

THE NORTH-CAROLINA STAR.

THOMAS J. LEWIS, Editor

NORTH CAROLINA—"Powerful in intellectual, moral and physical resources, the land of our sires and home of our affections."

TERMS—Two Dollars in Advance.

VOL. XLIII.

RALEIGH, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 23, 1852.

NO. 26.

TERMS.—If paid strictly in advance, \$2 per annum, \$2 50 if paid within six months, and \$3 at the end of the year.

ADVERTISING.—1 Square (16 lines) first insertion \$7, and 25 cents for each subsequent insertion.

AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS IN VIRGINIA FOR THE LAST THIRTY YEARS.

Agriculture in Virginia had then reached its lowest point of depression. Under the exhausting system of cultivation which had prevailed from the first settlement—a system which was truly a systematic destruction of the country—adopted in the first instance by emigrants, in order to obtain the largest immediate profit, and which were utterly regardless of its ultimate effects, and continued by their descendants, when the same cause which had induced it had ceased to exist—the land, for the most part, no longer paid the expenses of cultivation. As a patient who has undergone a long and rapid process of depletion, and has little blood left to yield to the Sangrado practitioner, such was the tide-water section of Virginia. With such culture—such impoverishment—and the prospect of a population thus situated, society was rapidly declining. It was well said by Mr. Ruffin, in an address to the people of his county, that at that time—

"Almost every man was growing poorer, or the prospect of his family becoming worse. The grade of society had been, and still continued to be, on the decline. The proprietors having no hope of the improvement of their lands, or of being remunerated for ever so great industry and devotion to their business, thought it as well to bestow very little. Accordingly, like the inhabitants of a city ravaged by the plague, they thought more of present enjoyment than of providing for future wants; and there prevailed, generally, habits of idleness and improvidence, of pleasure seeking and neglect of business, with all the necessary consequences."

The population fled from the country to seek a better fortune in the distant West. He continues:—

"There was scarcely a proprietor in my neighborhood, and deriving his income from cultivation, who did not desire to sell his land, and who was prevented only by the impossibility of finding a purchaser, unless at half the then very low value. All wished to sell—and to buy. If a stranger had been inclined to settle among us, he might have chosen almost any farm in the county, and would scarcely have failed to find the owner glad to sell, and at a fair price."

The county of Prince George differed but little from all the lower part of Virginia. There seemed no refuge from poverty but emigration. Many of the aristocratic mansions of this happy and generous population were now abandoned in silence and ruin; and the former inmates, with the remains of their dilapidated fortunes, made their melancholy way to the wilds of the West. Many a field which had descended from generation to generation of the same stock, for long years, and which had offered to successive heirs good prospects and rich harvests, now thinly clad in brown straw and the tiny herbage, was given up to the encroaching forest.

In this state of things, the subject of our sketch entered on his career as a farmer. He was totally inexperienced, and had no knowledge either theoretical or practical, of his business. But in this he differed but little from older men in this period in Virginia. He gave himself up with enthusiasm to his pursuit, labored most industriously, yet labored in the dark, and, of course, often went astray; sometimes in pursuit of one "sign" failure, and sometimes of another. He saw clearly that the prevailing systems and practices of culture were wrong, and wandered from experiment to experiment to discover what was true. Often mistaken in views adopted—a "poor," he soon tested them by careful experiment and rigid induction. Many investigations, thus pursued for a series of years by one whose logical power equalled his industry, naturally and inevitably led to great results. "Labor vincit omnia," says the Mantuan farmer.

The estate of Coggin's Point was, at that time, extremely poor, the larger part not averaging more than ten bushels of corn per acre, more than six bushels of wheat, on the better half of the land. Bordering it, on the river, was a tide-marsh of three hundred acres, covered by water when the tide was up, but left free when the tide was low. One of the first of Mr. Ruffin's experiments was to reclaim this part of the marsh. He limited his efforts to about thirty-two acres, the most favorably situated, as he believed, to ensure success. After five long years' exertions, he succeeded in draining this small section, and bringing it into good culture. It produced three very large crops of corn, then three others less and less in quantity, when the vegetable soil had so rotted away that the bulk of the land was now too low for cultivation, and it was abandoned to its former element. Such has been the fate of every effort of a similar kind on soils of a similar character.

