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." WILLIAM G. HOUP, Associate Editor

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AGRICULTURAL.

CLAY AS A MANURE.

BY D. WHITE, ESQ.

[illegible] been said of late in refer[illegible] as a manure; and in certain [illegible] and application of it is, [illegible] prescribed with considerable [illegible] says that the oldest work in [illegible] used as a manure, was pub[illegible] century ago. The *mania* for [illegible] its climax in England, in [illegible] time its most strenuous ad[illegible] but little in favor of its gene[illegible] though very many farmers still [illegible] often with most flattering suc[illegible] has never as yet been [illegible] in this country, if it [illegible] of the *modus operandi*, or [illegible] published. Many have [illegible] experiments with apparently the [illegible] exhaustless zeal, but have [illegible] to cool and their efforts at [illegible] first discouraging circumstance. [illegible] expect too great and too immediate [illegible] from their hasty and ill-directed [illegible] disappointment follows, and the pro[illegible] forthwith, as a matter of [illegible] making experiments of any [illegible] is best to begin on a small scale: [illegible] nature, the failure involves no [illegible] and valuable information, often [illegible] subjects, is required at trifling [illegible] for experiments that result unfavorably [illegible] equally useless valuable to the farmer [illegible] as they inculcate than those which [illegible] successfully, or in accordance with [illegible] expectations and desires. During [illegible] in this country, Cobbett, whose [illegible] is universally and justly depre[illegible] use of burnt clay, with considerable [illegible] M. [illegible] of his experiments were [illegible] Long Island, and are detailed with [illegible] precision and accuracy, regard[illegible] which, when over [illegible] all his state[illegible] may be the subject [illegible] whose opinions on all topics are [illegible] a kindred branch [illegible] Transcendentalist and Abolitionist [illegible] Magazine," says—I regret that [illegible] of horse-radish and the office [illegible] leave so far overrated their value [illegible] are useful and proper to be at[illegible] the grass to be raised on property [illegible] ground, and used as a green food [illegible] the burnt clay as a corrector of the [illegible] arrangement of a stubborn clay [illegible] I have no doubt, if they had only [illegible] recommended for these valuable purposes, [illegible] have been enough in a more quiet [illegible] than they now are, or will be till the [illegible] against them, arising from disap[illegible] the expectations, raised high by too flat[illegible] prophetic, are removed." Where a [illegible] facilities for burning clay, a limited [illegible] will no doubt be an advantage in pro[illegible] higher degree of fertility in certain [illegible] large amount of capital in detail is [illegible] well, as a general thing, unless under [illegible] circumstances, never to reduce [illegible] a dressing. Cash expended in re[illegible] insoluble matter to ashes, to be disseminated [illegible] by sale of his enclosures, will pay a [illegible] dividend, and operate powerfully [illegible] permanent improvement of the soil.—[illegible] Farmer may, with comparative ease, [illegible] from two to three hundred bushels of [illegible] ashes, at a small expense, and the effects of the same, when applied to his crops [illegible], will be of almost decided and beneficial character. Bushes, weeds, chips, and [illegible] all famous or semi-legume as substances [illegible] to be had recourse to for this purpose.—[illegible] turfs and sods are often accumulated and [illegible] to supply this article, so essential to a healthy vegetation on soils of a certain class.

Windham, Maine, 1850.

Seasonable Sketch.

From Arthur's Home Gazette.

UNCLE BASIL'S VALENTINE.

BY HETTY GREEN.

Uncle Basil, dear old man! It is a shame for me to play off my tricks upon him. But, it seems as if I could'nt help it, sometimes. He's such a fine subject!—so earnest-hearted so strangely literal and simple minded for a man who has passed along through the world of business, and gained the ripe age of three score years and five.

Dear old man! Well may I say that; for he has been to me, since the night of my fifth summer fell upon my head, in the place of father, mother and friend. And do I not love him? How warmly my heart responds to the question!

And yet, for all, I can't help teasing him, now and then. The fun is in me, and must come out.

