



AGRICULTURAL

ESSAY ON THE RENOVATION OF WORN-OUT LANDS.

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I offer an Essay on the "Renovation of Worn-out Lands," as the most important subject which can engage attention, either individual, State, or National. It may be regarded as an acquisition of territory, both peaceful and profitable, and especially important to the old States, as the surest and most desirable means of retaining population. It is the neglect of such improvement, or renovation, which has caused so many of our choicest citizens to forsake, in despair, their paternal possession, to seek a brighter destiny in the wilds of the West.

The cultivation of a more extended surface has been deemed necessary to produce the indispensable supplies; but in this operation the increased labor and number of operatives of different kinds, requiring subsistence, greater distance of hauling, quantity of fencing, &c., have caused still greater sterility, and still smaller amount of nett remuneration, until the possessor of a once princely and fertile patrimony abandons his own home, and that of his fathers; and once severing the attachments of youthful gambols and juvenile associations loses that incentive to permanent improvement so essential to contentment and profit.

The sparseness of population, thus induced, becomes a barrier to the progress of those works of internal improvement, furnishing facilities for the renovation of lands and transportation of their productions.

Anything, then, which will curdle, if not entirely stagnate, the choice blood flowing in such rivulets from the old States, must be regarded as of paramount importance to individuals, States and nations.

There is another controlling incentive, to attention to the subject, which is the high price of labor.

The time required for the preparation of an acre of heavily timbered land, for cultivation, cannot be safely estimated at less than 2 or 3 months, which at present prices would amount to \$20 or \$30.

Less than half that amount would renovate an acre regarded as exhausted, so as to produce a larger yield with less labor of cultivation. Indeed, the remark may be safely made, that very few sections of the country will justify the expense of clearing heavily timbered lands for the mere purpose of cultivation.

What then is the alternative? Certainly the renovation of the worn-out lands.

Very few plantations in the old States have any timber to spare, and in such cases the difference between the reduction of the forest land and the increase of the arable surface from the exhausted lands is a very essential ingredient in the estimated value of the whole tract.

On most large plantations, the lands were first cleared and exhausted near the buildings, and the fresh lands for cultivation are frequently on the outside; and the necessity is thus created of greatly increased labor in hauling up crops, besides the space occupied by roads, the attention necessary to keep them in repair, and the distance and time in traveling to and returning from the cultivated lands.

Indeed, the importance and advantages of improving land, consistent to dwellings are so great that it would be difficult to enumerate them.

Some allusion has been deemed an essential preliminary to the main subject, because success in enforcing the importance and utility of such improvement may be regarded as an accomplishment of the whole subject. There is truth in this maxim, that "where there is a will there is a way." Convince a man that his interest prompts a certain course, and there is little difficulty in inducing its pursuit.

Many instances can be presented in which 2000 lbs. of tobacco, 20 barrels of corn, 30 bushels of wheat, 300 bushels of potatoes have been produced, each on a single acre of land. If the materials could be commuted conveniently, it would be probably impossible to expend enough to render such production unprofitable; not to speak of the permanent improvement of the land. There is a point beyond which the application of a particular substance ceases to be advantageous. There is incongruity in the mixture of certain ingredients, though the mixture were fertilizing. I have seen

deavored to procure, from chemists, the extent and nature of this incongruity, and to ascertain how far the mixture of various fertilizing substances is advisable. This depends so much upon the ingredients in the soil, that a panacea cannot well be provided for every variety.

Limit is considered slow, generally, but permanent in its effects. Guano is generally considered quick; but evanescent.

Now, what we desire, is to produce ingredients, both quick and permanent, which the mixture of these two ingredients would seem to accomplish.

But it is said, there are conflicting elements in their composition.

I will not pretend to qualifications, as both chemist and farmer, and undertake both to point out the conflicting ingredients, and to reconcile them.

I will only state, that I have been unable, by consultations with chemists and actual experiments, to become satisfied that such incongruity does exist under proper regulations. There is high authority for using both, though, perhaps, not at the same time. I have myself tried oyster-shell lime, hot from the kiln, on land, succeeded immediately by an application of Peruvian Guano, and ascertained that whatever may be the theory, it is certain that in practice they do not destroy each other. It is, no doubt best to apply them at different times.

