THE NORTH CAROLINA STAR.

THOMAS J. LEMAY, Editor. NORTH CAROLINA—"Powerful in intellectual, moral and physical resources, the land of our sires and home of our affections." LEONIDAS B. LEMAY, Associate Editor.

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THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMER.

NOTICE.

To the Farmers of North Carolina!

Having discontinued the North Carolina Farmer, for want of sufficient patronage, we shall endeavor to make the Star interesting to such of our friends who may think proper to transfer their subscriptions, to this paper, by devoting, weekly, *several columns* of original and selected articles, on the all-important, but too much neglected subject, of AGRICULTURE.

Will not the Farmers and others of North Carolina, repay our zeal in their behalf, with the treasures of their pens and purses? "Agriculture is the GREAT ART, which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of land practice, and every inquirer into nature improve;" and we would especially exhort our Agriculturists to rouse up to the great importance of this species of information—let them *read agricultural works* and give to the State and the world the result of their own *experience—Read* and WRITE! Our columns will be ever open to their communications.

The STAR will also contain as usual, Foreign and Domestic News and Political and Commercial Intelligence, besides a considerable amount of Literary, Scientific and Miscellaneous matter, which we trust will interest all classes of the community.

TERMS—$2 50 per annum in advance.

T. J. LEMAY & SON.

Raleigh, Aug. 21, 1850.

☞ Our thanks to our Agricultural friends for handsome accessions to our subscription list. We are glad they appreciate our arrangement and trust every subscriber to the Farmer will immediately transfer his subscription to the Star. We would again, in this connexion, urge upon the farmers of North Carolina to WRITE—all communications on this subject will be welcomed to our columns.

LUCERNE.

At the suggestion of an esteemed subscriber, we give the following hints on the cultivation of Lucerne—a productive grass, resembling clover.—It delights in a deep, fertile sandy loam, which should be well manured and thoroughly broken up. It may be sown broadcast, if subsoiled deeply, but the best way to cultivate it is in drills. If time be not present in the spring, sow ten bushels lime and harrow in thoroughly. Fifteen pounds of seed per acre, when drilled, and twenty when sowed broadcast, are the quantities. Lucerne, thus managed, may be cut from three to four times in a season.—It is certainly one of the most prolific grasses known, while, at the same time, it is one of the most nourishing. It is relished by all kinds of stock, and it promotes a secretion of milk and imparts a rich and delicate flavor to butter. As a soiling grass it has no equal, being the earliest in the Spring and latest in the Fall. As a dairy grass it stands peerless. Make the experiment on a acre, in March or April and you will not be disappointed.

SHEEP—WOOL AND WOOL DEPOTS.

By H. Blanchard, Columbia county, N. Y.

SIR: A circular from your office has recently been handed to me by Dr. J. P. Beekman, of this town, in which sundry questions are propounded on the subject of sheep husbandry, with a request from that I should prepare some statements with reference to the subject, but more particularly in relation to the question, "Have you wool depots, and are they found advantageous for wool-grower and manufacturer?"

1st. "*What the prevailing races.*"—Each of the different varieties of sheep grown in the United States may be found in the State of New York Wool growers located in the vicinity of our large cities and towns, who have heretofore bred fine Saxony sheep, have, to a great extent, within the past five years, changed their flocks for large-framed, coarse-wooled sheep, whose carcasses are suitable for mutton. The success attendant upon the growth of each kind appears to have depended upon the skill and management of the grower, and the facilities enjoyed for the sale of the wool or carcass.—Those residing near cities or large villages, or possessing easy facilities for reaching those places, may find large-framed, coarse-wooled sheep, to a *limited* extent, profitable; but such is not the fact in regard to the great mass of wool-growers in the United States. The profits arising from these flocks must result from the wool, or from the sale of sheep made valuable, by the skill of the breeder, for their superior fleece.