"Hetty," said he, looking up from his newspaper one evening—he has such a passion for newspapers—"Hetty, I suppose you know that Valentine's day is but a week off."

"Valentine's day!" The remark was so abrupt, and said in such a musing tone, that, in spite of me, I couldn't keep the blood from mounting to my face. I had no cause for blushes and yet the blushes came.

"Yes, Valentine's day! What is the matter with the girl? Aha!"

I blushed deeper still. How vexed I was. There was no cause for blushes. This, to the reader, upon honor! "No lover, then!" Oh the word of a maiden of seventeen, no! *You* are convinced, of course.

"Aha! my little lady! what does all this mean?"

And Uncle Basil fixed his eye keenly upon me.

My face was now, like scarlet. Finding all efforts to regain self possession fruitless, I sprang from my chair and left the room.

For every vexation I erred on entering my chamber.

"Never mind! you'll pay for this," said I, after my heart beat calmly again. "You'll pay, for this, my dear good old bachelor Uncle! Valentine's day, is it! Very well."

I punished the old gentleman by not letting him see the light of my countenance until the next morning at breakfast. Then I was all smiles and self-possession. He seemed to have forgotten the little incident of the previous evening, but I had not.

On that very day I went out and selected a valentine. It had on it a great red heart, pierced by an arrow, from Cupid's quiver. Two whole hours were spent in composing suitable verses to grace the love missive, which I laid carefully by until the thirteenth of February, when it was committed to Post Office guardianship, directed to "Basil Jones, Esq."

On the next morning, as we sat at breakfast, Uncle Basil looked at me archly and said—

"Has that Valentine come yet?"

I wanted to blush but could'nt. I tried to look confused, but my countenance would not play hypocrite. I was too merry at heart.

Our meal ended, the old gentleman retired to the sitting room, to read the morning papers, and wait for John, who had gone, as usual, to the post office, to return with his letters. It seemed to me that John staid a long while. At last, I heard him enter, and listened to his steps as he made his way to my Uncle's apartment. As soon as he withdrew, I went, on tip-toe, to the door of the room, which happened to be left ajar. Noiselessly pushing it open, I had a full view of Uncle Basil. He had already unseated his love letter, and was gazing, in ludicrous bewilderment and astonishment, upon its emblematic devices, and "tender lines."

"Why, uncle Basil!" I exclaimed, in a tone of affected surprise, bursting suddenly in upon him, and snatching the letter from his hand. "What is the meaning of this? A valentine, as I live! Uncle Basil! Who would have thought it! And at your age, too! Fie!"

As I live, the dear old man blushed almost as deeply as I had done a few minutes before, and looked so ashamed and confused, that I half repented of what I had done.

"Come, come, you saucy jade!" he said, partially recovering himself, and reaching out his hand. "Give me that letter."

"Letter, indeed! I call this a valentine."—And I held it high above my head. "Oh! if I don't show this to everybody. Who could have sent it? Let me look at the handwriting. It is the Widow Williams', as I live."

"Hetty! Hetty! You mad young rogue! I'm ashamed of you!"

Relented playfully enough the [illegible] short time, and the old gentleman [illegible] to look at the valentine from my hand, which he did with an exhibition of more quietly than I thought in him. In a moment after he had grasped it, the hues and dyes had underlined were in a blaze of glory.

"Old Uncle Basil!" [illegible] and looked into his delighted countenance, with an arch and merry expression upon my own. "The Widow Williams!"

Just as I said this, my eyes rested upon the super-scription of a letter lying upon the floor—one of two or three just brought in by John—that had fallen as the old gentleman started up when I snatched away from him his valentine. It was directed to me. Stooping quickly, I caught it from the floor, and slipped it into my bosom; not, however, so adroitly as to escape observation.—

"Ah!" What is the meaning of that?" said Uncle Basil, recovering himself in an instant.

It was now my turn to show confusion. To cover it, I beat a hasty retreat, and was soon locked in my own room. How short, quick and imperative were the emotions of my heart, as it throbbed almost audibly in my bosom. It was some moments before I was calm enough to break the seal of my valentine.

