

THE NORTH-CAROLINA STAR.

THOMAS J. LEWIS, Editor.
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AGRICULTURAL.

BONE DUST AS MANURE.

We unhesitatingly concede to guano the first rank among manures. To this, it is entitled by its holding all the required elements of vegetable food in a just combination, and these in the most available condition for assimilation by the growing plant. And without any question, next to guano, do we place bone dust. This, it is true, has not generally all the elements required for the full development of vegetable life, as is always the case with holed or burnt bones, and such as have long been buried or exposed to the weather; yet, it still retains the oil and fatty matter, the fibrous and other nitrogenous substances, so intimately blended in recent bone, it holds every material which constitutes, by its rapid association, the rich compounds afforded by the Peruvian guano.

The filices and swine, such as is furnished by the button and other valuable manufactures of bone, are of this description. Nothing but sound, recent, healthy bone will suffice for this purpose, and it is the dust shavings derived from these fresh materials, that are fully entitled to the high merit of approaching to a successful competition with guano. The principal difference consists in this: That the various compounds of ammonia are already found in guano, and are prepared at the instant of contact with the soil, and yield up their substance to the claims of vegetable life, while those of the bone dust must first undergo decomposition in the soil before its value is felt. This, in the crude, unbroken bones, requires long years, perhaps a century or more, to effect; and the period is lessened in proportion as they have been artificially comminuted or broken up. In the filices, &c., a love-spread, this division of their particles has reached the utmost artificial limits. Nothing but the bringing into play the latent chemical affinities of the multitudinous elements of bones, can effect a further reduction or dissemination of their particles. This may be done, to a certain extent, with sulphuric and other acids, but far more economically by mixing with the miscellaneous muck heap, and then with the soil. It is not so material, however, in what way, nor how associated, bone dust may finally reach its mother earth. When sufficiently reduced and mixed with the soil, its effects will be speedily and most beneficially felt.

The efficacy of bones has been long known and is now generally appreciated by all intelligent agriculturists. Mr. Palin says, "for pasture land, and especially the poorer kinds, there is nothing equal to bone manure, either as regards the permanency of its effects, or the production of a sweet luxuriant herbage, of which all cattle are fond." Many thousand acres of the poor clay soils have been covered with this manure during the last eight or ten years. Many instances of the application of bones have been afforded in England, where the produce of old pastures has been augmented fully 200 per cent.; and almost worthless production of weeds and rough grasses has been succeeded by a sweet succulent herbage, highly relished by animals. One English writer in the Royal Agricultural Journal says: "I have known many a poor, honest, but half-broke man raised from poverty to comparative independence, and many a sinking family saved from inevitable ruin, by the help of this wonderful manure." But it is useless to multiply testimony on this subject, as the value of this fertilizer is now fully appreciated by all intelligent farmers.

Our present object is to show to the initiated as well as the inexperienced, the large proportion of phosphoric acid, which is really the most important portion of the bone, which enters into many of our leading crops. It has long been known that the herbage in our pastures, clover, wheat, potatoes, turnips, corn, and many other of our products are largely benefited by bones, but the really large proportion of phosphoric acid entering into their composition has seldom been understood, except to the more scientific reader.

Phosphoric acid consists of phosphorus 44, and oxygen 56 in every 100 parts.—Phosphate of lime, or bone earth, is composed of phosphoric acid, combined with lime, in the proportion of 48 per cent., of the former to 51 per cent., of the latter.

Bones in their recent state vary as to the age of the individual and the species of animal from which they are taken. The bones of all young animals consist of a much larger proportion of albuminous or nitrogenous matter, and consequently a less amount of phosphate of lime, having more the consistency of gristle, which, in advancing age, gives place to a larger quantity of phosphate of lime, thus rendering it brittle, and peculiarly liable to fracture. We often hear of a broken limb from the slightest fall of a three-year-old yearling, while a child of a dozen years, born of the same parents, is able to support the weight of a horse without any attempt at improvement. Time has already past when the tiler of the soil was content to produce just a sufficiency for the support of animal life, and that too of an indifferent kind. He has already begun to reap the advantages of calling in scientific principles to his assistance.