Where the facilities for selling have been such that the instrinsic value of the fine fleece could be obtained, (I think I am not hazarding too much by saying,) that the profits arising from the growth of fine wool have been greater than on the lower grades; but where these facilities for selling have not been enjoyed, the profits have been in favor of the grower of medium and low qualities. As a proof of this reference may be had to the success of the fine wool growers in those sections of the country where by reason of their superior clips and large flocks, great inducements were held out to fine wool purchasers to visit them for the purpose of buying; and thus a competition was created which resulted in fair prices; while in other sections, where equally as fine wool was produced, but in less quantities, or where the low, medium, and high grades were grown promiscuously, there producing the fine qualities have been under the necessity of selling their fine wool at 2 or 3, or at most 5 cents only, above the price paid for the common or low grades; and that too, when the superior condition of the fine fleece alone, independent of its quality, would make that difference; thus sustaining a loss of all their skill, care, and expense in breeding fine instead of common or medium wool.

5th. "*Where your markets.*"—Until the commencement of the year 1845, no general system for the selling of wool had been adopted in this country. Some wool-growers carried their clips directly to the door of the manufacturer, and accepted the price which was there offered; others awaited the arrival of the manufacturer or his agent, to negotiate sales at their own doors; some depended on the country merchant as a purchaser, who bought to sell again; others upon the wool dealer or speculator, who would buy, if the margin in the price promised a good profit; some forwarded their wool to the large cities to be sold at commission houses. The wool thus found its way to the loft of the manufacturer through a variety of channels; with one or more intervening profits after leaving the hands of the grower. At a meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society, held at Poughkeepsie, in the fall of 1844, the inequality of prices obtained by the diversified modes of selling wool, induced Dr. John P. Beekman, then President of the Society, and other leading agriculturists of the State, being themselves extensive wool-growers, to devise the plan of selling their clips through the medium of a wool depot.

One of the prominent causes of the success of the European manufacturer of woollen fabrics may be found in their ready access to wool dealers and staplers, where a nice discrimination is made in classifying the various styles and qualities of wool, which enables them to select that which is exactly suitable for the goods they wish to produce. The principles involved in this system are not new it being conducted upon those of a commission business; but it is only the details and application of these principles to wool when received direct from the grower, that had never before in this country been applied in the same discriminating manner, and with as little expense as by this system. By the classification and arrangement of the fleeces, facilities are given to the manufacturer to purchase, in an intelligent manner, the style and quality best adapted to his goods, while at the same time, the grower's interest is protected by the different grades being offered for sale to such, and such only, as require them.

Upon the delivery of the wool at the depot, each lot is weighed and a receipt given to the owner for the amount. The fleeces are then carefully examined and classed according to their quality; each class or sort is weighed, and a record made of the weight. It is then examined with reference to its condition. If any portion of the clip is found to be unwashed, or partially washed, or to contain filth, taggs, or other substance inside of the fleece except well-washed wool, a discount is made upon the weight of such fleeces. A record is made of this discount, and it is charged over to the owner and allowed to the manufacturer or purchaser. The fleeces when thus classed compose a sort of equal value in quality and condition. When there is any thing in the style or condition of the wool which renders it of more than ordinary value, or, if the owner wishes, it is kept separate from other clips, after being sorted. The various sorts are known by the following designations; super, extra, prime, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, de laine N. 3, No. 4, de laine No. 4, No. 5, and long combing.

There are few flocks, however carefully bred which will not embrace three or four of the above mentioned classes—many six or even eight of them. Hence the wool-grower under the old system, when disposing of his wool to a manufacturer, using the lower grades, must expect that such a price only will be offered for his whole clip as the lower grades are worth; and the fine wool manufacturer will not become a purchaser unless a large proportion of the clips of a quality suited to his purpose. It will readily be seen that these difficulties may be obviated by a judicious classification of the fleeces. The following statement will show the usual relative value of the different sorts, and the uses to, in part, to which they are applied. The prices here mentioned for the finer qualities are taken from from the highest range of the present year. For the lower qualities there has been an unusual demand, and prices have ranged higher. No 5, which is the coarsest grade, and used for making coarse satinets, bazes, and the coarser kinds of heavy goods 25 cents; No. 4, used for low flannels, satinets, and ¾ cloths, 28 cents; No. 4, de laine, used for a medium kind of worsted goods, 29 cents; No. 3, used for flannels, medium cassimeres and satinets, and low-priced broadcloths, 31 cents; No. 3 de laine, used for mousseline de laines and other combing purposess, 32 cents; No. 2 adopted to fine fancy cassimeres and medium broadcloths, 35 cents; No. 1, used for used for similar purposes as No. 2, 39 cents; prime, 44 cents; extra, 50 cents; super, 60 cents. Another quality may be selected from the super, called super-super, worth 75 cents. These high grades are used for the finer qualities of cassimeres and broadcloths. The difference between Nos. 3 and 4, and the de laine or combing qualities of the same numbers, consists in length and strength of staples, not in the fineness of the fibre.