From whom had it come? How instructive was the question. As I held it in my fingers, still looking at the superscription, and trying to make out the hand writing, I felt something hard within. Instantly the seal was broken, and the envelope removed. There was a sheet of note paper, bearing the words, "A Love Token," and enclosing a crumpled piece of white tissue paper covering the hard substance that proved to be a diamond ring and a diamond breastpin! For some moments I was bewildered. Then all was clear. My Uncle did not mean that I should be deceived as to the sender of my valentine, for his well known, strong, mercantile chirography in the words, "A Love Token," left nothing for my vagrant imagination to dream over.

Dear old man! How rebuked I felt. A little while I sat thoughtful, and then went bounding down stairs to the sitting room.

"A kiss for your Love Token," said I, as I threw my arms around his neck, and laid my warm lips upon his venerable forehead.

I had not the heart to tell him, then, that I was the Widow Williams from whom his valentine came. But, we have since had more than one hearty laughter together, over the remembrance of his sudden surprize and confusion when I caught him absorbed in the mysteries of a love letter.

PUNCTUATION:

A POINTED ARTICLE ON POINTS.

An anecdote is told of a writer who, when his publisher begged him to give some attention to the punctuation of his manuscripts, used to retort, "Do you take your servant for a dog? I am not a pointer." Most newspaper correspondents are, evidently, in the same *category*—are not pointers.

Correct punctuation, even among those who are accustomed to write for the press, is the exception and not the rule. That punctuation is important is conceded; but it is supposed that editors and printers alone, are responsible for it, and that they will correct all errors and supply all deficiencies. They endeavour, as faithfully as possible, to do so, though the task is often an irksome and thankless one; but the writer can never be sure that justice will be done to his thought, unless he has made that thought clear, by correctly pointing his manuscript. The editor or the printer, as the case may be, misapprehending his meaning, may, by wrongly placing a single comma, change the meaning of a sentence entirely, and make him responsible for an opinion he did not intend to express, and does not hold. An hemmer, not long since, in giving an account of a shipwreck, stated, made to say: "He was rescued from the wave *with a large, iron safe in his pocket.*" The account looked rather fabulous. If the writer had punctuated his paragraph, instead of entrusting that part of his work to the printer, it would have stood thus: "He, was rescued from the waters with a large iron, safe in his pocket." The sentence will hardly pass for an elegant one, we are aware, even in this form, but it will be readily understood.

The omission or misuse of points, in writing, as clearly involves grammatical error, as does the false collocation of words; and yet many who are scrupously correct in their syntax, neglect their punctuation entirely. Do they know how much labour and vexation their negligence causes the editor and the printer? Do they realize the injustice they are doing themselves?

Manuscripts frequently come into our hands with no points at all, except, perhaps, here and there a dash or a dot. Again, we get communications in which commas, semi-colons, colons periods and dashes abound, but in which, unluckily, they seem to have experienced great difficulty in finding their proper places, and are, oftener than otherwise, just where they should not be. Some articles seem to have been written and afterwards punctuated—the points having been inserted wherever a convenient space could be found between the words. It would have been better to have placed them all at the end of the piece, as it is said Lord Dexter was accustomed to do, that the reader or printer might mix them to his taste.

Much of the false punctuation we see is doubtless the result of carelessness, but much, we fear, has its origin in sheer *ignorance of the few simple rules.* These rules are, for the most part, as easy to be understood and applied as any other in grammar. In the application of a few of them, there is some diversity among writers and printers; but the same may be said of other grammatical rules. We cannot think that those who are accustomed to write for the press, would consent to remain ignorant of the rules of punctuation, or careless in their application, if they had a just conception of their importance. The fact that the writer who mispunctuates, or does not punctuate at all, is liable to be misunderstood, is not the only reason which exists for attending to the rules of punctuation. When the sense is perfectly clear without it, a comma, correctly used, often adds *point* to a sentence, in more senses than one. Pardon us, then, O, ye writers for our *Gazette!* respected, admired and honored by us and our fifty thousand readers, (more or less) if we beg you, in the language of the old schoolmaster, "MIND YOUR STOPS AND MARKS."