Within a few years very much has been done to improve in a high degree the choice and delicious fruits of our climate. Our markets are now loaded with fruits of the most tempting kind, which, by their abundance, are brought within the reach of all classes of society. Who can estimate the amount of happiness and substantial comfort thus bestowed upon mankind?

For the last fifty years the energies of science have been in an unparalleled degree bestowed upon inventions, and discoveries in the principles of mechanics and the multifarious applications in machinery, growing out of the motive power of steam. Let the same amount of scientific energy be applied to the investigation of the laws which govern organized bodies, both vegetable and animal, and the results of such investigation may not doubt be the knowledge of organized matter astounding as those remarkable physical laws which we are daily witnessing.

The whole community are beginning to be waked up to the importance of this matter. Our schools, especially in this State, are introducing the study of the principles of chemistry as applied to Agriculture. The guardians of the State Normal School are doing very much towards disseminating a knowledge of these principles, by preparing its pupils for teaching the same in the schools, which they may hereafter be called to take charge of. When the teachers of our schools can be made to feel the importance of this new branch of

Messrs. Way and Ogston, and are entitled to our highest confidence.

Straw and chaff,	2.86 to 7.02 per cent.
Seed of barley,	25.32 " 38.26 "
Straw,	3.24 " 7.20 "
Seed of maize, or Indian Corn,	— " 53.69 "
Stalks and leaves,	— " 5.09 "
Pith of cob,	— " 4.37 "
Seed of wheat,	40 " 49 "
Roots of the red carrot,	— " 32.31 "
Leaves,	— " 6.21 "
Leaves and head of cabbage,	— " 13.53 "
Stalk,	— " 19.57 "
Flowers of hops,	— " 17.33 "
Leaves,	— " 9.33 "
Seed of white mustard,	— " 44.97 "
Seed of turnip,	— " 40.17 "
Straw of flax,	7.53 " 8.48 "
Seed,	35.99 " 41.09 "
Potato tubers,	15.10 " 17.08 "
Potato haulm,	2.27 " 6.62 "
Various grasses,	6.25 " 12.07 "

In the absence of a full supply of other manures, if any of our farmers omit using bone dust on their crops, when it can be procured at a fair price, after fully understanding its value, we say they ought to be independent in their income, irrespective of profit on their crops. *American Agriculturist.*

DEEP PLOWING PREVENTS REST IN WHEAT.

Mr. Editor:—On passing through the States, North and South, I find the plowing very thin. I have conversed with many planters, and inquired their reasons for this shallow plowing? Some inform me that it will plow deep, the rains will wash all the earth off the hills; while others say that it will require another horse, and that their lands would soon become so rough that the seed would not vegetate. In this State, for the last two years, wheat has suffered much from rust, which is caused, partly, by thin plowing. Wheat is a plant that has been found rooted at the depth of 16 inches; and if a plow of ordinary strength for two horses were used, so as to penetrate the earth to the depth of 6 or 8 inches, and harrowed well, there would then be loose soil sufficient for the root to gather strength to support the stalk, and fill the ear with good grain; besides, the sun will not have the effect it now has.

Some give as reasons for pursuing their course, that food for the extra horse is too scarce and dear, and labor too high. To such I reply: Lay down some of your old lands in grass; you will then have good hay for winter and grass for pasture. I would not recommend folding in this country. Land is abundant and labor is so high. Horses would live on grass for seven or eight months, without corn which would be a great saving. This grass your hills wash, and it is caused mainly by plowing only to the depth of two or three inches. In dry weather your lands become perfectly hard, and in wet seasons the heavy rains cannot penetrate into the soil; the weight of water is too great for the loose earth, and it is washed off the hills. If your lands were plowed only six inches deep, and then made fine by the roller and harrow, this washing would, in a great measure, be prevented. In England, it is not uncommon to use a roller, of two tons weight, twice on the same ground, before sowing the seed, as the land is so rough; the harrow is then used—the same roller applied again, and then other rollers. By adopting this plan, your hills would not wash, but would receive the rain just as a sponge absorbs the water.