As a further illustration of the relative value of wool, we may take the standard of prices applied in 1846 7 by some of the large manufacturers of fine wool to their sorts, after the fleeces have been parted on the stapler's bench. Two examples will be given, with the name and price of each sort; super, 80 cents; extra, 65 cents; prime, 52 cents; No. 1, 44 cents; No. 2, 38 cents; No. 3, 33 cents; No. 4, 28 cents; No. 5, 25 cents; listing, 20 to 22 cents. Extra, 90 cents; picklock, 75 cents; No. 1, 63 cents; No. 2, 53 cents; No. 3, 45 cents; No. 4, 38 cents; No. 5, 32 cents; No. 6, 27 cents; No. 7, 23, cents; and listing 20 cents. I have invariably found it the case that the fine wool manufacturer attaches a much higher value to the fine qualities in his sorts, than a manufacturer of medium wools would to the same quality of wool; also, that the manufacturer of low and medium qualities attaches a higher value to the low qualities, than the fine wool manufacturer does to wool of the same grade. Few if any of the manufacturers of low or medium goods reach a point in the stapler's scale above 50 cents. They usually make a less number of sorts, and estimate about five cents' difference between each.

It needs no argument to show that the manufacturer of fine broadcloths, cassimeres, satinets, flannels or worsted goods, can at a depot select such wools as are exactly suited to his peculiar style of goods, without being under the necessity of purchasing a single fleece he does not want; and that with such facilities, it is for his interest to pay a fair market price according to the relative value of the style or quality he wishes to work; and futhermore, that he is not paying for filth concealed inside of the fleece, instead of wool.

It is for the interest of the wool-grower, as well as the manufacturer, that they should be brought together with the least possible expense, and in a manner that the improvements or frauds of the one should not escape the notice of he other. I have the opinion of several manufacturers, who certainly ought to be competent judges of the fact—that full five cents per pound intervenes when the wool finds its way from the grower to them, through the ordinary channels of trade; whereas, under the depot system, one and a half cents per pound will cover all expense for receiving, insuring, sorting, storing and selling.

Those who have been the friends and supporters of this enterprise, by annually depositing their clips, find that it affords an excellent opportunity of having it examined by a competent judge, and its merits or defects pointed out; and, by comparing it side by side with other clips, to learn the true character and value of their wool. Again: the depot forms a kind of *exchange*, at which place, during the season for depositing wool, the growers may meet and compare views, communicate and receive information concerning the improvements each have made and from the books of the agent determine, from the sorting of different clips, and the prices obtained for each, which is most profitable; and also where those flocks which produce the style of wool they wish to grow are to be found.—Other duties may prevent the farmer from bestowing as much time as is necessary to procure that information which is essential to become a successful grower of wool. It very naturally falls within the range of the duties of the agent of a depot to collect just that kind of information most needed, and from his records it is easily conveyed to the wool-grower.

It may readily be seen from what has been said, that, in order to insure a successful prosecution of the depot system, large quantities of wool must be deposited in one place; for unless this be the case, a sufficient quantity of each sort cannot be obtained to make it worth the attention of the manufacturer to visit a depot and make his own purchases.