Southern Literary Gazette.

SPEECH OF

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, OF GEORGIA,

ON UNION AND SECESSION.

Mr. Chairman, said he—He desired to discuss the question, not as a Whig, or a Democrat, but as a North Carolinian—as one whose home was with the South and whose interests were bound up in her prosperity. Sinking for the moment all party considerations and all sectional prejudice, would anxiously consider how the honor and the safety of the South might be secured, and if it could be done consistently with the honor, the Union be preserved. He wished to see erected a platform on which all true sons of North Carolina could stand—to have embodied in resolutions or otherwise a sentiment which would strike a responsive chord in the breast of every patriot, and enable the State to present an even and steady front, in a crisis so delicate and so trying. It could not be doubted that North Carolina intended to be true to herself; she only desired to be correctly informed of the posture of affairs, to know the extent of her grievances and the dangers which beset her, and the surest, safest, and most honorable mode of escape.

In determining this momentous question, all party feelings and exciting, heated passions and party prejudices should be banished from the Council Board; and opinions, purposes and determinations expressed in language becoming the gravity of the occasion and characteristic of the people for whom the representatives assume to speak.

He thought unanimity of sentiment all important, and to secure this, he would willingly vote for the resolutions of any other gentleman which might meet with general approbation and best express the popular voice, although those introduced by himself defined his own views and the position which he preferred to occupy.

He respected the views and the motives of other gentlemen, wished to hear the opinions of all, and would even make sacrifices and yield his own predilections in favor of harmony and concert of action.

We should not, continued Mr. G., assume a position which we cannot maintain, we should not, nor will I consent, to go farther by resolutions than we can expect or ask the people to go in action. But before he advanced farther in the discussion, he wished to make one personal allusion; and to request Senators not to judge of his feelings towards those from whom he differed, by the manner in which he might express himself in debate, and to be assured that whatever might be his warmth and zeal in urging his own opinions, he entertained for those to whom he might allude, and especially for the learned Senator from Pasquotank and Perquimans, (Mr. Simpson,) the most kindly feelings, and a respect commensurate with his many excellent qualities as a man and public spirited citizen.

He believed that Senator would respect his motives, when he expressed himself freely, frankly and boldly; and the Senator has himself declared that he has no respect for him "who withholds his real opinions from fear."

The picture which that Senator had drawn of the condition of the Southern States, at some future day, was well calculated to excite in Southern men, the most serious reflections. The past proves that the ratio of increase of the Blacks in the Slave States is greater than that of the Whites, and if we are to judge the future by the past, it is to be expected that in the course of years, the Slaves in number will be much larger than owners, the disproportion between the two races, year after year, become greater.

Mr. G. said he could look into the future, and see probable difficulties such as had been indicated by the Senator. He believed, from the signs of the times, that whether the Southern States remained in the Union, they had little to encourage them to look for Slave territory, beyond the State of Texas. He assented to the probability, that the lines by which slavery is to be circumscribed, are already fixed.

But suppose the South had obtained an extension of the Missouri compromise line to the Pacific, (and he regretted that such was not the case) and then a State of California, New Mexico, and Utah, had, by agreement, been assigned to the Slave States, would not the same difficulties which have been so graphically depicted, occur, in the end, if the institution of slavery is maintained? The horrors and dangers anticipated would only be deferred. He feared there was something in the prospect of the future, connected with this delicate subject, which Southern men could not contemplate with emotions of unmixed pleasure.

He feared that in process of time if slave labor should be applied to agricultural pursuits, and found useful only in cultivating the soil, as heretofore practiced in the South, the value of that species of property, the greater portion of Southern wealth, would inevitably depreciate in value, much to the injury of the States where it is employed.