Another reason for not plowing deep, I am told, is that soil is not worth the expense of turning deep, and that the lands would soon be ruined. There is a weed in this State, which, in England, is called the Dock. I have found this weed growing here as luxuriantly on the richest grazing lands in England, with its roots from 12 to 16 inches deep. This fact is sufficient for me to pronounce the soil good to that depth, as no root will penetrate into a soil where there is not food to support it.

A FRIEND TO AGRICULTURE.

Rome, Ga. December 26, 1850.

CHEMISTRY APPLIED TO AGRICULTURE.

The true principles of farming are just beginning to be understood. It is not a few years at least in this country, since the farmer has sought assistance, in his important vocation, from the safe and sure guide of science. The processes of the culture of the soil have been handed down from father to son for a long period of time without any attempt at improvement. Time has already past when the tiler of the soil was content to produce just a sufficiency for the support of animal life, and that too of an indifferent kind. He has already begun to reap the advantages of calling in scientific principles to his assistance.

Phosphate of lime,	55.36
Fluoride of lime, (berberyshire spar),	2.09
Carbonate of lime,	2.85
Phosphate of magnesia,	2.05
Soda, with some common salt,	2.45
Carriage,	33.30
	100.00

Fourcy and Vauquelin found some ox bones contained of
Gelatine and oil, 51.0
Phosphate of lime, 37.7
Carbonate of lime, 10.9
Phosphate of magnesia, 1.3
100.0

The relative proportions of the constituents of bones are continually varying according to the age, variety, and even the condition of the same animal. But however they may differ, we have the assurance that any particles of matter entering into them will be of the highest utility as a fertilizer for manuring forest trees.

In the following estimates of phosphoric acid, it must be borne in mind, that the proportions, like those constituting bones, vary materially with the different specimens analysed, with the age of the specimen, the circumstances under which it has been grown, and to some extent, with the variety subjected to analysis. These estimates were made by

education, we may expect rapid and permanent improvements in farming. It is our common schools alone that a large portion of our farming population are educated, and for this reason it would seem very proper that considerable attention should be given to this branch of education in these schools. Let all who are intrusted with the supervision of schools, see that encouragement is given to this study.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

It will not do to hoe a great field for little crops, nor to move twenty acres for five loads of hay. Enrich the land and it will pay for it. Better farm twenty acres well than fifty acres by halves.

In dry pastures dig for water on the low of a hill, springs are more frequent near the surface on a height than in a vale.

The foot of the owner is the best manure for land.

It is best to cut grain before it is fully or dead ripe. When the straw immediately below the grain is so dry that on twisting it, no juice is extracted, it should be cut. For there is no circulation of juice to the ear.—Every day it stands uncut after this stage is attended with loss.

Obtain good seed and prepare your ground well, sow early, and pay no attention to the moon.

Accountants should be kept detailing the expense and product of each field.

When an implement is no longer wanted for the season, lay it carefully aside, but first let it be well cleaned.

Cultivate your heart right, as well as your farm; and remember, "whatsoever you sow that shall also be also reap."

Do not begin farming by building an extensive house nor a spacious barn till you have something to store in.

Keep notes of all remarkable events on your farm.—Recording even your errors, will be of benefit.

Good fences make good neighbors.

Experiments are commendable, but do not become a habitual experimenter.

Sheep put into fresh stubble are apt to be killed by eating too much grain.—One animal well fed is of more value than two poorly kept.

Ground once well ploughed is better than three times.

Cows well fed in winter, give more milk in summer.

When you see a fence down, put it up; if it gets up again, until to-morrow, the cattle may get over.

What ought to be done to-day, do it to-morrow it may rain.

A strong horse will work all day without food, but keep him in it and he will not last long.

Never be idle.

LAWS OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

BY AUTHORITY.

AN ACT

To incorporate the Western Plank Road Company.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority of the same, That it shall be lawful to open books in the town of Newsum, in the county of Catawba, under the direction of James Bost, Andrew H. Shuford and Locke McCorkle, of the town of Lincoln, under the direction of C. C. Henderson, Jacob A. Ramsour, William Slade, Haywood W. Guion and Leonard E. Thompson; and in the town of Charlotte, under the direction of William R. Myers, William Johnson, Henry B. Williams, Brady Oats, Charles T. Alexander, Sr., and Benjamin Morrow; at such other places, and under the direction of such other persons, as any three of the commissioners hereinafter named shall appoint, for the purpose of receiving subscriptions, to an amount not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars, in shares of fifty dollars each, for the purpose of constructing a plank road from the town of Charlotte to the town of Lincoln, and such branches thereof, as a majority of the stockholders shall determine.

