THE RALEIGH STAR AND NORTH CAROLINA GAZETTE.

THOS. J. LEMAY, Editor and Proprietor. "NORTH CAROLINA:—POWERFUL IN MORAL, INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL RESOURCES—THE LAND OF OUR SIRES AND THE HOME OF OUR AFFECTIONS."

VOL. 38. RALEIGH, N. C., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1847. No. 39

(THREE DOLLARS A YEAR—IN ADVANCE

"1. That there is a tendency in corn to degenerate—that a variety after having been planted for a series of years is not likely to ear well or to fill out on the ear, though the stalk may be luxuriant.

"2. That an early variety, taken from a higher latitude and cultivated here, will increase in the size of the ears, be more prolific in grain, with a less quantity of stalks."

Mr. Yeomans says his principal object in this communication is to impress upon the minds of agriculturists, the importance of occasionally changing their seed corn."

☞In Devonshire, England, where dairying is extensively praised, the milk intended for the churn, or for cheese, is scalded as soon as it comes from the cow. This process obviates most effectually the natural tendency of the milk to sour in warm weather; and, when intended for butter-making, secures the advantage of sweet milk for family use, after the cream is removed.

IMPROVEMENT OF HORSES.

It is a fact well known, that the value of horses in this country has been greatly improved by crossings with what is known as the thorough bred horse. The speed and endurance of the animal have been nearly doubled by this means.

While this is true, the fact has been noticed for some years, that in those States where blood horses have been most sought, and the turf most fashionable, the stock of horses for work and road purposes has rather deteriorated than improved.

A writer in the Albany Cultivator maintains that while the style of breeding seventy or eighty years since, was calculated to improve the horse for work purposes that pursued of late is calculated to produce an entirely contrary result. Horses were then trained to run long distances with heavy weights; they are now trained to run short distances with light weights.—The results of these opposite modes of training and breeding may readily be seen.

The tendency of the first is to produce a compact, solid, substantial, animal capable of sustaining himself under long continued action. That of the latter is to produce an animal capable of long rapid strides, continued but a short time. Hence our racers, and all their progeny and relatives, have become a long legged and gaunt generation, poorly fitted for heavy farm work, or exacting road performances.

The inference from this is, that no further improvement is to be looked for from blood horses bred as they are now for the turf; but that animals must be breed for those qualities which fit a hose for road work.—*Prairie Farmer.*

AMERICAN FARMER.

The December number of the American Farmer, published by Mr. Samuel Sands, Baltimore, is filled with valuable information on a variety of subjects connected with the cultivation of the earth, the implements used in tillage, and the raising of stock.

TO KEEP AWAY THE MOTH.

Before folding up and putting away your winter blankets, furs, and other articles, sprinkle them, or smear them over with a few drops of oil of turpentine, either alone or mixed with an equal bulk of spirits of wine. No stain will be left; and if spirits of wine be used, the odor is not disagreeable.

MEDICINE FOR HOGS.

The American Farmer furnishes the following: "When your hogs get sick, you know not of what, give them ears of corn, first dipped in tar and then rolled in sulphur. It is ten to one but it arrests the disease and restores the pig to perfect health."

TO FIX AMMONIACAL ASHES IN VAULTS.

The most effectual substances that can be employed for the purposes of attracting ammoniacal gases, are green vitriol or common copperas (sulphate of iron,) and sulphuric acid. A pound of either of these substances, diluted in a gallon of water and thrown into a vault, will immediately render it inodorous.

ANALYSIS OF THE COTTON PLANT.

At the Farmer's Club of New York, the Hon. Dixon H. Lewis, of Alabama, remarked that the seed of the cotton made rather more than ⅓ of the plant, and every 1200 lbs. gives 350 clean cotton. "The Club, in accordance with his suggestion, resolved upon having prepared a complete and perfect analysis of the stalk, boll, fibre and seed of the cotton plant." The analysis hitherto made by Dr. Shepard, extended only to the wool and seed. The results as we have them are: one hundred parts cotton wool lost 86,09 parts in a platina crucible, leaving a charred residuum, which on being ignited under a muffle until every part of the carbon was consumed, lost 12,984 and left an almost purely white ash whose weight was 0,9247. Of this ash about 44 per cent. was found soluble in water. It contained 12,88 of sand, an adventitious product of harvesting. Deducting the sand, the constitution of the ash is obtained; and abstracting the carbonic acid as the result of incineration, Dr. S. shows that to constitute every 100 parts of the ash, the cotton plant will take from the soil the following important mineral ingredients:

Potassa (with possible traces of soda)	31,09 lbs.
Lime	17,05 "
Magnesia	3,26 "
Phosphoric acid	12,46 "
Sulphuric acid	1,32 "
	64,92

Or for 10,000 lbs. cotton wool there will be taken 64,92 lbs. of these elements.

