

REPORT

J. J. BRUNER,

Editor and Proprietor.

By D. JOHNSTON, Esq., Chairman of the Committee on Indian Corn, read before the Scotch-Ireland Agricultural Society, and published by order of the Society.

The subject assigned us is one of vast importance to the people of this country. The Maize or Indian Corn seems to be an indigenous plant of America, when discovered by Columbus. They knew the benefits of it as food, but at the same time, knew little of the cultivation of it. Among the Mexicans Maize was a sign in the temple, and a holy ornament upon their altars; they adorned the altars in the churches with stalks of Maize with flowers and garlands about them. The Incas of Peru cultivated Maize in their gardens as elegant flowers, and among artistic work in gold of the Peruvians the imitations of the Maize were most admirable.

Maize was not known in Europe until after the conquest of Mexico by Cortes; in his first voyage to the Court of Charles V. he took a few ears of Corn or Maize with him among other curiosities as a present to his Majesty. Our forefathers had got possession of the desirable culture which we now inhabit, for a long time cultivated but little owing to the want of cleared land; but that day it has been cultivated to a great extent; the cultivation of which has been the cause of the amount of exhausted lands now present itself to our view. Our forefathers bowed down the forests, planted them in rows as long as they would yield enough to support the labor; then turned them out to pasture, and grew up with sedge and pines, and their successors are left to reclaim the lands, go to Texas, or starve. Our choice lands are cleared and the soil has washed to the branch bottoms; let us follow it and dig a bank in the form of compost, or drain and cultivate them where they are; they will be the lands, if properly drained and cultivated, that will pay the farmer for his labor.

But our subject, Corn, that which of all crops is most valuable; that which has supported the wants of so many starving beings; which sustained the first settlers of Plymouth, where they were without bread and in a land surrounded by enemies; a few seeds of that most valuable of all grains were sent which presented starvation during the winter, and furnished them with seed the ensuing spring; and which, in our day, has preserved the lives of so many of the inhabitants of the West from the failure of the potato crop.

As to the best method of cultivating Maize Indian Corn, persons differ greatly. We are of opinion that Corn should not be planted more than once in three years in the same place, unless on the bottom lands where the soil is too rich to produce any thing else, as it has a great tendency to exhaust the soil. We prefer it succeeding wheat to any other grain, though the same quality of land will yield more per acre, succeeding Cotton or Wheat or probably any other growth, from the fact that we work our Cotton more than once to receive it, being clear of trash, the ground is well pulverized; lies close to the soil deposited, causes them to sprout sooner and grow off quicker, and mature sooner. It is actually impossible to raise a large crop of Corn per acre, unless the land be able to produce it. Therefore, if the land be not very rich, it can't be too rich for Corn.)

As to the best method of gathering Maize, we are of opinion that land, if sub-soiled, requires thorough ploughing. This should be done as early in the Fall as possible, or in the month of March, then harrow with a two horse harrow, (three is preferable.) After harrow, break again with a single horse, and then check off the ground with a sub-soil plough, so that the grain may lie near the surface of the ground; and at the same time, leaving a loose bed for the roots to penetrate into in search of nutriment necessary for the formation of a stalk. It also admits the access of the atmosphere, which is indispensable to the germination of the grain and its nourishment to the growing crop through the roots.

Deep ploughing prevents the effects of drought to a great extent, by retaining the moisture of the rains and dew longer than if the ground had not been tilled. We are in favor of covering with two furrows with a narrow plough and light; these two advantages resulting from this method: first, it loosens the soil on either side of the grain deposited, leaves a ridge that the rays may have access to the grain and cause it to spring forth out of the earth. Secondly, it leaves a furrow on either side of the corn that the plough or harrow may be applied the summer to its cultivation. In order to have a great quantity to the acre, we would prefer drilling to checking; the rows should be arranged according to the quality of the land, from 8 to 24 inches apart, one in a row. Drilled corn requires more work than the last checked; either should be hoed the least twice, immediately after the first and second ploughings; the ground should be harrowed as soon as the corn will bear it, that will keep down the weeds, and at the same time loose the soil about the corn, and cause it to grow off; in a few days apply the ploughs and hoes, running near the corn with a colter and considerable depth, in order to loose the ground about, and underneath the roots, the breaking and pulling away the crust about the corn and applying fresh dirt to its roots. The middle should be broken with a straight shov. (unless the ground is inclined to wet,) then we would recommend the side shovel in order to have a deep furrow in the middle to draw the water from the hills great care should be taken to have the first furrows filled to retain the moisture about the corn; the corn should be hoed as soon as the rows will leave it. We would remark that there should be no work left to the bill, as it will eat bet-