About the year 1813, Col. John Taylor, of Caroline, published his "Arator." It was received with enthusiastic zeal. There was a general belief that he had discovered the great secret of improving Virginia soils, and many anxious farmers now rejoiced, as the simplest tilled soil on the first sight of land after a tedious voyage. Here was presented a cure for the miseries; they might retrieve their old homesteads and retrieve their shattered fortunes. "The principal feature in his system was the precision of the land from grazing, and making the vegetable serve as manure. Another, and secondary, idea, was to throw the land into high beds in cultivation, by deep plowing. Mr. Ruffin became an ardent admirer of "Arator," and adopted his opinions and precepts. He had not yet learned that the inorganic elements of soils, the mineral ingredients, are often deficient, and sometimes one or more exhausted by cultivation, sometimes not furnished by nature to the virgin lands, and that their vegetable growth will not furnish them. He at once carried into practice the new ideas, and subjected them to the test of experiment. For four or five years he used all the means of improvement recommended, and found them, as he states, "unprofitable, entirely useless, or absolutely, and in some cases greatly, injurious."

What then was to be done? He was not the man to despair, save in a desperate case. But circumstances seemed singularly to concur in establishing the belief that any permanent improvement was hopeless. Putrescent manure, when applied, disappeared in the course of two or three years, and left not a vestige behind. The country seemed destined to sterility. Indeed, nature had made barren a great portion of the tide-water country, and her decree was irreversible, with the present elements of the soil. The virgin land, when first stripped of the primeval forest, would in many localities scarcely pay the expenses of cultivation. And yet this soil had received the dropping foliage and the decaying timber from the time of the flood. It is not too much to say, that one hundred feet in depth of putrescent matter had been piled on its surface, and had rotted there in the lapse of years, and yet the soil had remained still poor. In this exhausted state, however, the Virginia farmer had gained here, heretofore, excitement and exhilaration than either for he had not only extended the boundary of science, but had made a discovery which added millions to the productions of his country—which would arrest the declining fortunes of his State—which would feed the hungry, give comfort to the indigent, and afford the means of improving the condition of thousands of his race.

In 1818, Mr. Ruffin made a communication to the Prince George Agricultural Society on the subject of his discovery, which formed the basis of his first treatise, "An Essay on Calcareous Manures," published in 1822. It is to be regretted that the limits of this sketch will not permit the insertion here of that communication. It is the nucleus of the essay. In the later production, the principles maintained, and which were then for the first time promulgated in an independent work, and supported by facts and arguments, are the following:

1. The capacity of soils for being enriched permanently by putrescent manures is only equal to their original or natural degree of fertility.
2. The absence of carbonate of lime almost universally in the soils of the Atlantic slope of Virginia, and by inference of most of the other States, and most frequently even in what are called limestone soils.
3. The general presence of some vegetable acid in all the naturally poor soils in the district above referred to, acting as a cause of sterility.
4. The application of carbonate of lime to neutralize the acid, and by that and other effects to prepare the land for speedy and profitable improvement.

These principles were maintained with great ingenuity and ability, and made their way rapidly into public favor. They are now generally received, as true, and form the basis of agricultural improvement throughout the extensive section of the country far which they were intended. The chemists have detected humic acid in the soil; carbonate of lime is acknowledged to be generally wanting in the slope of the Atlantic States; and it is equally admitted that a considerable mixture of the calcareous elements is an essential ingredient in all fertile and durable soils.

The essay was soon eagerly sought—everywhere discussed—and wrought a powerful effect on the convictions and practices of the proprietors of Eastern Virginia. It passed through three editions. Though the cultivators of the soil are proverbially slow in changing their usages, in this instance the new ideas were rapidly diffused, and, in a short time, larger numbers were engaged in using them. Men who before had made only a few hundred dollars from their annual crops, now found themselves producing thousands. Agriculture had become profitable—a prospect was presented of comfort and wealth to the farmers of the country—energy and enterprise succeeded to indolence and idleness, and now it was no longer necessary to look for homes in the western forests for themselves and their descendants.