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Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the times and places for receiving subscriptions shall be advertised in Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and other places, and the books for receiving the same shall not be closed in less than thirty days: And the said commissioners shall have power to open the books from time to time, as they may think proper, until the whole number of shares be subscribed.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That the charter shall be secured when the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars is subscribed for, in manner aforesaid; and the subscribers, their executors, administrators or assigns, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, incorporated into a company, by the name and style of "The Western Plank Road Company," and, by that name shall be capable, in law, of purchasing, holding, selling, leasing and conveying estates, real, personal and mixed, so far as shall be necessary for the purposes of said company; and shall have perpetual succession; and by said corporate name may sue and be sued; and may have a common seal, which they shall have power to alter and renew at pleasure; and shall have and enjoy, and may exercise all the powers, rights, and privileges which other corporate bodies may lawfully do, for the purposes mentioned in this act; and may make all such by-laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of this State or of the United States, as shall be necessary for the well ordering and conducting the affairs of said company.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That upon any subscription of stock as aforesaid, there shall be paid, at the time of subscribing, to the said commissioners, or their agents appointed to receive such subscriptions, the sum of one dollar on every share subscribed; and the residue thereof shall be paid in such instalments, and at such times, as may be required by the president and directors of said company.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, That the said commissioners, or their agents, shall forthwith, after the first election of President and Directors of the company, pay over to the said President and Directors all moneys received by them, and on failure thereof, the said President and Directors may recover the amount due from them or from any one or more of them, by legal process in the courts of pleas and quarter sessions, or in the superior court of law, in any county wherein such commissioner or commissioners, their executors or administrators may reside, or by warrant before a justice of the peace for said county.

Sec. 6. Be it further enacted, That when twenty-five thousand dollars shall have been subscribed, public notice of that event shall be given by the said commissioners at Charlotte, who shall have power, at the same time, to call a general meeting of the stockholders at such convenient place and time as they shall name in said notice.

Sec. 7. Be it further enacted, That to constitute any such meeting, a number of persons entitled to a majority of all the votes which could be given upon all the shares subscribed, shall be present, either in person or by proxy; and if a sufficient number to constitute a meeting shall have power to adjourn from time to time, until a meeting shall be formed.

Sec. 8. Be it further enacted, That the subscribers, at their general meeting before directed, and the proprietors of stock at every annual meeting thereafter, shall elect a President and nine Directors, who shall continue in office, unless sooner removed, until the next annual meeting after their election, and until their successors shall be elected; but the said President and Directors, or any of them, may at any time be removed, and the vacancy thereby occasioned be filled by a majority of the votes given at any general meeting. The President, with any three or more of the directors, or in the event of the sickness and absence or disability of the President, any five or more of the directors may appoint one of their own body *pro tempore*, and shall constitute a board for the transaction of business. In cases of vacancy in the office of President or any Director, happening from death, resignation or otherwise, such vacancy may be supplied by the appointment of the board until the next annual meeting.

Sec. 9. Be it further enacted, That the President and directors of said company shall be, and they are hereby invested with all the rights and powers necessary for the construction, repair and maintaining of a plank road, as hereinafter aforesaid, with as many branches as may be deemed necessary, and may cause to be made and also to make and construct all works whatsoever which may be necessary and expedient to the proper completion of the said road and all its branches.