The question naturally arises, will the manufacturer approve of this system in making his purchase? Knowing them to be a shrewd, cautious and enterprising class of business men, before deciding upon the feasibility of the depot system, I visited many of the most prominent manufacturing establishments, and after prenting the object I had in view, received from them assurances that it met with their cordial approbation. I also received from them much valuable information in regard to the relative value of their sorts, the adaptation of the various styles and qualities of wool to the different kinds of goods manufactured, which it would have been difficult to have procured from any other source: It is now five years since the first wool depot was established in this country. The approbation of manufacturers has been manifested by their purchasing all the wools deposited with me at their full market value. An annual increase of the quantity received, in the ratio of fifty per cent. per annum, justifies the conclusion that it meets with the entire approbation of the enterprising wool-growers.

The position is assumed by some, and with a degree of plausibility, that, were a large portion of the wool-growers to turn their attention to the growth of fine wool the market would be overstocked, and consequently prices decline; but we live in an age of improvement; our manufacturing and agricultural interests are not behind the spirit of the age.

The woollen manufacturers of this country, by reason of their enterprise, skill, and long experience, and the improvements in machinery, are rapidly progressing towards that state of perfection in their goods which will enable them to compete successfully with the foreign manufacturer. This will lead to a continually increasing demand for such qualities of wool as are adapted to the making of fine cloths and other superior fabrics. The process of raising the standard of the character of a low grade of flock is slow and tedious; and I have no doubt that after a quarter of a century spent in trying the various improvements suggested within that time, that we are only approximating towards that high degree of excellence in our flocks, as a *whole*, which is to be found in some of the choice flocks of Europe. Yet our improvements have been so great as to justify the assertion that as fine wools can be grown in the United States as in any other part of the world.

The supply of wool grown in this country is far below the demand for home consumption. About eighteen millions of pounds of wool were imported in 1849 to supply this deficiency. A large additional quantity will soon be wanted to manufacture such fabrics as are now wholly supplied by foreign manufacture; and which the ingenuity and enterprise of our citizens will soon produce. Within the last two years from three to five millions of pounds per annum have been used in the fabrication of two descriptions of goods, which were previously imported from Europe.—With a soil, climate, and heritage as well adapted to the growing of wool as any other part of the world, no good reason can be adduced why the skill and capital of our enterprising agriculturists should not meet with a reward as great as that which has crowned the efforts of the cotton planter; and taking into consideration our great extent of territory, the day is not far distant when the value of wool exported from this country will approximate somewhat towards that of cotton, though it may never equal it.

The effect produced upon wool by keeping of sheep.—The condition of the animal should be uniform from the time of one shearing until the next. If this is not the case the effect upon the wool will be injurious; for while the sheep is *fattening*, the wool will be of a grosser growth, and the fibre larger; and when it has become poor, the growth will be less vigorous, and the fibre smaller; and you have this result—(which will readily be discovered by a practical eye in examining a fleece.) two qualities of wool in the same fibre. I have seen flocks which were well kept for six months after shearing, and then run down in flesh and remain poor until the next shearing, when the outer end of the staple was one full quality in fineness below the inner end; also when the animal had been well kept at the beginning and end of the year, but poorly kept and run down in the winter, that the middle of the fibre showed the same difference. This not only reduces the quality of the wool in the stapler's scale to the lowest coarsest grade in the fibre, but also makes the fibre weak and tender in the fine part, grown when the animal was poor. The result of bad keeping, also, often injures the health of the sheep, which, in addition to the evils spoken of, gives the wool a knotty appearance, and a tightness of the fleece.—When the condition of the sheep is good, and they continue vigorous and healthy during the whole year, the fibre of the fleece will be free and uniform in quality, and the fleece heavier and more valuable than when they are alternately changing from a high to a low state of flesh. *The fineness of the fibre should be produced by the high blood of the sheep, and not by poor keeping.*

On Washing and Shearing.—Before turning out to pasture in the spring, the sheep should be well tagged, care being taken to remove all the locks of wool that would be likely to retain filth. Very early washing often proves injurious; and especially is this true in regard to fine-wooled sheep. It should be delayed until the warm weather has fully commenced, which is usually not until June, when the water becomes sufficiently warm to facilitate the removal of the filth from the wool. Too early washing and shearing often expose the sheep to cold storms and the chilling effects of cold nights, without the necessary covering provided by nature for them; while too late shearing exposes them to the rays of a hot, burning sun, before the new growth of wool has attained a sufficient length to shield them from its effects.