In an appendix to the "Essay on Calcareous Manures," is an extract from the journal of the Coggin's Point Farm, showing the annual crops made from 1813 to 1852. From this source we learn that in 1818, when the first experiment in marling was made, the crop of wheat on that estate was 450 bushels and that of corn, 240 bushels. In 1843, the product of wheat was 4,723 bushels; that of corn 4,678 bushels. The quantity of arable land in the beginning was 472 acres, but this was afterwards increased, by clearings of extremely poor land, to 632 acres, which diminished the general product per acre.

In continuation of these details of success, we avail ourselves of the most reliable information to present some evidence of the increase of products on the Marlborough estate, on which Mr. R. now resides. This land, for the most part, an alluvial flat on the shore of the Pamunkey, originally fertile, but reduced by injudicious tillage to a state of great impoverishment. In 1844, Mr. R. removed to this estate. We are informed that the ordinary crop of wheat for a considerable time previous, did not exceed 100 bushels; but we have no information as to corn. In 1845, after an application the year previous of 67,875 bushels of marl, the crop of wheat on 112 acres was 1,077 bushels; that of corn on 114 acres 1,000 bushels. In 1848, after the lapse of only three years, the wheat crop reached 5,127 bushels on 254 acres, and that of corn 3,689 bushels on 108 acres. This vast improvement—much more than a duplicate of product, indeed nearly triple—was effected without any other fertilizing substance but the marl, the manure furnished by the crops, and clover sown upon the land. The profits upon this estate, including price of land, labor, stock, and every thing necessary to its cultivation, were in '47, while a fraction of 23 per cent. on the whole investment, in '48, a little upwards of 80 per cent. Nothing being said in this estimate of the increase in the value of the farm, which is certainly now worth three times as much as it was four years ago.

He has seen his efforts crowned with success. It is principally due to his exertions that Virginia is going through a process of rapid improvement, such as has been rarely, if ever before witnessed. Emigration has for the most part ceased; her sons may now find abundant sources of prosperity at home. The census of 1850 shows an increase in the value of the lands of Eastern Virginia since 1810, of \$2,000,000,000. Nor is even this amount a fair estimate of the real enhancement. The high price of labor, regulated by

the Southern markets, keeps down the profits of the farmer upon the capital invested, and, in an address of Mr. Ruffin to his friends and neighbors of Prince George, 1844, who had assembled to do him honor, in the presence of others, he said, in contrast, "I consider the present condition with what it was twenty-five years before. The former part of the picture has been before adverted to in this sketch; in the latter part he says:—

"In all of this, my old neighborhood, and so far as I know, through the whole country, not one individual, after beginning to marl, has emigrated or desired to emigrate. The prices of lands here have greatly increased, though less than their true value. But I know not how to estimate the rate of increase, because sales are now more rare than ever formerly, though for the opposite reason. That is, that nobody would buy; now, nobody will sell."

"I know nowhere a more industrious and steady, thriving community than is exhibited in the present occupants of these lands. Among them, I believe, it would be difficult to find a young landholder who is not attentive to his business, industrious, and thriving in his operations; and if seeking pleasure less than his predecessors, finding it far more successfully in steady attention to the cultivation and improvement of his farm. And this change, and all the results and benefits, economical, social and moral, are mainly owing to his one circumstance, that every man has now presented to him, in certain prospect, a full and sure reward for his labors."

What is here affirmed of the county of Prince George, is, to a very great extent, true of all Virginia below the mountains. Mr. Ruffin has thus enriched his State by his labors—enriched his friends, his neighbors and himself. His indelible impress is made on Virginia, and time most strengthen it. His monument is truly more lasting than brass, for it is the soil of his State. He has cause to be conscious that he has deserved well of his country. His memory will be cherished with gratitude, when many of those who occupy so much of the public attention, and shall be ever passing before the popular gaze, who care to exist in the recollection of man; when their evanescent honors shall have passed away with the excitement that gave them birth, and like the consumed candle, their light shall have vanished forever.

URINE AS A FERTILIZER.

"A Practical Farmer," in the *German Farmer's Telegraph*, says, that the very high degree of value that urine possesses ought to recommend it to every one. Of the fertilizing effects of urine in a purified or semi-purified state, experience has supplied us with the most distinct and positive proof. In this condition, the alimentary properties with which it is endowed must result exclusively from the amount of salts it contains. Besides these, it also contains a considerable amount of organic nitrogenous parts, which, by decomposition, produce the formation of ammonia, which is the source of the "autogenous" praxianic constituents of plants. The question has been frequently propounded, "whether we are to ascribe the known value of urine as a manure, to its nitrogenous constituents, or solely to its amount of salts, and, therefore, to its phosphates?"