The Mexican Guano, undoubtedly, has considerable lime in its composition, so much so, as to render it unfit for a certain stage of the tanning process, while the Peruvian will answer admirably. This I have ascertained from the operations of a scientific tanner under my inspection.

The Mexican Guano is valued for the phosphate of lime it contains, suitable for certain lands, and the peculiarity is alluded to for the purpose of showing that these two ingredients are not destructive of each other. The Mexican Guano is, however, not so fertilizing as the Peruvian, and I leave to others more scientific than myself, to determine whether the lime it contains causes any paralysis of its activity. The Mexican Guano, which I have used, had the appearance of a prepared article, with the addition of ingredients not in the original deposit.

The greatest product in tobacco ever attained in this section, has resulted from a mixture of Peruvian Guano, besides different salts, &c. But where there is such an application, it is difficult to ascertain the chief fountain of production. My object is to combat, in a measure, the idea that the mixture of various fertilizing substances causes a mutual destruction and to enforce the position that the combination is justified by the production alluded to, and that while labor is so high, sound judgment requires that each acre cultivated should be carried to the highest point of production; of course, sound judgment and discernment are to be employed.

In a treatise of this kind it is reasonable to expect the suggestion of some definite, tangible system of renovation. During the present excitement on the subject of Guano, this can be done to the entire satisfaction of many in a very succinct, and laconic manner, viz: prepare the land well (plow deep and pulverize it) and apply a sufficiency of Guano. This will certainly do very well on most soils, and for the distant portion of fields, to which the manure from the farm yards, stables, &c., cannot be conveniently hauled. It is, perhaps, the best, while government prices remain as at present. It is difficult to calculate the value of the fertilizer, not only on account of the facility of transportation and application, but on account of the speedy return, and much greater durability of improvement, than is generally supposed. I have noticed its beneficial effects where it was used in strips, and where there could be no mistake, for at least 4 years after application. One valuable and important desideratum is, that it brings into profitable cultivation a larger quantity of exhausted land hitherto regarded as worse than useless, in the necessity of enclosure to command some fertile spots. It seems to be that substance which poor land peculiarly needs, and there is no doubt that the proportion of increase is much greater when applied to poor than rich land. For illustration, you may apply 200 lbs. to an acre of land, which unaided would produce 5 bushels of wheat to the acre, add the product would probably be about 15 bushels. But the application of 200 lbs. to land, which unaided will produce 25. The comparative value of the poor and rich lands is then more nearly equalized and brings profitable agriculture within the reach of more moderate means.

I may also remark of this fertilizer, that according to my observation and experience, it is not improved by the various compounds frequently mixed with it; but on most soils, the same amount of money in Peruvian Guano alone (regarding economy of application, &c.) will afford a more profitable investment than the different combinations.

Notwithstanding my high appreciation of this valuable article, I am not disposed to risk such an important attainment as the renovation of worn-out lands on any one substance, the supply of which may fail, or become so exorbitant in price, as to preclude its profitable use.

Previous to its general introduction, I had commenced a system of improvement by detaching two old hands and a cart and steers, from the other operations of the farm, and applied their labors exclusively to the hauling of leaves, weeds, richer earth from corners of fences, &c., which, with the use of stable manure, lime, plaster, &c., formed a compost, convenient to the lands designed for improvement, highly beneficial. In forming these composts, very little precaution or alteration, was observed, except to keep the lime and manure separate, and plaster in combination with the vegetable substances. When a mound was thus formed so high that the teams could not well ascend, it was left, and another commenced. They would generally remain in this condition several months, and then were supplied to the adjacent soil, with highly beneficial effect.

It is a general impression that lime cannot be advantageously used above the falls of rivers. The absence of facilities of transportation, has precluded very general experiments. The effect and return are certainly not very speedy. I have tried an application of 50 bushels to the acre, on my own farm (above the falls). The effect was closely examined by Mr. Edmund Ruffin, (whose name ought not to be mentioned without some compliment, except that, having attained full height and proportion, it has ceased to add a single cubit to his stature), and pronounced by him equal to any he had seen elsewhere, the same length of time. We are too apt to be discouraged, if we do not see a return the first year. If we get full interest on the investment, it should be satisfactory, particularly if a preparation is afforded for further application. A difference of two bushels to the acre might not be discernible to the eye, and still it might be remunerative the standard of success.