The manner of washing sheep must necessarily vary, for all have not equal facilities.—Pools of stagnant water should be avoided.—Better not to wash at all than have your flocks poorly washed; for if not washed, you arrive at the value of the fleece, compared with clean wool, by a well-known and established rule of discount.

The best mode is to use a running stream; or a vat with a stream of water, having a fall of a few feet, pouring into it. Just previous to washing, the sheep should be thoroughly wet, without squeezing the wool, and suffered to stand crowded together for a few hours, until the soapy substance, and oil, or gum, which the wool contains, unites; when again taken into the water, and the wool squeezed with the hands, the whole of the filth readily separates from the wool and passes off with the running stream. In the common mode of washing, the soapy substance first passes out of the wool, only partially uniting with the oil and gum, after which it is impossible to remove the gum—no matter how much time may be spent in washing. Care should be taken to wash the fleece thoroughly in all its parts. I have seen frauds attempted to be perpetrated by washing the back and sides, and leaving the belly and skirts unwashed, which, in rolling up the fleece, were carefully concealed. After washing, the sheep should be suffered to run in a clean greens-ward pasture a sufficient time for the wool to get dry, which is usually in four or five days, and then shearing should be divided, and the washing done at different times, or they will run too long before being shorn. The place assigned to the flock when collected for shearing should be well littered with straw, and kept clean, so as to prevent the filth consequent upon their being close together, from getting upon the wool.

In shearing; great care should be taken to keep the fleece whole. Each clip of the shears should sever a part of the wool from the sheep, and a second clip either on that part of the animal, or on the part of the fleece just severed, should be avoided; for clippings thus made are useless and a total loss. After shearing, the fleece should be removed to a table, or clean smooth place on the floor, with the inner part down; then gathered up into as compact a position as it occupied when on the sheep; the sides of the fleece should then be folded over, so far as to meet on the the back of the fleece, the head and neck thrown back so as to make the fold upon the shoulder; next be folded or rolled from the butt of the fleece and continued until you reach the shoulder. The fleece should then be snugly tied with a small smooth twine, passing around two, or at most three times. You thus have a compact fleece, easy to open, and the shoulder, which is the finest part, upon the outside. Buyers always expect to see the *best side out*, and wool, growers sometimes do themselves injustice by not thus exhibiting their fleeces. I do not believe that the manufacturers, as a whole, in this country, are yet prepared to pay a sufficient advance beyond the present prices, to justify the grower of wool in removing all of the ribs, belly locks, and skirts from the fleece, as is done with the fine wools of Germany. I would, therefore at present, put inside of the fleece all the well-wash and clean wool shorn from the sheep; carefully excluding all such locks as are filthy, or below the residue of the fleece in condition.

For fear of extending this communication to too great a length, I would refer your readers to the prize essay on this subject written by the honorable Daniel S. Curtis, and published in the transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society for 1848, pages 245, &c.—This essay contains many valuable hints on the subject of sheep husbandry.

Hon. THOMAS EWBANK,
Commissioner of Patents.

TO KILL THE PEACH GRUB.

A writer in the Genneseee Farmer recommends the following:

1. In the spring examine the roots thoroughly, as long as they exude red gum containing the excrete of the grub. Draw with a hoe a mound of earth about six inches high around the body of the tree and not remove it till the first frosts, and then examine; if there are any grubs they will be so high up that they are easily discovered and killed.

2. Draw away as before and apply around the body a quantity of straight straw, about one foot high, letting the lower ends run out a few inches on the ground to cover with earth, and bind with a straw or other band in two places.

3. Bind on a sheet of straw paste board or binders' boards and if tarred all the better. In all cases clean the tree the first frosts, as after that period there is no danger of the fly's impregnating the tree, being past its season. It is of no use to tar or apply any offensive substance to the body of the tree, for as it grows and expands, the bark cracks and exposes the tender part where the fly deposits its eggs.