ter, and a very convenient width for planting is four feet either way, for our common uplands. Manuring on the hill is recommended by many either before or after the corn is up with cotton seed, guano, or compost. Experience has taught us that applying a handful of cotton seed to the corn just before ploughing and boring the first time, covering them with the hoe, when hoeing the corn, adds much to the crop; with regard to the guano, we have every cause to believe that it adds much to the growth of the crop from the reports of distinguished persons, therefore we would recommend it as a good top dressing to corn.

The second ploughing should be done with side shovels, provided the corn is large enough to admit them, if not, use the straight shovels, applying them close to the corn and deep, the plough following, should fill the furrows full. The last ploughing should be done before the corn tassels by running next the corn with a shovel, or which is better, a one horse bar-shire, which will throw the dirt up to the stalks, cover the weeds and grass, and prevent its blowing over with the summer storms. We think the roots of the corn should not be broken deep, the last ploughing more especially tear the stalks, as it cuts off the medium by which the nutriment passes from the soil to the stalk, and causes the blades to wither if the season be dry. Therefore, we recommend the barshire as the most suitable plough; following with a side shovel filling the furrows full in order to retain moisture about the corn.

We would also recommend the selecting of seed from the field before gathering, by so doing we may obtain the one or the two eared corn or any sort we may wish; we should avoid large cobs; and corn that is too much of the gourd seed to flint. As to the kind of corn that should be cultivated persons differ greatly, each advocating his particular kind. There are various kinds cultivated, the common white, the yellow, the McClammer and the flint or honey corn; The golden Shout, the large eight rowed yellow, the small eight rowed yellow, Ohio dent, the duton, the baden and the brown, each having its advocate, so that we find it would be somewhat difficult to determine which would be best to cultivate unless we try the different kinds for ourselves and so determine; one kind does best in one climate, and in a different another kind produces the most. We have learned from experience that the honey corn produces more per acre, makes sweet bread, and fattens stock faster than any other kind we have tried.

According to the results of J. H. Salisbury of Albany, the eight rowed yellow is preferable to the white for food. The result of the distillers in our own State, show there is more whiskey to be made from a bushel of yellow than from the same of white. With regard to the best method of gathering farmers differ also. Some contend for it to stand in the field until properly cured; others for cutting it off at the ground when beginning to get hard, stick it until cured, then pull off the ears and crush and use the stalks for fodder. As to which is the best method experience compels us to keep silent. We contend that blading corn decreases the value of the grain as much as it adds to the fodder stack. As to the best method of feeding corn, we think comes under another head.

By reference to the census returns for the United States, we find that we have exported to foreign ports in 1847, 508,025 bushels; in 1848, 518,866 bushels; in 1849, 325,769 bushels, making an average for those three years of about 471,000 bushels annually; estimating it at 50 cents per bushel, makes an income to the United States from foreign ports of about \$235,500,000, which will go a good way toward defraying the expenses of our Government. Also shows, that it is one of the principal articles of exportation. Also, that every farmer should give more attention to the cultivation of it; and we would urge it upon each and every member of this Society to consult together and give their different views on the subject, that we may devise some method by which we may raise more corn per acre and at a less cost.

We live in a corn growing country, and we may almost say within two day's travel of Charlotte, Columbia, Camden, and Charleston, Raleigh, Wilmington and Petersburg—so that we shall not have the difficulty to encounter in getting our produce to market. We hope that each member of this Society will take a more active part in agricultural pursuits, and if possible, advance the interests of this desirable portion of our country, and turn the tide of emigration from Texas and California to Scotch Ireland.

RAILROAD IRON.