Sec. 10. Be it further enacted, That the said President and Directors shall have power to make contracts with any person or persons, on behalf of the company, for making the said plank road, together with any branches of the same, and performing all other things respecting the same which they shall judge necessary and proper; and to require from the subscribers, from time to time, such advances of money, on their respective shares, as the wants of the company may demand, until the whole of their subscriptions shall be advanced; to call, on any emergency, a general meeting of the stockholders, giving one month's notice thereof in one of the newspapers printed in each of the towns of Charlotte and Lincoln; to appoint a treasurer from among the stockholders, (but not of their own body), who shall give bond and security for the faithful discharge of his duty and daily accounting for all the money which may come into his hands as treasurer to appoint a clerk and such managers and toll-gate keepers, as they may deem necessary; and to transact all the business of the company during the intervals between the general meetings of the stockholders.

Sec. 11. Be it further enacted, That if a majority of them, within one month after the same shall have been advertised in one of the newspapers printed in each of the towns of Charlotte and Lincoln, it shall and may be lawful for the President and Directors, or a majority of them, to sell, at public auction, and to convey to the purchaser, the share or shares of such stockholders so failing or refusing, giving one month's previous notice of the time and place of sale, in manner aforesaid; and after retaining the sum due and all the charges of the sale out of the proceeds thereof, to pay the surplus over to the former owner, or to his legal representatives; and if the sale shall not produce the sum required to be advanced, with all the incidental charges attending the sale, then the President and Directors may recover the balance of the original proprietor, or his assignee, or the executor or administrator, or either of them, by suit in any court of record having jurisdiction thereof, or by warrant before any justice of the peace of the county of which he is a resident; and any purchaser of the stock of the company, under the sale by the President and Directors, shall be subject to the same rules and regulations as the original proprietors.

Sec. 12. Be it further enacted, That if the capital stock of the company hereby incorporated shall be found insufficient for the purposes of this act, it shall and may be lawful for the President and Directors of the said company, or a majority of them, from time to time, to increase the said capital stock to an amount not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars; by the addition of as many shares as they may deem necessary, first giving the individual stockholders, for the time being, or their legal representatives, the option of taking such additional shares in proportion to the amount of stock respectively held by them, and opening books in the towns of Charlotte, Lincoln and Newsum, and such other places as the President and Directors may think proper for any balance of the capital stock created which may not be taken by the stockholders for the time being, or in their behalf; and the subscribers for such additional shares of the capital stock in the said company, are hereby declared to be thereupon incorporated into the said company, with all the privileges and advantages, and subject to all the liabilities, of the original stockholders.

Sec. 13. Be it further enacted, That the President and Directors, their officers or agents may agree with the owners of any land over which the said road, or any of its branches, is intended to pass for the purchase thereof; and in case of disagreement, or if the owners shall be out of the State, on application to any two justices of the peace of the county where the lands lie, the justices shall issue their warrants to the sheriff of said county to summon eight freeholders to meet on a day to be named and valued, on a day expressed in the said warrant, not less than ten nor more than twenty days thereafter, and the sheriff, on receipt of the warrant, shall summon the freeholders accordingly, and when met shall draw twelve oaths, who, after being duly sworn, will impartially value the land in question, and consider the damages the owners thereof may sustain; and the inquiry so taken shall be signed by the sheriff and the jury, and returned to the clerk

of the county court to be recorded. And, in all cases, the jury is hereby directed to describe the land valued; and such valuation shall be conclusive; and the President and Directors shall pay the sum to the owner of the land valued, or his legal representatives; and if neither can be found in this State, or if they should refuse to receive the money, then to the clerk of the county court; and on payment thereof, the said corporation shall be satisfied in fee of the land, as fully and absolutely as if it had been conveyed to them by the owners: *Provided*, nevertheless, that the dwelling house, kitchen, yard or garden of no person shall be invaded, or any part thereof appropriated to the use of such corporation, without the consent of the owner.

Sec. 14. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the sheriff to give at least five days' notice in writing, to the parties interested, of the time and place of the meeting of the jurors to assess damages aforesaid; and that for each notice he be allowed a fee of seven cents.

Sec. 15. Be it further enacted, That all of the costs incident to the condemnation of said land, and the assessment of damages aforesaid, shall be paid by such corporation; and that the two justices who may issue the aforesaid warrant to the sheriff, or any other two justices of the county, after the inquiry is signed by the jury and counter-signed by the sheriff, shall have power to render judgment and issue execution for said costs.