Mr. G. said he saw the free States increasing more rapidly than slave—he could see the power and influence of the free States growing rapidly, and that he could not shut his eyes to the possibility, that in the future, they might have the power and the disposition to look into the Constitution, so as to place the institution of slavery under the control of Congress. He did not say there was the slightest probability that he anticipating in the Union. [illegible] slave property was to be discovered [illegible] fixed by him. A[illegible] in the South [illegible] Mr. G. [illegible] quotation has given [illegible] future history. *If we [illegible] Union*, he would have been pleased had he shewn us the other side, and pointed out in what particulars the situation and prospects of the slave States are to be benefited by *seceding and going* out of the Union, if the compromise acts *as a whole*, are observed by the free States. Grant that more area is essential to the slave States, in order to preserve our institution of slavery, he could not see that the chances for new fields, (more slave territory) were much bettered by being *out* of the Union instead of in it. Disunion would not impede the growth of the free States in numbers, power and wealth—it would not incline them to a more favorable regard for the interests of the South, nor would it be likely to secure, in a greater degree, the respect of the world, for an institution against which fanatics and white labor [illegible] are united.

The Senator has failed to show how disunion will effect this state of things; and he has also failed to indicate the manner in which secession, *Constitutional Secession*, would enable us to purchase, or acquire, in other ways, an enlarged area for the profitable use of slaves. Supposing Secession constitutional and peaceable—supposing the laws which organize and keep in motion this political framework, provided for the natural, peaceable and safe dissolution of its parts—(a rather anomalous supposition this would be in physics, though all things are possible in politics when properly understood and judiciously expounded)—supposing that after the South had launched upon this career, without opposition or hindrance, she had crossed securely all the bars, harmonized all the jarring elements of home, founded a government to suit all the slave States, to please all the slave States and keep all the free States [illegible]—suppose that this beautiful creation, this Utopian project, which has been [illegible] quarters without any pur[illegible] the people, and to carry [illegible] purposes," could in the [illegible] of Carolinians and by the aid of some mysterious agency of political revolutions [illegible] shed—what is the back ground to the picture? How far will its borders extend? Where are its borders? Why did the Senator fail to point them out? Why is the picture, at this most interesting point, so suddenly terminated, like a crack story in a Magazine, with the program, but unsatisfactory sentence, *To be continued?* Continued where, when, how? *That* chapter, in this political romance, is not to be disclosed, I suppose, until the first has been read and realized.

He would not say that those who framed this interesting and original melo-drama had been too imaginative, had charmed with credulity to the whispers of fancy and pursued with eagerness the phantoms of hope"—but he would assert that those who should undertake to act it out seriously might possibly find it a laughable farce or a most dreary tragedy.

High authority informs us that the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully.

And he thought within himself, saying, what shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits. And he said, this will I do, I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there will I bestow all my fruits and my [illegible]

And will [illegible] and then has many goods [illegible] years, take thy ease, eat, drink [illegible]

But God said unto him, [illegible] *night* thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?"

Mr. G. said he could see difficulties out of the Union as well as in it; and on a subject under discussion, friends allude to many considerations which induced them to fear that even among those who [illegible] fulfilling of their Union and of the warnings of Washington, the announcement of an actual dissolution would come more like the alarm of a fire bell in the night," than the sounds of music and festivity.

Mr. G. said he was [illegible] the course in which that Union was [illegible] was for submission to tolerable and bearable evils—will he acknowledge that it is to be now bearable, rather than risk so much that he knows not of—rather than risk an experiment now, attended with some perils, the calamities and to attain an end he knows at present and must be good.

Still he would sound the future—he would look through the [illegible] interpreter, as it is [illegible] *the fates of the case.*

[illegible] will be seen that the charges against peculiarities of the constitution are, 1, the mode of its formation; 2, the division of the supreme powers of government between the States in their united capacity, and the States in their individual capacities.

1. It was formed, not by the governments of the component States, as the federal government for which it was substituted was formed. Nor was it formed by a majority of the people of the United States, as a single community in the manner of a consolidated government.

"It was formed by the States, that is, by the people in each of the States, acting in their highest sovereign capacity, and formed consequently by the same authority which formed the State Constitutions.