The Boston Railroad Times calls attention to the facts, which are worthy the attention of those engaged in making new lines of railroads. The railways now in the course of construction in Europe and America will require, for their completion, no less than two millions and four hundred thousand tons of iron. To make this quantity will occupy all the rolling mills in the world, which are now engaged in the manufacture of railway iron, at least six years—those of Great Britain; furnish three-fourths, and the United States, France and Belgium the remaining fourth. The best authorities do not estimate the largest quantity of railway iron in any one year even as high as 400,000 tons; yet even at this rate it will take six years to furnish iron for the roads already begun. The necessary consequence of this state of things is, the Times thinks, that the price of railroad iron will not only be kept up, but further advanced; and be maintained at very high prices for a long time. In this case the manufacture of railroad iron will be the best manufacturing business that can be undertaken in this country for some years, for it is affirmed as the best authority, that the article which is now selling at \$70, with every prospect of advancing at least to \$80 per ton, is a fair profit to the maker at \$50 per ton.

From the Raleigh Register. ADDRESS OF THE HON. WELDON N. EDWARDS.

We are indebted to the Hon. WELDON N. EDWARDS for a printed copy of an "Address to his constituents, the freemen of Warren County," an vindication of the high minded and fearless course which he pursued, as Speaker of the Senate, in the last General Assembly, with regard to the Free Suffrage Bill. The document is an able, dignified and manly defence of its distinguished and estimable author from the imputations which have been heaped upon him in connection with that course. He boldly avows the fact of his having defeated Free Suffrage, insists that his hostility to the doctrine was well and widely known previous to his election as Speaker of the Senate, and thereby puts to the blush the party backs who are asserting so clamorously that the Democratic members of that body, who elected him to the Chair, in the face of that opposition, are not responsible for the result. We have enlarged upon this point heretofore, and it is useless lolly for the locooco press and leaders to endeavor to resist the conclusion to which every candid man must come. During the last General Assembly John Kerr was so ably bearing the Whig standard through the State, he predicted, we well recollect, that Free Suffrage would not receive the requisite Constitutional sanction at the hands of the Legislature of 1852, and even went so far as to particularize the manner in which, and the person through whom, it would receive its quietus. In the teeth of such predictions, based, as they were, upon Mr. Edwards' publicly expressed declarations, and in spite of the closely contested state of parties in the Legislature,—with reference, we mean, to this question,—the majority in the Senate put Mr. E. in the Chair and thereby invited the defeat of Free Suffrage. We can but believe that all the censure of which he is now the victim is forced and factitious. The locooco leaders are rejoiced at the failure of their pet hobby, and are pleased at an opportunity of retaining it as an element of party capital, even at the expense of Mr. Edwards' feelings and the sacrifice of his political influence and character.

Whether the abuse which he is visited however, be artificial or real and positive, Mr. Edwards evidently regards it in the light of the latter; and he takes occasion as follows, to administer a merited and scathing castigation upon his traducers:

"For the course I deemed it my duty to pursue, as Speaker of the Senate, in the last General Assembly, in regard to the 'Free Suffrage' Bill, in withholding my vote from it on its final reading, I have been arraigned at the bar of public opinion for disloyalty to the principles of Democracy; and the most unparalyzing vituperation has been dealt out to me—many would consign me to the block—and demand my political life, of as little value as it is—as an atonement for what they arrogantly denounce as an offence against the majesty of party. Whether I am an offender to this extent will appear in the sequel of this paper. It will be seen, that, for my political principles, I have looked to the example and precepts of the sages and Fathers of the Church—and not to the crude views of the younglings of yesterday—nor to the teachings of modern political Doctors, who claim the right to prescribe new articles of faith—as tests of Orthodoxy—and, as by authority, to proscribe and excommunicate all who do not subscribe to them.

To deny freedom of opinion, and conformity of conduct to convictions honestly entertained, is tyranny in its most odious form. The party that is animated by such a spirit, contains within itself the elements of its own dissolution. It is destined to discover, when too late—that the minds and consciences of men, cannot, and will not, be swayed, this way, and that, at its bidding. If this were not so—severity, the most abject, instead of virtuous independence, would become the only passport to public place and public honors—and duty to country be sunk in the slough of party bondage."

