, in order to keep up with his profession, the lawyer must read all the new laws and acquaint himself with the latest decisions of the courts; the physician and surgeon must learn the latest and most improved modes and methods in the treatment of diseases, and must use the best instruments in his operations; and just so must the farmer cultivate the soil after the most approved methods and with the best implements. Farming or the cultivation of the soil, requires energy and intelligence just as any other business or pursuit in life. The farmer, who keeps posted as to the improved systems of husbandry, and who uses the best implements, must necessarily succeed better than he who scorns all these "new-fangled notions," and prefers to plod along in the old rut, cultivating the soil on the system and using the same kind of implements that his fore-fathers did long years before him. The difference between these two is as great as that between the old stage coach and a Pullman palace car! And the race between them would be just as unequal. The farmer should intelligently study and learn the character of his soils, so as to be able to supply their needs. Every farmer knows that certain crops require a certain kind of soil, but he should

Correspondence.

WE WILL BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS ON ANY SUBJECTS THAT ARE OF INTEREST, BUT WE MUST INSIST ON A REASONABLE NAME ACCOMPANYING EVERY ARTICLE, AND ALSO THAT IT BE WRITTEN PLAINLY AND ONLY ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER. THE EDITOR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF CORRESPONDENTS.

FOR THE RECORD.

BEAUMONT, CHATHAM COUNTY, N. C., July 25.—1879.

MR. EDITOR—I do not often wish to communicate to your valuable paper, for two good reasons: First, it is very irksome for me to write; Second, something to present to your readers that would be of interest. I have been highly pleased with many articles from your good Chatham friends. I only regret that excellent pieces have been written over fictitious names, that the authors need not be ashamed to have given their genuine names. I like to know when I see a good article, who wrote it. It may be well enough sometimes for correspondents to withhold their names from the public, for reasons best known to themselves. I do not propose a quarrel with any who has given the name to write over, as well as I love to know who our Chatham writers are.

But, Mr. Editor, I am not writing on the subject that I intended, in this letter. I recently, through the kindness of a friend, obtained a copy of Commissioner Polk's "Hand Book," which, by the way, is a very useful work; it has a great deal of useful information in a condensed form, that makes the work very useful in North Carolina Statistics, and other short and valuable notes on various subjects and matters of interest to every North Carolinian, and reflects much credit upon our most excellent Commissioner. In looking over the book, I was a little surprised to see the amount of cotton raised in North Carolina; the quantity is greater than I supposed to be; the reports show that the amount runs up nearly to one hundred and seventy thousand bales. Taking into consideration that the great portion of our State raises as a leading crop, the results it makes the cotton crop a large item, and might be made very profitable to North Carolina, if enterprising capitalists would manufacture this vast amount at home instead of sending it abroad to have it spun and woven into cloth at heavy cost of transportation each way, having to purchase it on its return, makes it pay over the shoulder. It is somewhat strange that men who have capital do not engage in the manufacture of cotton; it pays well when properly managed. I know it has paid enterprise men well in the past, and always will pay. Cotton fabrics will always be used as wearing apparel, probably for all time to come, and will always pay the manufacturer. Cotton can be raised in North Carolina, manufactured in Manchester, England, and returned, and pays. Massachusetts lives on Southern cotton to a great extent, they make the manufacturing profitable and it really seems strange that our own people, who have never done so, in spinning and weaving cotton. We see that enterprising men in other portions of the State who have made the manufacturing of cotton a business have grown rich there, and have been of material advantage to the building up their counties. We make cotton enough in Chatham to run nine thousand spindles the year round, and if it was spun and woven at home, it would considerably advance the interest of our whole people. We have the water power abundance in our country and State, more probably than will be realized for a long time to come. Many good water powers are almost idle now, have spent largely improving them for milling purposes which does not in many instances make enough toll to pay a good miller if he got it all, yet men will build mills and spend money that cannot pay. If a few would form themselves into a company, improve some good water power and start only five-hundred spindles they could make the thing pay three or four times better than mill property. Some persons say they cannot raise money to do anything. That is all November. I hope the children will take delight in reading their county paper and keep it up for the next generation. You can hear what is going on in the county and State every week.