"Being thus derived from the same source as the constitutions of the States, it has, within each State, the same authority as the constitution of the State; and is as much a constitution, in the strict sense of the term, within the sphere of its jurisdiction, as the constitutions of the States are, within their respective spheres; but with this obvious and essential difference, that being a compact among the States in their highest sovereign capacity, and constituting the people thereof one people for certain purposes, it cannot be altered or annulled at the will of the States individually, as the constitution of a State may be at its individual will.

2. And then [illegible] the supreme powers of government [illegible] the government of the United States, and a government of the individual States is established on the face of the instrument, the powers of war and of taxation, of commerce and of treaties, and other enumerated powers vested in the government of the United States, are of a high and sovereign character, [illegible] the powers reserved to the States are numerous.

Not is the government of the United States [illegible] the constitution. [illegible] in the [illegible] of the [illegible] than [illegible] the constitution of the States [illegible] powers.

[illegible] treating all who [illegible] as rebels [illegible] treators. These last words [illegible] fell from his lips in his speech, [illegible] the time, some of his friends thought [illegible] sounded harshly; but he did not [illegible] considered as disavowing the principle. [illegible] this doctrine be tested [illegible] a State, by a majority of one, [illegible] of the minority, it allows [illegible] honest in its convictions with the majority—according to this seceding doctrine of primary and secondary allegiance, this minority have to submit to what they may deem the oppression of the majority or be hanged as traitors.—And if to escape this fate they make common cause with the majority and are defeated, this same hanging time must be their doom.—Would there be here no intolerable oppression? Would there be any protection, any liberty, any rights to a minority of a State? States in a minority—in a single State must have a [illegible] sovereign right under the Federal Government, peaceably to secede when threatened with danger; and this is for the sake of liberty. Individuals in a minority in that State—one hundred thousand individuals must submit, at all hazards, and to whatever extremity, to the dictatorship of one hundred thousand and one more, and this is also for the sake of liberty! That is to say, one hundred thousand and one men, of whatever character, standing, age, nation, or principles, have a right in a State to hang the remaining one hundred thousand, whatever be their respectability and character, and then to secede from a Union in which twenty millions of souls are interested, exposing the whole of them to the hazards of civil war, to protect the interest and secure the liberties of this one hundred thousand and one!—What a beautiful system of Government!—How wise and wonderful and matchless its machinery.

This may be said to be an extreme case; it illustrates the principle and is therefore apposite.

In one word, minority States must have a right to secede from a Government which the seceders say is a compact of States; minorities of individuals, in a Government of individuals, have not even the right, the old-fashioned, the innumable right of revolution!—Now how would this doctrine work out?—One hundred thousand and one declare for secession; one hundred thousand citizens think such decision a violation of their allegiance. This minority has to be hung; and then begins a war of extermination which might not end favorably to the majority. But suppose it does; and the hundred thousand are to be hung; and then the General Government, holding to the same majority doctrine, catches and hangs the hundred thousand and one!

Mr. G. said that he did not mean to ridicule or treat with levity the doctrines of the Senator from Perquimans; he was tracing them to what he conceived to be their legitimate results and with as much fairness in his supposition as the Senator had used in handling the opinions of Mr. Badger. I have, said Mr. G. intimated that the Federal Government might not acknowledge the right of a State to secede from the Union to be a constitutional right or remedy; and it may be well to enquire whether such a doctrine has ever received the sanction of the authorized expounders of the Constition of the United States, or was intended to be given by those who framed it. The Senator, advocating secession, argues that from it, there is no danger of a violent dismemberment of the Confederacy; and it would seem from the use of his remarks, drawing a distinction between it and the natural right of resistance or rebellion, that he thinks a State may thus peacefully and constitutionally assume the position which it held prior to the formation of the Federal Union. He admits the absurdity of nullification, but argues that secession is a very different thing and cannot be confounded with it "except by individuals who are willing to confound the people to and their selfish and sinister purposes."

I [illegible] who these individuals are. I [illegible] Southern portions of which [illegible] the Union.

I [illegible] the true character of the [illegible] States, they [illegible] must be avoided, of view [illegible] a confederacy [illegible] the one nor the [illegible] And having, in [illegible] apologies appli[illegible] *the facts