Mr. E. proceeds, after having thus effectually demolished his assailants, to "show the nature and character of the proposed change, in contrast with the striking advantages of that provision in the Constitution sought to be altered." He concludes in the following terms:

"Entertaining then these views—views embraced not hastily—but, upon the fullest and most mature consideration—it would have been passing strange had I voted for the Free Suffrage Bill. I know the high interests suspended on its fate—I knew the weight of responsibility that attached to my position—but the path of duty was a plain one—I fearlessly pursued it. I knew full well that it was not one of ease—nor one in which I could expect to gather laurels or hope to win honors and preferment. But the post of duty was not, in this instance, a post of danger—and I thank God, that higher considerations than mere personal consequences served me to the task."

The foregoing exposition of my course as your representative in the last Legislature, I have deemed it my duty to make—and regret that it could not be condensed in narrower limits—but whilst I de-

sired to be brief, I still more desired to be perspicuous.

My political life has been marked by a steady adherence to the great principles of the Democratic faith—and among them I recognize as one of the highest the obligation of the Representative to do the will of the constituent body. To that I have ever conformed, and never more rigidly than during the recent session of the Legislature. I had been twice elected on the same issue, (Free Suffrage) and the last time by a largely increased majority—although I had at the preceding session—precisely under the same circumstances as at the last—withheld my vote from the same measure—and could not—and would not—do you the gross injustice to believe that you did not apprehend a question so long agitated and so fully discussed. It would be a reflection upon the intelligence of the people of Warren, which will never originate with, or be endorsed by me."

We forbear any further comment. In our next, we propose to publish Mr. Edwards' Address entire. It constitutes an important item in the political history of the times.

TIMBER GETTING IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Few persons are probably aware of the quantities of pine timber that is annually taken from the forest in the lower portion of the State and sent to foreign and home markets either in stems or after being sawed into lumber. Besides the numerous steam and water mills that are constantly fed by large rafts rough timber from our piney woods, there are individuals and companies which make it a regular business to get out timber and carry it to more distant markets. As an instance, the firm of Messrs. Tatum & Hubbard from Virginia, have been engaged in timber getting for more than 20 years. Their establishment is at present located on Pantego Creek, in Beaufort County. They supply the Navy Yard at Norfolk with timber for Ship building. They employ constantly 22 axemen, besides a large additional force in getting the timber shipped. We are informed that they sometimes send off to Norfolk 15 or 20,000 worth of timber, in a lot. The stems are of different dimensions from 1 1/2 to 3 feet square, and from 50 to 70 feet in length. The timbers are brought to the Creek, by ox teams, made into rafts, floated down the creek into the sand, and then taken by a steamboat and towed through the Dismal Swamp Canal to Norfolk. The quantity thus taken to that city annually, must be immense. The number of feet and value we have not heard; it would no doubt form a curious item.

"THE INFIDEL MOTHER."

Can it be? can you look back into the depths of those clear blue eyes, that seek yours in such confiding innocent trust; can you deck those dimpled limbs, so "fearfully and wonderfully made?" can you point out to him the gold and purple sunset glory? can you look upward with him to the shining host? or place in his eager hand the field flowers that bend their dewy eyes with grateful thanks, and never name "Our Father?"

When at dead of night you watch beside his sick couch; when you hush your every breath to listen to his pain moan; when every gust of wind makes your cheek grow pale; when you turn with trembling hand the healing drops when every tick of the clock seems beating against your heart; when the little pallid face looks beseechingly into yours, for the "help" you cannot give; oh! where can you turn the suppliant eye, if you see not the "Great Physician?"

When health slowly returns, when the eye brightens, and the red colors lip and cheek; when the vacant chair is again filled; when the little feet are again busy! when loving arms in playful glewine around your neck comes there from that woman's heart of thine no burst of grateful thanks to Him who notes even the sparrow's fall.

Suppose Death comes! You fold away the little useless robes; you turn with a filling eye from toys and books and paths those little feet have trod; you feel ever the shadowy clasp of a little hand in yours; you turn heartsick from the happy mothers, who number no missing lamb from their flocks; a sunny ringing, a rosy cheek, or a piping voice, gives your heart a death pang. You walk the busy street, and turn your head involuntarily when a little strange voice calls "Mother!" Oh! where can you look for comfort, if you believe not that the "good Shepherd" folds your lamb to His loving breast?