A table corresponding with the one above is derived from experiments upon *Cotton seed:*

Phosphoric acid	45,35
Lime	29,79
Potassa	19,40
Sulphuric acid	1 16
	95,70

From the foregoing analysis, it would appear difficult to imagine a vegetable compound better adapted for fertilizing land than the cotton seed; nor can we any longer be surprised at the well-known fact, that soils long cropped with this staple, without a return to them of the inorganic matters withdrawn in the seed became completely exhausted and unproductive.

ON THE RENOVATION OF WORN-OUT LAND.

BY COL. H. CAPRON.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

Sir:—If I have occupied a few columns of your very valuable paper, you will allow, I think, that your readers have been amply compensated by the several valuable criticisms upon my system—and you will not, I trust, consider me too troublesome if I solicit the publication of this communication in your next. When a man appears before interesting and instructive.

The case being decided, it is customary for the court to state the grounds for that decision, and lay down some rules for furture guidance in such matters. The court having decided that the "self-renovating" principle on these old fields was the most to be relied upon—will the court please state where this system is to start from? If from the use of stable manure, where are we to get the stable manures to produce it? If the old fields wont produce the vegetable matter to turn under to produce the vegetable crop, which is to feed the cow, that is to produce the manure, that is to produce the renovating effect—what are we to start from? This is what the court have not shown, nor the learned counsel on the other side.

I have shown that these worn-out lands in their natural state will not produce more than from 5 to 7 bushels of corn or oats per acre, and not one spear of clover, although aided by the use of plaster; and yet these poor old fields, and the Old Fielder, is to be sentenced to the self-renovating principle. I appeal from this decision and demand the "modus operandi." Let us know what we are to base the improvement of these worn-out lands upon, on this system. I think the poverty of my client cannot be understood, or the sympathies of the court and jury would be enlisted in its favor. I therefore take this occasion to state the desperate condition of the case, and would ask the court to point out the "modus operandi" for remedying it, and give us in detail the cost of improving a worn-out old field, on the self-renovating principle,—beginning with the ploughing in of a "green crop" of oats for instance to start with, where the cradler, to save the grain, the court with the opinion of the Judge adverse to his cause, his case may be considered doubtful. But when both court and jury have prejudged him, his case must be hopeless. Such appears to me to be my position;—nevertheless, as a man in a good cause should never falter, so trusting to the strength of the evidence I have, I have once more geared my team, and appear in the lists with my plough in the hopes that if I cannot find the green crops upon some minerals, and turn up some that may prove jewels in the cause of agriculture.

If, therefore, I should accidentally counter another "Learner," run against an Old Fielder, or stir up the energies of another "Dutchman," or by chance knock off some of the wool from your worthy correspondent's Clover, I hope it will be understood that I am groping in the dark, seeking for more light and am in fact the mere steel which knocks from the flint the brilliant sparks to illuminate the paths of agricultural science.

I started by detailing my system for renovating worn-out lands and raising them from a state of utter barrenness to a state of comparative fruitfulness. To sustain the feasibility of my plan, I produced a number of experiments which I had made with some degree of success, and the result of which I have at this time abundant reasons to be satisfied with. This system has been very ably reviewed, and the result has been, I think what may be called at this age of improvement, both in law as well as agriculture, a compromise verdict. I have no complaint to make of this verdict. For if the decision should not prove useful to the agricultural community, the arguments in the case by the opposite counsel have been hailed to come the grab system over it. Perhaps you may not exactly understand what is meant by the grab system in cradling—I will explain for the enlightenment of those who never have lived upon or near one of these "old fields," and may never have witnessed this interesting process. It is this:—The cradler—a strong athletic negro, makes a sweep with the cradle from right to left, and as the cradle rises out of the grain, he "grabs" at it with his left hand, and lays it down carefully upon the ground in a bunch to enable the binder who follows immediately after him to find it. This is the universally adopted plan in cradling wheat or oats on these "old fields."