A judicious selection and rotation of crops may be regarded as a very important facility in the renovation of worn-out lands. I would recommend in the general, the farming in contradistinction to the planting system; by the farming I mean the grain, grass, and fallow crops, as requiring much less labor, and allowing more time for other necessary occupation, there being but little attention necessary between seeding and gathering season. I would not, during the present high prices of tobacco, recommend its entire abandonment, but its reduction to the smallest surface, allowable, and that made as rich as possible.

The preparation and cultivation of every article requires little more exertion than one more barren, while the product is four fold. I must be excused for frequent allusions to the present high prices of labor, as that is a controlling consideration in determining the proper plan of operations. The planted crop not only require much preparation, but considerable subsequent calculation, and manipulation, all owing but little aid from machinery, particularly the tobacco crop. All this intermediate tillage requires a heavy iron upon the other productions of the farm to support it, and there is but little advantage for a larger income, with corresponding expenditure. The farming system certainly requires less labor, allows greater attention to various improvements, raising stock, comfort of hands, renovation of lands, &c.

The true secret of good management, however, consists much in the adaptation of a proper to the peculiar incidental circumstances surrounding it.

That which will suit one individual and one section may be injurious to another. No one rule can be adopted for all occasions, or there would be very little room for the display of any judgment or discretion. Much harm has frequently resulted from our attempts to follow judicious instruction, without a due regard to seasons, locality, &c.

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bor, can only be sustained by the most rigid economy and self-denial, coupled with the most relaxing energy and exertion, such as the stern glance of ruin itself would be insufficient to enforce. It is, moreover, an inhumanity practiced on animals, both bipeds and quadrupeds, thus to engage and employ them.

The difficulty was, that the pioneers in this system of improvement, under circumstances which did not so well afford it, were liberal, noble, generous fellows in other respects. They did not turn a deaf ear to the wants and necessities of friends and various public benefactions. They lived well, entertained kindly, kept some idle horses and servants, and have some regard for the comforts and elevation of their race. Such persons have sometimes been surrounded by close-fisted, narrow-hearted, narrow-minded, hard-working, penurious individuals, who have accumulated more property, which has induced short-sighted persons to recommend the general system of the accumulated, and decry that of the one who had some regard for the improvement of his lands and the comforts of life. Economy, prudence, and industry are to be commended, and extravagance, idleness, &c., are to be reprobated; but at the same time, it is unjust to visit upon a commendable system inebriations not properly incident to it.

All such misdeeds of prejudice and error have now vanished before more enlightening rays. Scientific improving agricultural commands its appropriate importance and elevation. The man "who makes two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before" is assigned his merited position. There is a tide of successful experiment and practice, subverting all resistance, bearing agricultural prosperity and contentment on its peaceful and cheerful surface, and leading on to fortune, both individual and national—the result, in a great degree, of agricultural societies and exhibitions and consequent "renovation of worn-out lands."

EDWIN G. BOZELL, Notary, &c., Va., Oct. 14, 1853. (American Farmer.)

There is a good deal of gossip circulation among the agricultural and bibliophilic circles of the "modern Athens," in relation to a rumored "break" in the authorship of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and her publishers, Messrs. Jewett & Co., who within the last two years are said to have paid her a manly tribute. A writer in the Springfield (Mass.) Post takes up the matter quite amusingly, and in the course of his communication gives a queer description of the difficulties Mrs. Stowe met with in the effort to get "Uncle Tom" off her hands. When she was running up and down, begging for an endorsement for the venture, she met a man, who she could not name, ready to afford her the "aid" she needed. Her husband turned up his nose at the "bigger" Phillips and Sampson, pertinently refused to have anything to do with ushering into the world such an incendiary. The poor fellow was treated more after the fashion of Mr. Simon Legree than a Christian publisher should treat even a sensible candidate for their favor.

Then it was that Mr. Jewett, acting towards Mrs. Stowe's Tyme as Mr. Miller did towards Fieldings, stepped forward and offered to give him a start in life. And he did start him in a way that no other hero, from Aquiles downward, was set a going. You see thousands of dollars in having the work pulled into notoriety, copyrighted by the clergy, and the abolitionists and the Quakers, and the sympathizers over sea, and Uncle Tom and Mrs. Stowe thus got a voyage together.