Sec. 16. Be it further enacted, That the President and Directors may agree with the proprietor or proprietors for any quantity of land not exceeding five acres at or near each place or station intended for collecting tolls, for the purpose of erecting the necessary buildings, gates, &c.; and in case of disagreement, or of any disabilities aforesaid, or the owner or owners being out of the State, the same proceedings may be had and the same consequences shall follow, as are described in the preceding section.

Sec. 17. Be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said President and Directors to demand and receive, at some convenient toll-gate to be then erected, a reasonable toll from all persons using said Plank Road, or any of its branches, which toll, so to be collected, shall be so regulated that the profit shall not exceed twenty-five per cent. on the capital of said company in any one year.

Sec. 18. Be it further enacted, That the said road hereby authorized to be made by the President and Directors, shall be at least eight feet, nor more than thirty feet wide. And that as soon as ten miles in extent shall have been constructed, it shall and may be lawful for the President and Directors of said company to erect a toll-gate and collect tolls from persons using said road, as may be determined by the President and Directors, in accordance with the rates imposed by the seventeenth section of this act; and if any persons or persons shall refuse to pay the toll at the time of offering to pass the place or places designated for their collection, and previous to passing the same, the toll-gate keepers respectively may refuse a passage to the person or persons so refusing to pay; and if any person or persons shall pass or drive through any wheeled carriage or animal liable to toll, without paying the same, he or they shall be liable to a fine of five dollars, which fine may be recovered by warrant before any justice of the peace of the county wherein such toll-gate may be situated.

Sec. 19. Be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall wilfully or maliciously injure, or in any manner hurt, damage or obstruct, or shall wilfully or maliciously cause or aid, or assist or counsel or advise any other person or persons to injure, hurt, damage or obstruct the said plank road, toll-gate or toll houses, such person or persons, so offending shall be liable to be indicted therefor, and a conviction, shall be imprisonment or fined at the discretion of the court before said conviction shall take place.

Sec. 20. Be it further enacted, That the President and Directors shall render distinct accounts of their proceedings and disbursements of money to the annual meetings of the stockholders, and to the Governor of the State.

Sec. 21. Be it further enacted, That whenever, in the construction of said plank road, it shall be necessary to cross or intersect any established road or way, it shall be the duty of the President and Directors so to construct the said plank road across such established roads or ways as not to impede the passage or transportation of persons or property along the same. And if, in the construction of said plank road, it may be necessary or expedient to occupy or use any portion of any established public road or way, it may be lawful for the President and Directors to change the said roads, at points where they may deem it necessary so to do; and that for entering upon or taking any land that may be necessary therefor, they shall be and are hereby authorized to proceed, under the provisions of this act, as in the case of land necessary for the plank road: *Provided*, further, that previous to the making of any such change, the said company shall make and prepare a road equally good with the portion of the road proposed to be substituted; but nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to make it incumbent on the company to keep in repair the portion of any road which they may have changed as aforesaid.

Sec. 22. Be it further enacted, That the money subscribed in the county of Mecklenburg shall be appropriated to the construction of that part of the road lying in the county of Mecklenburg, and in the construction of the bridge which will be necessary across the Catawba river that the money subscribed in the counties of Gaston and Lincoln, with any surplus which may remain from the stock subscribed in the county of Mecklenburg, after the construction of that part of the road mentioned in the twenty-first section of this act, shall be applied to the construction of the road lying within the counties of Gaston and Lincoln; and the money raised by subscriptions in the county of Catawba shall be applied to the construction of the road lying in the county of Catawba.

Sec. 23. Be it further enacted, That the said company shall have power to construct a bridge across the Catawba river, at such place as they may designate in the track of the said road; and so soon as said bridge shall be completed, shall have power to establish toll-gate thereon, and from all persons who may cross said bridge, may require the following toll, viz: For every pleasure carriage, fifty cents; for every one horse buggy, twenty

five cents; for every four horse wagon, fifty cents; for every two horse buggy, forty cents; for every two horse wagon, twenty cents; for every cart, twenty cents; for every man and horse, ten cents; for every person on foot, five cents; for every cow, horse and mule, five cents; and for every animal on foot intended for exhibition, ten cents; *Provided*, that all persons who may pay the tolls which the said company may prescribe for the passage on the road, shall not be subjected to the additional tolls for the passage of the bridge authorized by this section.