This inquiry may be of interest to the speculator and the philosopher, but for the more practical farmer it is enough that the evidences of its fertilizing effects are obvious and incontrovertible. It will confer fertility upon the soil, and realize the great object of all experimental cultivation—causing "two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before"—the object of the cultivator will be accomplished, and the question may be left to the chemist and philosopher to decide.

In the summer of 1842, I applied to twenty hills of Indian corn, when just starting from the soil, one gallon of purified urine per hill. After the first hoeing another gallon was applied and after the second a third. This corn was planted on a thin, poor soil, which had been exhausted by long and severe cropping, and had become so far exhausted of humus as not to produce even a fair crop of indigenous weeds. The growth of the corn was rapid and luxuriant. No other stimulus was applied, and two hoeings were all that I allowed. On a patch of cucumbers, melons and squashes, I also applied the same with similar success. One great advantage attending the use of this liquid as a fertilizer, it does not promote the growth of weeds. Solid manure, and most of all the compound fertilizers, explain innumerable seeds which take early root, and by going so much upon the more rarely cultivated crops greatly perplex the farmer; but urine is free from this. It will, it is true, invigorate equally with the cultivated plants all such various productions as may have previously taken root, but its application will never foul the soil if pure before it is applied.

For irrigating grass land it is probably the most energetic, fruitifying and salutary agent known. In its perfectly fresh state, urine does not so energetically, and is rather harmful than otherwise, in the case of vegetables. I have applied it in this condition, and have never witnessed any good from it on any crop. Putrefaction is indispensable to give to it those highly fruitifying properties which, in this state, it is so well known to possess. Petzoldt, in his *Agricultural Chemistry*, explains the rationale of this, in the following manner:

"Now," says he, "if you consider that during the putrefaction of urine, its nitrogenous compounds, such as urea and uric acid, are transformed into carbonate of ammonia, a volatile substance, which escapes into the air it will be seen, unless it is applied before the process has become too far advanced, that the principal fertilizing constituents will be lost, for it is to these that its efficacy as a stimulant of vegetable life principally belongs."

When circumstances render it necessary to preserve this liquid for a length of time on hand, before applying it, it is a good plan to mix gypsum with it, to attract and fix its fertilizing and volatile constituent. The urine of cattle should be conducted by a system of spouts or tubes to the manure heap, or to deposits of muck, loam, or some other absorbent substance, which will take it up and retain it, by the assistance of gypsum, or some other "fixer," till wanted for the benefit of the crops. That urine contains a large amount of animal matter, may be proved by the fact, that, of all the solid portions of the human system, there is a complete exhaustion and renewal once in every seven years. That is, to be more definite, the man, woman or child of to-day, has

not in his physical structure one particle which conformed his frame seven years ago. The old, worn and abraded particles, as they become useless and detached, are passed from the constantly renovating organism, and are finally to be found in the urine. These constituents are very fertilizing agents, and to them, principally, I owe to the surprising results which attend the application of this substance as a manure, or stimulus of vegetable life. As to its effects when used for irrigating grass lands, allow me to present the following extract from an English work:

"From a meadow, which had not been marled, 8000 lbs. of hay were obtained. The surface, after irrigation with urine, yielded 11,432 lbs. of hay; that is, 3,432 lbs. more. In this country, equally beneficial results have followed the application, and in one or two instances the increase of product considerably exceeded the above given. To every one, therefore, I may be permitted to say, in liquid measure: it is an article far too valuable to be overlooked or lost."

APPLICATION OF LIME TO THIN SANDY LAND.

Slake the lime with salt brine; when it falls into powder, mix with every 25 bushels of it, 10 loads of clay, layer and layer about three weeks. In the meantime, manure, plow and harrow the land, then shovel over the compost, so as to intimately mix the lime with the clay, and broadcast even loads of the mixture evenly over the surface of each acre, and harrow and cross harrow, and then sow when the land will be fit to receive the seed, which you may intend it for. If lime be thus applied to thin sandy land, ten loads of putrescent manure will actually perform more positive good, than would twenty loads applied without the addition of the clay, provided a bushel of plaster per acre be sowed over the land.