There is perfidy at your household hearth! there are broken vows, which you may not breathe to human ear.—There is treachery repaid for trust! Childhood looks on with a sad wonder, you must go backward and cast the mantle of evasion over the moral deformity.—Whence shall strength come, to your slender shoulders, to bear this heavy cross? How silence the ready tempter's voice?—Where shall all those warm affections now be garnered up? (It is not in Heaven!)—Oh! you have no anchor, no rudder or compass! your little bark is adrift, at the mercy of every pillage gale; the sea is

dark and fearful; the billows mountain high; the sky black with darkness; if you turn from the Great Pilot!

FANNY FERR.

A Great Layer.—Mr. Wm. Sweeney of this place is the owner of a hen, of the common dunghill breed, which beats all the China or Poland chickens that "can be scared up" for producing eggs. She is confined in a common slat coop alone, and fed upon the off fall of the table.—For the last two months she has been laying, and the large number of eggs produced by her for some time had attracted the attention of the family. Last week she was watched, and the eggs laid by her accurately counted. From Sunday morning till Friday evening, she laid the incredible number of sixteen eggs—laying some days two, others three, and others again four. She usually lays two in the morning without leaving the nest, and then either one or two in the afternoon. Were not these facts vouched for by Mr. Sweeney and his family, who have taken precautions against being deceived, and whose statements are perfectly reliable, they could hardly be believed. Attested as they are we have no reason to doubt them.

Xenia Touchlight.

A word to little girls.—Who is lovely? It is the girl who drops sweet words, kind remarks, and pleasant smiles as she passes along; who has a kind word for every boy or girl she meets in trouble, and a kind hand to help her companions out of difficulty; she never scolds, never contends, never teases her mother, nor seeks in any way to diminish, but always to increase her happiness. Would it not please you to pick up a string of pearls, drops of gold, diamonds, or precious stones as you pass along the street? But these are the precious stones that can never be lost.—Extend a friendly hand to the friendless. Smile on the sad and dejected. Sympathize with those in trouble. Strive everywhere to diffuse around you sunshine and joy. If you do this, you will be sure to be beloved. Oh, you will be so "lovely."—Juv. Miss Herald.

A young white man has actually been arrested in New York within the last two or three days, under the Fugitive Slave act, and the question is now pending whether he can be sent back to the claimant, a Mr. Felt, to whom it is alleged the fugitive owes labor or service. Felt is a book-binder, and this white fugitive slave was a bound apprentice for a term of years. Believing he had served long enough, he fled to New York, (vide Uncle Tom) was overhauled by the "man-catchers," and is now in duance vile.—This is an over true tale; but as the victim is a white man, neither the indelible police nor the military have been called out to ally the excitement or the sympathy. What is Mrs. Stowe and the admirers of Log Cabin philosophy?

KNICKERBOCKER GOSSIP.

If you doubt the truth of the following, just ask J. B. of Amedia, who avers that it is "verily veritable." Moreover, he says that there are more such delicate persons "thereaway."

"A young lady called at the shop of a cabinet maker in this village to leave directions with him about making a table, which she had previously ordered. Among other particulars, she enjoined it upon him to make the 'limbs' small; adding, after some hesitation, 'You know what I mean, I suppose?'"

"With a very recent look, the cabinet-maker replied: 'You mean legs, don't you?'"

"This regard of the lady's modesty was altogether too much; the bare idea, so suddenly presented, almost overcame her?"

A Heartless Murderer.—We learn from a letter under date of Mackinac, March 2d, that Mr. O. T. Houson, of Grand Traverse, Michigan, has murdered one of his sister's children. He had tortured the child for several days previous with a hot iron. He had kept his wife locked up for some time, and fed his own children on raw corn on the ear, one ear per day being the allowance of each. He went into the woods one morning, forgetting to lock his family up as usual, when they escaped and gave the alarm. Pursuit was immediately commenced, and hopes are entertained that the villain will be captured.

A savage dog belonging to Mr. Jay, of this place, broke the chain with which he was fastened one day last week, and seized a little boy about five years old, a son of Mr. N. M. Kilpatrick, which he mangled in a shocking manner, inflicting numerous wounds upon the head and one severe one about the bridge of the nose. Dr. Duffy was promptly in attendance and dressed the wounds, and we are happy to learn the child is recovering. The dog was dispatched in short order.

Mountain Banner.

Who can answer it?—What is that which is to-day, WAS to-morrow, and WILL BE yesterday!—San. Courier.

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