Sec. 24. Be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force from and after the ratification thereof, and shall be regarded as a public act, and continue in force for three years.

[Ratified 28th January, 1851.]

AN ACT

To amend an act, passed at the session of 1848-49, entitled an act to incorporate the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road Company.

WHEREAS, the act, passed at the session of 1848-49, entitled "An Act to incorporate the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road Company," contains no provision for the registration of the bonds authorized to be issued for the payment of the State's subscription to stock in said company:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That hereafter the bonds or certificates of debt authorized to be issued by said act, which said act provides that they shall be signed by the Governor, and counter-signed by the Treasurer, shall be prepared and executed, as provided by said act; it shall be the duty of the Comptroller to register the same in a book to be by him kept for that purpose, and to endorse thereon a true and correct copy of registration; and when the Comptroller delivers the same to the Public Treasurer, he shall charge him (the Treasurer) in his books with the amount specified in said bonds; and also with such sums, if any, as the Public Treasurer may obtain by way of premium on the sale thereof, an account of which it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to report to the Comptroller; and no bond, or certificate hereafter to be issued as aforesaid, in pursuance of said act, shall be valid against the State, or recorded at the Treasury, unless it shall have endorsed thereon the certificate of registration by the Comptroller as herein provided.

[Ratified 27th January, 1851.]

AN ACT

To alter and amend an act, passed by the General Assembly, at the session of 1848-49, entitled "An Act to incorporate the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road Company."

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That so much of the 16th section of said act as requires said road to be made not less than ten feet wide, be repealed, and the said company is authorized to construct the same not less than eight feet wide.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That when the capital of said company shall have been increased, so that the stock owned by individuals shall equal that owned by the State, then so much of the twenty-first section as entitles the representative of the State to cast a vote equal to three-fifths of the whole number of votes present at any meeting, either in person or by proxy, shall be repealed; and the State, through its representative, shall be entitled to vote, one vote for every share of stock held.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That if any person shall travel on said road between the points designated for the collection of toll, with intent to evade the payment thereof, he shall be liable to a fine of five dollars, to be collected as provided in the sixteenth section of said act.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That said company is authorized to charge, on any bridges by them erected, the same rates of toll as are now established on like bridges in the counties in which they may be situated: *Provided*, that any person travelling a distance of five miles on said road, who shall have paid the legal toll for the same, shall not be liable to pay any additional toll for crossing such bridge.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, That the stockholders, at any general meeting which may be held, shall have full authority to change the proposed termini of their road, west or northwest of Johnsonville, in the county of Randolph, and to fix the same at any other point which they may deem necessary.

[Ratified 29th January, 1851.]

THE CONFESSION OF A SUBSCRIBER TO THE STEUBENVILLE HERALD.

(A Clermont Courier.)

One of our subscribers came into the office a few weeks ago, and asked what was the amount of his indebtedness to the Herald, and said: "I have been taking the Herald six or seven years, but I have always been pleased with it, and would like to continue my name on your list as long as it is published, but times are hard, and money scarce; I find that I can hardly get along at all, so I must retract by stopping your paper."

"Well," said we, "the sum is small—more trifling—and your credit is good. But will you favor us by doing us the honor to inform your family do for a newspaper, to inform them of the day? You don't want your children to grow up in ignorance of what is going on among the people of our own country, as well as the whole world?"

"True," said he, "and there's the rub—My family oppose my stopping it strongly. It reminds me every Thursday, and in the evening our oldest daughter sits down (while my wife is employed in knitting or sewing, and I am tending my feet by a cheerful fire, after a day of what you call 'hard work') and reads half of its contents, and on the next evening our eldest boy finishes—so, of course, we enjoy it very much. When I told my wife my intention of discontinuing the Herald, she said that she would sit up till after midnight to knit stockings to pay for it. But, poor woman, she works hard enough now! So I must stop it!"

"You know," said we, with a little warmth, "that you are able to pay, but there's no compulsion about it—so, here it goes," and off went his name.