THE PRESS CONVENTION.

We earnestly hope that there will be full attendance of our editorial brethren at the Press Convention, to be held at Beaufort on the 20th of this month. There certainly should be some organization existing among the members of the Press in this State. Our mutual interests demand it. There should be a unity of feeling and concert of action on matters of business among newspaper men, just as there is among other business men. The short lives of many of our papers, and the precarious existence created by many more, show that there is something wrong in the business management of the Press. Let us then meet together and try to remedy this. And above all let all the rules and regulations, that may be adopted, be rigidly enforced; and every violation of them be promptly punished.

The Mountain Tramps.

The four young students of the University, Messrs. Spring of Charlotte, Manning of Chatham, Strange of Wilmington and Battle, of Chapel Hill, who left Charlotte in June for a pedestrian trip through the mountains returned yesterday afternoon, after an absence of seven weeks. During that time they walked without counting little side excursions, fishing expeditions, &c., 533 miles. Starting at Leland station, on the Western North Carolina, from which point they went to Lenoir, and thence to Watanya and Mitchell, they made the entire circuit of the Blue Ridge, taking in all the prominent falls, peaks, &c., and finally landed at Toccoa Falls in Georgia, where they took the train for home. They were perfectly delighted with their trip, and each man thinks he would be willing to take it over again immediately. The party are much improved in health and were not detained an hour by sickness on the whole trip. The fastest time reported is eleven miles in two hours and twenty minutes over a rough mountain road.—Charlotte Observer.

Murder.

Deputy Sheriff Wm. Suttle, of Rutherford county, summoned a posse of men last Saturday night for the purpose of arresting two negroes who had stolen some horses in South Carolina, and who were at that time loitering around the village of Burnt Chimney. While the officer and his men were attempting to arrest the horse thieves, they commenced cutting and shooting. Mr. John Butler, a very worthy citizen, was shot, from the effects of which he died very soon afterwards, and some others of the party were slightly wounded by the negroes. The officers returned the fire and a general fight ensued, which resulted in one of the negroes receiving several wounds before their capture. The negroes are now in jail at Rutherford.—Charlotte Observer.

Good Wheat Crops.

Daniel Rominger, tenant on H. W. Fries' plantation at Clemmonsville, Davidson county, threshed out 615 from 42 bushels sown,—nearly 15 to 1. Weight of wheat to the bushel, 62 lbs. This is good farming, and goes far to prove that this section of North Carolina is capable of producing to advantage two great cereals, wheat and corn, as well as fine tobacco and in fact all farm products can be grown with profit, if properly managed.—Salem Press.

Refugees Released.

New York, July 30.—All Memphis refugees sent to quarantine by the board of health last week were discharged to day.

Many such lots could be bought at low figures and on accommodating terms, and would enable companies to start with comparative light cost, and enable them to soon do better. I do hope to see a spirit of enterprise among our people. Farming will not make you much money, in many instances, it is hard to make both ends meet, while manufacturing always brings wealth when properly managed. Our people must change their base and make more of our goods, and more at home and live within our resources, or times will always be hard and money scarce. I will close this crude article, and will try to do better next time.

Jones A. Price.

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In looking over the book, I was a little surprised to see the amount of cotton raised in North Carolina; the quantity is greater than I supposed to be; the reports show that the amount runs up nearly to one hundred and seventy thousand bales. Taking into consideration that the great portion of our State raises as a leading crop, the results it makes the cotton crop a large item, and might be made very profitable to North Carolina, if enterprising capitalists would manufacture this vast amount at home instead of sending it abroad to have it spun and woven into cloth at heavy cost of transportation each way, having to purchase it on its return, makes it pay over the shoulder. It is somewhat strange that men who have capital do not engage in the manufacture of cotton; it pays well when properly managed. I know it has paid enterprise men well in the past, and always will pay. 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