The parent of this grub is not unlike the black wasp, with steel blue wings and a yellow ring around its abdomen. Its habits are very sly and not easy to detect, in July the grub goes into the chrysalis state enveloped in a red dish glazed case and lays on the top of the earth at the root of the tree.

We were shown a few weeks ago, two of these insects, by our intelligent and enterprising townsman, Mr. Sylvester Smith, who has commenced a farm in this vicinity on the right principles.

To manure and improve a peach orchard already set out, put it under the operation of some hoed crop. Manure and work among the trees as if they were a great corn hill and so keep doing till it is in a thrifty state, when it may lay awhile in grass, but not to clover, their long tap roots get rather more than their share of the nutriment and moisture of the soil.

BATHE YOURSELVES.

A contemporary (we forget who) has most truly said the neglect to bathe is INEXCUSABLE whether we consult comfort, health or luxury. Indeed there can be no greater luxury in this excessively warm weather than the invigorating, health-giving cold bath, and it should be resorted to daily, once if not oftener by every individual who would consult health or comfort. It is the work of only a few minutes, if there is no bathing house near, when you first rise in the morning and again when you retire at night to step into a tub of cold water eight to ten inches deep, having a bowl well filled before you, and with a huck towel (we think it preferable to the sponge, made perfectly wet, give yourself a most agreeable and refreshing bath. It secures cleanliness, promotes health and adds very much to ones comfort, and no one who desires either should neglect its performance. Try it for three days or a week, and our word for it you will not require to be urged to it afterwards.

NO EXCUSE. Our farmers never forget the barn the corn crib, nor the spring house; but a bath room quite necessary to the comfort and health of their house holds, rarely enters into the calculations even when it is impossible to convey a sufficient supply of the element directly into the house, a sponge and plentiful buckets of water, will be found to answer the purpose admirably, where the bath is unattainable. No person is excusable for neglecting a daily ablution with the common wash bowl and pitcher, apparatus within the reach of all. The only objection that can be urged against this healthful practice, is prompted by indolence a cowardly shrinking from the trouble and mayhap, of the first plunge. But this grows less and less habit steps in to aid us, and by rising a few minutes earlier, the busiest man or women may secure the necessary time.

In the cities and some of the villages the presence of bath houses precludes the necessity of the made; it need only be resorted to therefore where the luxury of a bath house is unknown. The planters and their families should by no means neglect it, and we assure many of their wives and daughters, that it would give to all of them that roseate hue for which too many sigh in vain, to say nothing of its power to impart vigor and strength to the system of those who suffer from lassitude.

WARM SPRINGS.

We visited these celebrated Springs last week, for the first time; we have always been so healthy we have been afraid to venture. We were "biled," washed out, and escaped unharmed. These Springs boil up from the ground in various places in a low place, right on the margin of French Broad and Spring Creek, two beautiful cold streams; the temperature of the water is 105°, sufficiently hot to kill a snake or fish in three minutes! They were first owned by Wm. Neilson, Sen., and then by Mr. Neilson, Jr., then by Capt. Garrett, of S. C. ten years, then by G. K. Sisney 4 years, since that time 1831, they have been in possession of J. W. and J. E. Patton. The present building, a most beautiful one, 230 feet long, 2 stories high, with a piazza fronting the River, the whole length studded by 13 massive columns, 20 feet high; the dining room is 80 by 40 feet; the ball and bar rooms, parlors, &c., are all airy and comfortable. In addition to this, there are six brick buildings for families and single gentlemen, all beautifully situated on a level surface, and in a fine grove of locust and other trees set out by the proprietors. The house will accommodate comfortably, 250 persons; 240 persons can be seated at the table at once.