The circumstance would have far exceeded our expectations, had it not been for the receipt of an old subscriber, a few days since. He came into our office, and was

stared around for awhile and seemed to be in quite a gloomy mood. Finally we said to him, in rather a light and inquisitive way, "Well, Mr. S., how do you get along without your newspaper, now?"

"Bad enough," was the response. "To be candid about it, I will tell you why.—When the first Thursday came around, after I had stopped my paper, my wife sent our eldest boy to the post office for it. Off he went in high glee. I was ashamed to tell what I had done, so I said nothing, though I well knew he wouldn't get it. He returned with the complaint that the other subscribers' papers had come but ours not. 'What can it mean, Mr. S.?' I asked my worthy spouse. 'Oh, said I, I expect the printer boy's neglected to put it in the packet yesterday.' 'Well, but they never missed before,' said she, 'and there must be something wrong,' and she fixed a searching look upon me, but said nothing. 'That evening passed gloomy enough. The next day the children became unusually noisy, and got into petty quarrels, and every now and then my wife would utter some outburst of something. 'Yes, I would sometimes say, 'there must,' and then look in another direction from her. Well, the next Thursday came on, and the boy was again sent to the office on his useless errand, and returned with the same complaint as before. My wife's first exclamation, as she anxiously awaited his return, and heard his report, was—'Indeed, Mr. S., there must be something wrong! Now, thank I, I shall have to do without it; but I remembered just at that particular moment that I had forgotten to feed the boys, and they must be fed; but when I reached the top-steps, I recollected of having fed them but a short time before. When I returned to the house all was in an uproar—the children quarreling and fighting, and the baby squalling terribly, and my good natured mother-in-law means a pleasant mood.—Her attempts to pacify were vain. It she should succeed, it would be but for a moment, the rising household would rebel, and every rebellion grew worse. This passed that evening, and Friday evening promised to be still worse. Things began to look 'blue' long before sunset. I feared the arrival of the night, but it came, and as I expected, the children were still noisier and more rebellious than ever; and I then thought that if my even tempered wife was never angry before, she was then.—My horse, in fact, seemed suddenly turned into bedlam. 'I could stand it no longer and left the house. The last words I heard my wife say, as I hurried out of the door was, 'indeed, Mr. S., there must be something wrong.' I borrowed a copy of the Herald, and returned home. I had scarcely opened the door, when two or three voices cried out, 'the paper's come! the paper's come!' Our little girl eagerly snatched it, and sat down to her old task, and soon all was quiet even the baby; though wide awake, seemed in a happy, good humor. Now, all this fuss and trouble was occasioned by my stopping the Herald, and before I will pass two more such weeks, I will pay for a dozen newspapers.—Here's \$2 for another year. A newspaper is a great peace-maker in a family. Mind, I have not told my wife that I had stopped the paper, and wish her never to know it. I should not have made this free confession, had I not thought that it might save some poor soul from falling into my error, his household thrown into confusion, and his ears continually greeted with—'Indeed, there MUST be something wrong.'—Steubenville Herald.

THE DUTIES OF THE PRESS.

Under the above heading the New Orleans Delta publishes the following judicious and sensible remarks:

"Many persons have a very extensive idea of the duty of editors. They think it the chief function of that much-persecuted fraternity to reform all abuses and evils, to examine into all complaints and grievances, and to assign all wrong, public or private, general or individual. In fine, in their view, an editor should be a Hercules, to go forth with his club of mauling, to smite all the plagues that afflict mankind. As humble workers in this responsible position, we desire to declaim against this view of our powers and duties. The frequent complaints of particular evils, the eternal bore to which we are subjected by persons who are troubled by some particular grievance, induce us to define our position and show on this question.

"Every day, often in our editorial office, and more frequently when we trust ourselves on the streets, we are assailed by some wailing, wailing person with the inquiry, 'Why don't you come out against that thing, or that person?—why don't you look into that horrible net of malfeasance of a public officer?—why do you allow that judgment (in which the interrogator is no doubt a party) to pass by without comment or censure?—in fine, why don't you give your particular and special attention to my little grievance, in preference to the thousand others which may be diaped in your ears?"