APPLICATION OF LIME TO STIFF CLAYS.

To stiff clays, that may have been exhausted by long continued cropping, which may need lime, 50 bushels of lime may be applied to an acre. If washed, it will be the better by being slaked with salt brine. If slaked, we would mix one bushel of salt with every two bushels of lime, layer about; let it lie in bulk, under cover, for three months; then shovel it over, and apply it to the land after it has been plowed and harrowed, at the rate of 50 bushels of the salt lime per acre; harrow and cross-harrow it in, and finish by rolling.

APPLICATION OF LIME TO STIFF CLAYS, Rich in Vegetable and Animal Matter.

To such soils, a quantity of lime may be applied, double the last named quantity will be found beneficial; though, for present purposes, one-half the quantity would answer, and prove effective for several years.

WOOL GROWING AT THE SOUTH.

It is a strange infatuation, and one rather peculiar to the Southern country, that with a climate and soil so varied in their adaptations, we should be so little inclined to diversify our labor, and thus bring out our whole resources. The mania for cotton raising is so very universal, that to a stranger visiting our country it would seem that this was all that could grow and our only resource. Such an one in view of the embarrassments resulting from over production, would be astonished to learn that wheat and corn, oats, rye, and barley, and hay, all could be raised here with the greatest ease and perfection. That no country on earth afforded more facilities for manufacturing, and we may add, that without whether any can be found presenting more advantages for sheep raising on a large scale. We propose to demonstrate this truth, and bring the illustration as near home as possible. We published in this number the observations of a successful and already distinguished wool grower in Tennessee. We might point to other evidence, making the practicability and success of the enterprise sure. We have, however, never proven it on a small scale. For several years we have kept about two hundred head of sheep on our farm, for family and plantation use. These have been kept at little cost, and comparatively little care. The pine woods in the summer affording ample supplies and a little extra provision in the winter being all that was necessary. This has proven very conclusively what might be done by making a business of it in our vast pine forests, thousands of acres may be had at a very trifling cost.

With such a location, it would be no difficult task, by carefully penning the sheep at night, to enrich a sufficient quantity of land to make ample supplies of corn, peas, potatoes, and turnips, for the support of the establishment, and also to provide green pasturage for the ewes in lambing season. For a very large portion of the year, in a climate so mild, very ample grazing would be found in the woods. If we were a little more familiar with the practical details of this business we would attempt to demonstrate the advantages of sheep husbandry, by entering into estimates of the outlay of capital, the incidental expenses, and the returning profits of the investment. We should not fear a comparison with the best managed cotton plantations. We have looked into this matter far enough to satisfy our minds that the balance would be decidedly in favor of the sheep. Such are our convictions of the correctness of this conclusion, and of the practicability of the business, that if circumstances favored it, we should feel inclined to show our faith by our works. The common observer is misled in the estimate of this business, by the poor, neglected, and filthy little flocks, as seen about most plantations, which are left to wander in search of food, mixed with the scattered and killed by dogs. But we will suppose proper arrangements to be made—shepherds, dogs, and all to be provided, and a flock of ten thousand well selected and well attended sheep placed in the midst of one of our great pine forests. This looks pretty large, but no matter—it would be well for the sheep if all now in the State of Georgia belonged to one good master, who was proposing to make them the object of his care and attention. These, with the necessary land for pastures, and ample superintendents, would require an outlay of capital, certainly not beyond twenty-five thousand dollars. We think it would be conceded that for wool alone, fifty cents a head would be realized, at one clipping a year. This would make five thousand dollars. We will say nothing of the sale of mutton, or what might be done by the introduction of improved breeds. Here are doubtless large additional profits which we will not now undertake to estimate, but

throw them in by way of good measure. The capital which we have designated, would start a cotton plantation, with the proper quantity of land, and thirty negroes, twenty of whom shall be workmen, and the mules, &c., necessary for its cultivation. If the provisions for the support of the farm are more than one hundred bushels of cotton, of five hundred pounds each, will be a very fair average product. We now leave you to draw the comparison, and form your own conclusions.

Soil of the South.

IRISH POTATO SLIPS.

NEAR CATONA SPRINGS, GA.,
April 23, 1852.