The premises were built at the great expense, and were burnt down 18th Sept. 1838, and were re-opened July 1, 1839. The greatest amount of visiters were from '33 to '32. The failure of banks which then set in, the discovery of new Springs, and other causes, caused the company to fall off; last year was the best for some years past. A stable 60 by 160 was burnt with the house. The proprietors built a good bridge across the river in 1832, and rebuilt it in 1842. The river at this point is 140 yards wide, tolerably rapid, and at one place quite deep. The Springs are beautifully located 60 yards from the river, a handsome lawn in front, gravel walks, &c., and in the rear a large scope of fine and well cultivated land, gradually succeeded by sloping mountains and towering rocks. There are fine yards, stables, gardens, lots, &c., attached, rendering everything neat and comfortable. With the addition of a cold bathing place, which might be easily put up at the mill and a little replastering and painting, the Warm Springs would not only be the prettiest, but the most desirable watering place we have ever seen away from the sea shore.

Mr. Patton has an abundant supply of all goods things for the table and taste, this season, well served and bountifully supplied.

He has a band of music under the leadership of "McKinney," a superb violin player, assisted by Marshall, Wilsons, Jenkins, &c. With the exception of the *violoncello*, the music is good; that instrument pours forth as many dolorous discordant sounds as could well be imagined by the keenest musical perception. For want of room we must defer further comments till next week, but if any one wants fine venison and fat ducks, let him fly to the Warm Springs. We speak from *experience*.

Ashville Messenger.

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Star.

No. 6.

Schools instead of Poor Houses, Degradation and Crime.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In a previous number we ventured the following opinion, with the promise, that we would give our reasons for it in a future number. If we afford the means of mental cultivation to one portion of our population, and neglect the other portion, we depress the neglected, in the same proportion, that we elevate the favored. This we think, can be clearly demonstrated. We have already shown that the very poor children of our State which compose a numerous class, cannot obtain an education in any of the schools which we now have in operation. A great majority of those who receive instruction in our common schools, and those of a higher grade are possessed of at least a competency of this world's goods. It is clear then, that the school fund and the sums given by individuals for educational purposes, go almost wholly to educate, not the entirely destitute, but those who possess the means of securing, at least, a fair English education. If you will visit our common schools, you will find but few of the most needy in constant attendance. If you will look into the academies and colleges in the State, you will find an occasional beneficiary, but their number is comparatively small, very small, and as a general thing they are not selected from the most destitute class. Every one must see therefore, that the current of educational benefits arising from the State and from individual liberality, flows almost entirely above the extremely poor and diffuses itself through the ranks of the wealthy and those in easy or comfortable circumstances; making at least, the comparatively rich, richer, and the poor, poorer. Thus we favour the already favoured, and depress the already deeply depressed. The poor man possessing intelligence and refinement may be at perfect ease in the company of a wealthy ignoramus, because he feels a real superiority. But, when the poor man knows that his companion has the advantage of him both in wealth and intelligence, then it is, that he realizes a sense of inferiority which presses upon his soul and crushes his spirit. Now, by entirely neglecting the extremely poor and affording facilities to those in more comfortable circumstances, we make this painful inferiority still more palpable. If this course is fair, it is certainly not wise. The State should throw her fostering care as far as possible, around every child within her bounds; and especially the defenseless and helpless. If any are neglected, it should be those who are able to take care of themselves. If North Carolina will educate all her poor children, she will arise to preeminence. But, let her neglect this, and she will continue a by-word to her sisters.—It is time we awake. Will not our next Legislature take firm hold on the subject.—Every member who loves his State, (this they all do,) and who wishes to create for himself a pure and lasting fame, should never rest until he sees schools established throughout the State, adequate to the wants of the poor.

DISCIPLE.

Pittsboro', August 18th, 1850.

For the Star.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I have read with much interest several articles in your paper, signed "Disciple," and headed "Schools instead of Poor Houses, Degradation and Crime." They are well written, on a subject of very great importance, and ought to awaken attention in our State, to the condition and claims of a part of our people hitherto too much neglected.

This writer shows, by facts and arguments,

1. That there is a close and almost necessary connection between ignorance, pauperism and crime.

2. That while our common school system is of great utility in educating the masses, yet that it does not make adequate provision for the educational wants of that portion of the rising generation from which our county poor houses are to be filled, unless the chief cause of pauperism can be removed, by affording to them, at public expense, suitable means of a plain business education.