Now, may it please this court, how many such crops ploughed under green on the self renovating principle, would it take to produce a saving corp. With this data we shall be able to tell how many years a man may expect to be employed in this very agreeable occupation he gets a saving crop, and may very much assist the object in view—the renovation of worn-out lands.

Perhaps this may be considered an extreme case.—It is precisely what I started for—nothing more—nothing less—and it is the bona fide codition in which I found my lands, and which you will find to be the condition of a large portion of the old lands in Maryland and Virginia.

There are sections of country, I am well aware, where the soil will respond to kind treatment and the use of clover and plaster. But they invariably possess that indispensable requisite, mineral manure, in some shape. Such is the case in the lower part of this county, and so palpable is it, does not require the aid of a chemist to point it out. But it is not the case with the lands around this place, neither is it the case with a large portion of the worn out lands in Virginia and Maryland. If it had been otherwise, they would not have been turned out to starve as they have been. Now it is these lands, destitute of the necessary mineral constituents, that my former communication was intended was intended to reach. I have said this much to place myself right before the agricultural public as regards the object and intention of my first letter.

I think, Mr. Editor, that nothing I have said would justify the conclusion that I condemned entirely either of the theories of the great agricultural chemists—as the very able communication by X. in your last number would seem to imply—although by advocating the use of mineral manures as the basis for agricultural improvement on the worn-out lands, might at first blush warrant such a conclusion. The theories of both "Thaer" and "Liebig" may be right, when applied to different soils;—as for instance, "Thaer" would flourish on the lands in the forest of Prince George's for there he would find a soil with all the requisite mineral constituents, and perhaps a soil possessing to a greater degree than any other lands in the world. Liebig would have found his element in these soils. Thaer, the great advocate of green manures, was not only a chemist but a practical agriculturist, and controlled all his operations through his intimate knowledge of the chemical formation of the soil on which he flourished. Had he these old fields to contend with, I have no hesitation in hazarding the opinion that he would have agreed with "Liebig" in his preference for mineral manure.

But, Mr. Editor, while I have never met with a soil that could not be improved by the application of either lime or ashes, I have rarely, if ever, met with a soil that would repay the expense of turning under green crops. Notwithsanding this, there may be individual localities that may justify it. They must be rare and very far in the interior, if the growing crops, harvested and sold in market, and the amounts applied in some one of the concentrated manures, will not produce quadruple the benefit, not only to the succeeding crop, but to the permanent improvement of the soil—particularly at this age of improvement, when the whole country is checquered with canals, rail-roads, or with some description of steam navigation. I therefore object to the ploughing in of [illegible] manure, not that it does not act as an improver to some soils, but I object to it because, in the absence of any chemical analysis of the soil, its effect is rendered uncertain and hazardous—and also because it is the most expensive method of improving any soil in any situation—favorable or unfavorable.

To show you from what data I have come to such conclusion, I will now give you a detailed account of some experiments tried on a farm of 500 acres I cultivated in 1835 and 1836, &c., and sold at four times the first cost in 1839. These experiments were made for my own satisfaction, and carefully noted down among many others of the same character, together with the condition of the soil—the weather, &c.—and not with most distant idea of ever publishing them to the world.

In order to proceed understandingly Mr. Editor, we must fix upon some method for calculating the cost of a green crop turned in. The common method (I have observed with all the correspondents for agricultural periodicals, and is sustained by your valuable paper in recommendations for that system) is this:—You estimate the number of days' work in ploughing—seeding the ground, together with cost of seed, &c., as the cost of manuring an acre of ground with green crop:—now in my opinion this is all wrong, for two reasons. In the first place if a man should charge to his account for farming, simply the number of days' work of his hands and teams upon his different crops, (in ploughing, harrowing, &c.) he would find a large balance unaccounted for, in the way of lost time, general repairs, &c., &c.—items not fairly chargeable to any particular crop. In the second place, I object to it as wrong in principle. The cost be charged at what the crop (nearly matured) would be worth to him in market, after paying expenses of harvesting, thershing, barrying to market, &c., &c.