EDITOR SOIL OF THE SOUTH:—

In your April number, page 249, I noticed directions for keeping the Irish potato after digging. Your directions are good. My plan is somewhat different, and has proved very successful. Mix two bushels of charcoal with one bushel of air-slacked lime for every 50 bushels of potatoes, and sprinkle the mixture through the potatoes immediately after moving them from the field. In this way you may keep them perfectly sound until the spring.

Inasmuch as seed potatoes are with difficulty obtained at any price, I have been planting the Irish potato for the last three years by drawing the slips, and find that they produce in this way quite as well as the Yam potato. One bushel of Irish potatoes planted in this way will produce more than two bushels of the Yam. Bed them as you do the Yam, draw the slips, over a wide narrow bed with the plow, and plant them in it on the horizontal plan, as you do grape cuttings, leaving from two to four inches of the top out of the ground.

Mr. Cobbet, in an essay on the Irish potato crop, written in 1816, predicts that it will eventually fail. To this opinion we dissent. The Irish potato is a native of America, where it grows wild, and was transplanted in Europe where it became an indispensable article of food, and where it has been cultivated with great success under forced culture. Neither is the Irish potato a native of the Northern States. And yet we have been hewers of wood and drawers of water to the Yankee until we have forgotten when to dig our own potatoes or how to save them. Necessity now forces us to change our system of agriculture. The original stock potatoes has become exhausted. We must renew it. Draw from your present crop, slips or vines when from 8 to 10 inches long; plant as before described, in good loose free soil; gather your potato apples or balls, and you will get a fresh start. By drawing the slips, you get clear of the parent potato which is diseased. The potato apple will probably produce several kinds of potatoes, and a premium of \$100 by the Southern Central Agricultural Society, would probably bring the energy of our farmers to bear on this subject, and bring to us new and improved varieties. I am satisfied that our people do not appreciate the value and importance of seed raised on our own soil in our own climate. The Cincinnati Society has offered such a premium for the best seedling strawberry.

I live in a grape growing, grain raising and vegetable and fruit country, in sight of the Caucasus Springs, where my experiments may be seen by calling.

Learn to save slips to you for the Soil of the South. It is just such a Periodical will promote the agricultural interests of the South. I hope to add several new subscribers to your list.

Yours, truly,
WILLIAM MURRAY.

IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL ATTENTIONS.

Mr. Erwin: It was one of the wise sayings of that great philosopher, Dr. Franklin, "If you want any thing done well, go if sending, attend to it." I have seen the resolutions of the Convention adopted by the members, and in its observance much vexation and disappointment would be avoided, and much real gain realized. In no business is it more applicable than that of planting; and in none are its consequences more disastrous. Ours is a business which has its times and its seasons, in which we must act promptly; for the opportunity once elapsed never returns. How important that it will be well improved! The man of even says to his negro, "go plant the crop," trusting too often to his discretion, or fidelity. The reason for planting potatoes, the wheat, or the corn, come up too thin or too thick, or either, by turns—here too much have been sowed, there too little. The corn, somehow, doesn't come—badly dropped—gets grain in one hill, none in the next—one hand covering too deep, another scarcely hiding from the sight of the first bird that passes that way in search of a breaker. The notion seed dropped in bunches—here a handful, there a skip. This happy negro cares not—it is all the same to him whether it is good stand or a bad one. He perhaps is looking out for the appearance of the crop, or the number of birds, or perhaps still more happy in the probability of making up for loss of sleep the night before—nothing—when his attention is all needed in the execution of his work. "Tidy done, but this fatal discovery is never revealed until the sad story of failure in the coming up is manifested. It is then too late—all the abuse and blamer common to such occasions cannot repair the injury. Days may be appropriated to re-planting, which are needed about other work—the soil is hard, and the sun of the year is the consequence—no time for sending, instead of going. The fences are to be repaired—the order is given—the negro goes to his work, and the overseer goes to take his ease, or goes to seek his pleasure in employments more congenial to his taste. The work is done, and mid-season when the crop is growing, and the work is pressing upon us unannounced, or longed for, old sow, takes a fancy that better fare would be found inside than outside the enclosure, and accordingly sties, bidding all their friends welcome. Then comes a fast—negroes and dogs are paraded, the intruders are ejected, but not until they have got a taste not soon to be forgotten. This storm works oil in course upon the negro, for his infidelities, but never brings back the damage done to the crop. The cotton is now up, and needs thinning to stand. The negro goes on at a butting the deeper away. We need hardly sketch the picture; you have seen it. The poor sows worse and the flies have many a se held at