3. The remedy proposed, is the establishment of a school in each county or in a district composed of several counties, to which the children of all those who cannot or will not avail themselves of the common School system, and who are being raised in ignorance and pauperism may be sent by authority of law, be taught in the useful branches of a plain English education, and be instructed to earn a creditable livelihood. The reasons to sustain this policy are many and powerful. In a pecuniary point of view this would evidently be a good measure for the Old North State.—Many of those who would receive this benefit, under the existing laws are supported by the State; others, without this help, will assuredly become a tax upon the public, who, without it, will be useful citizens.

In consequence of having read the articles alluded to, I have made inquiry at the Poor House of Wake county; and I learn that there are 40 paupers there, and that *more than four-fifths of them cannot read*, thus sustaining far beyond my expectations, the views presented by "Disciple." "*Ex uno disce omnes.*" From this instance we may judge how the matter stands throughout the State. But I forbear. I did not begin this communication to argue the subject, but to call attention to the arguments already so ably presented.

Let us not confine our attention to Internal Improvements of one kind only; but let us do our best to improve the *soil*, and above all the *mind* of the good Old North State. H.

Aug. 22d, 1850.

THE CENTRAL RAIL ROAD.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—We hail the day which begins this great and much needed work of Internal Improvement. We hail it as a great triumph that the Old North is going to unite the East and the West in all their interest.—And we hail the coming of the Engineer corps to commence at once, this great and glorious work, and that the citizens will lend all the aid they can to enable them to have a speedy consummation of the entire line of road.—And we hail this crisis as being a happy era in the history of the State and its people, for then will the sons of the Old North State have it in their power to learn to become able scientific machinists and good mechanics. Every farmer on both sides of the entire line and for ten miles back of the road, from Goldsboro' up to the terminus, should lend their aid in helping the engineers by pointing out the best possible way of line for the road, for it will increase the value of their property fourfold, and will furnish them with a cheap expeditious mode of travel to the very best of markets in our own State, for all kinds of produce, and every species of timber will command good prices, both at home and at more distant markets. And all along the line, what they now call log-rolling to burn, will be forever done away, for then the very poorest and shortest of wood will answer for the steam engines, and will command from 1½ to $2 per cord, and the farmers should vie with each other to have the road to pass through or near their lands as possible, for they above all others, will reap vast benefits from the improvement.—And we hope that the labors of the energetic and able engineer Mr. Gwyn will give the most of his time to it in person, for he could render great and important services both to the road and people, and could satisfy the farmers of the great utility and benefit that it would be to them, and in this way he would be able to secure the right of way favorable both for the stockholders and farmers, for instead of the road being assessed for the right of way, the farmers almost in every instance should be anxious to have it pass by or near their property, and should be willing to be assessed, as it will greatly increase the value of their lands. And we think the highest commendation and praise is due to the last Legislature for siding upon pure principles of patriotism, for the benefit of the whole State, in granting its citizens the charter for the road, and we think, (although many have expressed their fears, that the next Legislature will try to clog, or hinder the progress of this great work,) that they will rather give it a fresh impetus for its advancement and for a quick and speedy accomplishment, at all events we have no fears that they will in any way try to hinder it. For we think that the glorious and noble action of the last Legislature will forbid it, and the present position of the whole State, and particularly the East and West having been so long alienated from each other, with the speedy prospects of being both united in all their interest will forbid it. And the just and merited praise which the action of our last Legislature has received from nearly all the States in the Union for granting a charter to make a road to enable them to retain all the produce of the State and to help them to build up their own towns and sea-ports forbid it. And we think that the entire action of our next Legislature, with the services of an Edwards, a Dobbin, a Saunders, and a host of other intelligent members, will forbid it, and will give all the aid they possibly can for a speedy completion of the whole system of internal improvements, that they may receive from the hearts of their present constituents, the plaudits of good and faithful servants, and that future generations may bless their memories.

CLINTON.

YANKEE SULLVIAN.

The Police Gazette says that Yankee Sullivan is not dead. The report of his having been shot in California is untrue.