If this be the proper standard, and it certainly is—I will challenge any man to produce a well authenticated instance where the benefit to either the succeeding crop, or to the fertility of the soil, have justified the expenditure; whereas, it often proves an entire loss of the crop turned under.

Taking this system for calculating the expense of manuring with a green crop—which has been always mine—I herewith present you a few leaves from my memorandum book, for 1835-6-7.

On the 20th July, 1835, I ploughed up eight acres of tolerably good land and sowed it down in buckwheat to turn under as green manure. The soil, a sandy loam, rather light; the weather, as shown by a diary kept at the time, was favorable to its growth. On the 5th September, I measured off one and a half acres and reserved them to ascertain the cost per acre for manuring with this crop, turning the balance under. [illegible] the buckwheat was ripe, it was [illegible] ploughed up the whole field, together with considerable land adjoining, which had not been seeded to buckwheat, and sowed it down with rye,—in spring sowed clover seed and plaster.—A memorandum in the following year 1837, is to this effect:—"There is no perceptible improvement from ploughing under the buckwheat on lot No. 13 last year."

Now to justify this expensive outlay, there should have been an evident, a palpable improvement.

The cost of this useless expenditure in a green crop was this:—The acre and a half, reserved as an average of the whole, turned out 36½ bushels, or 27 bushels and a fraction per acre.

27 bushels buckwheat at the low figures of 50 cents, (worth in market at that time 70 cents) is	$13,50
Deduct, say 10 cents per bushel, for harvesting, carrying to market, &c.	2,70

And you have an expense of 10,80 on each and every acre for nothing.

Now for the bought manures. 27th March, 1837—lot No. 24, which had been broken up the September previous, was cross ploughed this spring and 100 bushels slacked ashes per acre [illegible] and harrowed in. (this lot contained 5½ acres, the soil a gravelly loam, quite barren.) It was seeded down with oats and clover, and when the clover had sprouted, plaster, at the rate of one bushel per acre, was applied to it. The diary of the weather shows it to have been very unpropitious up to June, when it changed for the better. Harvested this crop on the 19th July, "crop heavy," "clover fine;" threshed it out last of October, and found the product 217 bushels, or 41¼ bushels per acre.

Now for the figures in this case:

100 bushels ashes, cost delivered on the ground	$12,50
1 bushel plaster	50
And you credit 41¼ bushels oats, which were worth 40 cents in market at that time, but as some object to favored localities in this respect, we will deduct 25 per cent from the current rate, and put them at 30 cents	$13,00 $12,40

And we have for renovating this old field and putting it into condition with a good coat of clover, an outlay of sixty cents per acre. The facts speak for themselves.

In neither case have I taken to account the cost of labor, as it is unimportant in illustrating the value of the two manures.

One more experiment to show the power in these lands "for self-renovation," and I have done with the memorandum book.

In the spring of 1835, I ploughed up 50 acres in one field, for the purpose of testing the use of clover and plaster on these old fields, sowed it down to oats—finishing 24th April—harrowed in the oats, sowed clover seed at the rate of 6 quarts per acre—rolled it—and when the oats were up, sowed 14 bushels plaster per acre over the whole; product 370 bushels—or an average of about seven bushels per acre, *and not one sprig of clover.*

And now, may it please this court, I shall here rest the case of the old field—trusting that before you render your verdict you will test the validity of my evidence by an actual experiment under your own eye—and try it by the proper standard in political economy for regulating the value of property of all kinds—whether it be in the shape of a crop in the ground ready for the harvest—cash—labor, or what not,—and I shall have little fears for your decision.

H. CAPRON.

REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS ON THE DEATH OF GEN. LOUIS D. WILSON.