their door for which they will never have to account. The stud is spoiled, and the crop is lost, all for the want of going, instead of sending, to have so delicate a task performed. This sort of management is fun to the grass, also—having to lower its head a little and submit to a little tending and as soon as your back is turned to come up with greater boldness than ever again. The difference between the labor of good work, and bad is very little, but the result are vastly different—all for the want of the master's eye. The mules have plowed hard all day, when they are returned to their stable for rest and food. The overseer goes to his supper, and soon to bed, while he sends the plowman to do the business of feeding and watering. Corn is thrown in profusion to-night and the poor animal, perhaps upon short allowance the night before, eats a perfect gorge, and in his fullness and heat from the double portion of corn in his stomach, "whims for cooling water brook," where he completes the work of death. Cold comes on, and the mule is lost, and the master and all wonder what could have produced it. All for sending and not going. The cattle go straggling, the hogs are lost, the meat-house is empty, the provisions wasted, and a thousand needless expenses, just because Shumbo or Tom was sent to

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hope that I have not hit any of the readers of this journal. If I should have done so, however, I have no apology to offer, but I would admiral all such to stand out of the way for the future. I intend not to offend any of that very worthy and valuable class of men, whose engaged in the laudable business of over-seeing. There are among them as good and faithful men as belong to the land. I would do three all honor, and propose, by these explanations, to elevate their calling, to expunge the pretender, and help, by the example of the faithful, to improve, or drive from their ranks, all the drones who live only to pocket their year's salary, and leave the interests committed to their care, to take care of themselves. Do not forget the motto, "if you want any thing well done, go if not send."

AN EASY NATURED FARMER.

The Detroit Advertiser relates the following example of a resignation, usual among Americans:

A certain good-natured old Vermont farmer preserved his constant good nature, but what would turn up. One day, while the black tongue prevailed in that State, one of his men came in bringing the news that one of his red oxen was dead.

"Is he?" said the old man, "well, he always was a bronchy cuss. Take his hide off, and carry it down to Fletcher's; it will bring the cash." An hour or so afterwards, the man came with the news that "his black" and his man were both dead. "Are they?" said the old man, well-taken from the B— to save a bad debt, that I never expected to get. It is lucky that it ain't the titules. Take the hide down to Fletcher's; they will bring the cash." After the lapse of another hour, the man came back again, or tell him that the calf brandle was dead. "Is he?" said the old man, "well he was a very old ox. Take off his hide and take it down to Fletcher's; it's worth cash, and will bring more than any two of the oxen's."

"Hecosee-his-wife, who was a very phlegm taking upon herself the office of Eliphaz, reprimanded her husband very severely, and asked him if he was not aware that this loss was a judgment of Heaven for his wickedness. "Is it?" said the old fellow. "Well, if they will take the judgment in cattle, it is the easiest way I can pay it."

HOW THE PLATFORM WAS MADE.

The New York Evening Post of Tuesday returns to this subject for the purpose of referring, in a more authoritative form, its allegations in reference to the wantonness of the resolutions adopted by the Democratic Convention as a standard of party faith. We quote a paragraph, from which it will be seen that the Post has offers reasons for representing the manner in which the affair was managed as worse even than farmed:

"With regard to the resolutions said to have been adopted by the Convention just before its close, called in some quarters 'the platform,' we re-assert, in stronger terms, what we said yesterday. Further inquiries into the circumstances satisfy us that, in saying that they did not express the sense of the Convention, we used the least expressive phrase the case would justify. They were not adopted by the Convention. Three-fourths of the members—more than three-fourths, it is well known—had left the room; not more than a dozen of the rest again, or tell him that the ship brandle was dead. "Is he?" said the old man, "well he was a very old ox. Take off his hide and take it down to Fletcher's; it's worth cash, and will bring more than any two of the oxen's."

It is due to truth and candor to say that the Standard Plate desires the truth of the statement of the Post. The issue is between the two organs. Our readers must judge for themselves. Common sense and good substantial homogenous garments are not used much in these days.