All this was very well, while the money came in slowly, but now Madame has grown a great authoress, has sat at great men's feasts, and put her feet under dual mahogany, and been made a honoree in Exeter Hall; and having now a new book to publish, her "Travels in Europe," she sends the original founder of her fame, refuses them the privilege of publishing her forthcoming work, being able to make a better bargain with another house than theirs.

We do not think the "Travels" will make so much money for Dame Stowe as did her "Cabin." Everybody has read all what she did and said, and what was said and done about and to her, in England, and will hardly rush after a rebash of the nauseating record. We agree in the main with our contemporary of the New York Mirror, that the Uncle Tom rocket has had its splinter and explosion, and that the stick cannot be made to go up again on any phrenetic of procreancy.

ADVANCE IN GUANO.—The Peruvian agent in Baltimore has advanced the price of Guano from \$50.20 to \$55.20, in consequence of the high price of freights.

The editor of the Jackson (Miss.) True Witness says he "has not seen a drunken man in Jackson since the Legislature adjourned."

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VILLAGE HOTEL, STATESVILLE, N. C. HAVING purchased this magnificent and well known stand, as a house of public entertainment, situated North West of the Court House... J. F. BELL, 1745

COWAN'S VEGETABLE LITHONTRIPIC FRIEND OF THE HUMAN FAMILY. DISEASED KIDNEYS. Stone in the Bladder and Kidneys, Weakness of the Lungs, &c.

Greensborough MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY. THE object of Insurance on the mutual plan is but a small one, compared with a joint stock company.

HOW TO BUY CHEAP. The Subscriber, (late of Asheville) having located himself in the CITY OF NEW YORK, offers his services to the purchase of Dry Goods, Groceries, &c.

General Purchasing and Forwarding Agency. OFFERS his services to the purchase of Dry Goods, Groceries, &c.

JUST RECEIVED. One lot of Silver Hunting Case Lever Watches, full jeweled. One lot of open face Silver Watches.

DR. J. J. SUMMERELL, OPPOSITE MANSION HOTEL. NEW SPRING STYLE HATS. FEBRUARY 8, 1854.

A NEW BROOM SWEEPS CLEAN. THE subscriber having purchased the entire interest of Jas. A. Wetmore, in the Tanning Business...

LAST CALL. All persons indebted to J. F. Chambers & Co. by note or account, will please call and pay up before the 1st of August.

NOTICE. All persons indebted to the late firm of Jenkins & Roberts, & J. H. Jenkins & Co., by book account or note, are hereby respectfully requested to make payment by August 1st.

SHEEK'S CELEBRATED Wheat Threshers. A SHEEK AND BROTHERS, REPAIRERS OF ALL KINDS OF MACHINERY.

SMITH & HOLDER. REPAIRERS OF ALL KINDS OF MACHINERY. No for South Troy and Eagle Mills.

DR. JOHN SWANN, OFFERS his professional services to the citizens of Salisbury and its vicinity. His Office is opposite the Mansion Hotel.

A NEW STOCK OF MARBLES. THE undersigned would call to public notice that he has just received a fresh Stock of MARBLES FOR TOMBS, &c.

150 NEGROES WANTED! THE undersigned is now in Market for the purchase of ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY NEGROES, of all descriptions.

T. C. & B. G. WORTH, COMMISSION AND FORWARDING MERCHANTS. BROOK'S BUILDING, WATER STREET, WILMINGTON, N. C.

AGENCY FOR Adams & Co. Express. ADAMS & Co. Having made arrangements for the delivery of packages on the proposed stage routes...

HENRIETTA LINE OF STEAM & FREIGHT BOATS. ARE all in excellent order for business. Our Tows are built of such a good quality that they will last for years.

The Carawan Trial, FOR SALE AT J. H. ENNIS'S Book Store. TRIAL of the Rev. George N. Carawan, Rector of the Episcopal Church of St. Paul, in Hyde County, North Carolina.

Fair Notice! In consequence of the neglect of many of our subscribers to pay their arrears, we are obliged to discontinue the publication of the "Carawan Trial" for the present.

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FALL DRY GOODS. BUCKERS of Dry Goods would do well to examine the rich and varied stock of Maxwell & Horah.