Unanimously adopted by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

The Special Committee, to whom was referred so much of the M. W. Grand Master's annual report as refers to the death of P. G. M. Louis D. Wilson, beg leave to report, that, from the limited time allowed them from other duties, it is almost impossible that they can do more than merely allude to that melancholy event. The Grand Lodge is already aware of the circumstances under which this heavy bereavement was brought upon us. He died in a foreign land, in the city of Vera Cruz, at the head of an army of his countrymen. Fidelity to the cause of our country, eagerness to repel her invaders, [illegible] may not Washingtons and her Warrens. The committee are informed on high authority that every commanding General of the American army was a Mason of high standing, except one, whose sad fate is an historical fact of so much notoriety that we may say nothing more of it than merely to allude to it by way of contrast. Nor is Masonry without her gifts upon her country's altar in our present sanguinary contest with Mexico. Amongst the number of those who have learned their duty to magistrates and the supreme government at her altar, in their most solemn vows, may be mentioned the name of our most illustrious P. G. Master. What was his course when the thunders of war came to our ears? —when we learned that our nation was engaged in bloody conflict with a daring enemy? Bro. Wilson left the legislative halls of his native State, repaired to his county, made up a company of volunteers over which he was chosen Captain, immediately assisted in raising another in the same county, and entered her service without delay.

Of Bro. Wilson as a Mason it is probably more pertinent that we should speak. Particularly in the active discharge of those cardinal virtues which the precepts of our Order inculcate in every bosom, Charity was pre-eminent. Many incidents in his history illustrate the truth of this remark. We will allude to but two, which are sufficient to place his name high upon the roll of benefactors of his species. On one occasion, when provision were exceedingly scarce in the county of Edgecomb, and want was stalking abroad in the land, Bro. Wilson generously threw open his barns and distributed two hundred barrels of corn amongst the poor of Edgecomb; donations of smaller size were continually emanating from his liberal hand.

The second grand charity to which the committee allude, was the closing and crowning act of his life—the capstone of his moral and masonic edifice—the magnificent bequest contained in his will. By this will he has given to the poor of his county an estate worth [illegible] dollars.

As Bro. Wilson deserved, he was held high in the esteem of his country-men, and any promotion at their disposal was freely and often bestowed; in proof of which, should any be needed, we would refer to his frequent elections to the Legislature from the county of Edgecomb—the fact that his mortal remains are to be brought home and a monument erected by contribution to his memory over the spot where they may find their long resting place.

We need hardly say that many of our brethren will have an opportunity of gathering at his grave to give vent to feelings that with some have found an outlet through more natural avenues. To many this high privilege will be denied by uncontrolable circumstances. But in order that all may share in some general expression of our grief, the committee recommend the adoption of the resolutions at the end of this report. The committee have not, as might appear to some, mentioned the acts of our deceased brother to blazon them forth in a way of vain glorious boastings: but Masonry sets no limits to the expressions of fraternal regard to the memory of a departed brother who has earned the affections of the Craft. Whenever the conduct of a brother through life so conspicuously illustrates those masonic virtues which are the pride and boast of our order, the Craft is honored, and we can with propriety gather around our own family altar, and in a spirit of emulation speak freely of those virtues.

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge will wear the usual badge of mourning (crape upon the left arm) for the space of thirty days, as a token of respect and esteem for the memory of our deceased brother.

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge recommend to the subordinate Lodges a similar course as soon as they obtain a knowledge of the course of the Grand Lodge.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to furnish a copy of these resolutions, and request the Editors of newspapers in this city and elsewhere friendly to our order to publish them.

On motion of P. G. Master, P. W. Fanning, it was

Unanimously resolved, That the above report and resolutions be adopted, and a copy of the same be forwarded to the immediate relatives of the deceased.

WM. TH. DAIN, *Gr. Secretary.*

FACTORIES.

Fayetteville is becoming a manufacturing town. A new Cotton Mill has just been put into operation under the superintendence of Mr. Baldwin, which has cost 30,000 and another is to be erected in the course of the spring, and also an iron foundary. This will make ten manufacturing establishments, on a large scale, in and near the town.

N. Carolinian.

At Pittsburgh, on Tuesday, there were twenty feet in the channel.

An Odd Fellows' Hall, recently erected in New Orleans, was dedicated on the 6th instant. There are now four of these edifices in that city.

The Spanish schooner Renaissance, captured by the U. S. steamer Scorpion in the Gulf of Mexico while engaged in smuggling, arrived at New Orleans on the 6th inst. in charge of Midshipman S. J. Bayne.