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Agricultural Address,

BY

PAUL C. CAMERON, ESQ.

BEFORE THE

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ORANGE Co. N. C.

[CONCLUDED.]

And I mention it as a fact, and as a proof of the want of interest on the part of our people, as agriculturists, that on the original subscription list for the publication of "Colman's Practical Agriculture and Rural Economy," the most important, the most comprehensive, and best digested agricultural work that ever issued from the American press, this entire State furnished but a *single* subscriber! And it is a little singular that the Chief Engineer of the North Carolina Rail Road, in his first report of the original survey, should announce to the public that, at the farm of *that subscriber* he found "the best specimen of scientific and successful husbandry along the entire line of Rail Road." Not is it to be forgotten, that at the first and second annual State Fairs, the herd of young cattle exhibited by this reading and pains taking husbandman, was regarded as the most striking feature of each exhibition. We shall find that we, too, must read the best books, visit the best farms, must cultivate our minds as well as our soils, must spend our money as well as our time, if we shall make ourselves the equals of those praiseworthy examples of successful agriculturists and public benefactors.

Nothing has been more cheapened in our day than the publications of the press, and it is to be esteemed as not the least of the blessings of an American citizen, that he can with so little money provide himself and family with a really useful library. If the good that men do lives after them, it is nowhere found in better preservation or in more available form than in the pages of good books. What intelligent farmer would not be gratified in his vocation at home to pass the long evenings of winter in association with such companions and teachers as Buel, Colman, Dana and Johnston. For a few shillings you can have the thoughts of these gifted men always with you. Money so expended will be repaid in such a way that no line of figures can sum it up. It is only by such reading we can protect ourselves against the prejudices of ignorance, the errors and misdirections of early habits, or maintain a respectable position with our intellectual and progressive countrymen. As we plant, so shall we gather; in spite of all our idle hopes and dreamy efforts. Ignorance promises no fruits pleasant to the eye or grateful to the senses; "men do not gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles." And under our institutions, capacity for usefulness and intelligence are the main stones which mark the position of competitors in the race for distinction and renown.

The great principles of our art are the same in every clime, animal and vegetable matters constitute every where the food of plants; heat, moisture, and atmospheric air, universally the active agents of vegetable nutrition.

With a knowledge of the truth of these fundamental principles, it is our work to apply them under all the contingencies of soil, climate and season. Not of this work that is now cultivated in schools, enlightened by the suggestions of science, and furnished in its conclusions by settled practice and experience, can be much in aid of the hands. In such toil the trained intellect exhibits itself like steam power, a labor saving principle, capable of saving or performing a vast amount of labor. If required to sum up the whole duty of a farmer in three words, I would say, make your lands *clean, drw*, and *rich*, these are terms plain to the understandings of all, and each might well furnish a topic for an agricultural address.

The first duty of a husbandman is to make himself acquainted with the character and constituents of his soil. No intelligent physician will prescribe for a patient until he has made what he calls a diagnosis of the case, that is, made himself acquainted with the malady, and then sets himself to the remedy. This is not the occasion, or I the person, to enforce the importance of obtaining aid and direction from an agricultural chemist. The natural sciences are now prosecuted with singular advantage and success, and that of chemistry has in a measure been created within the last half century, and promises to render the most essential aid to agriculture.

Sanguine as I am in its application to agriculture, I have been gratified to learn that the Trustees of the University have established a School of Agricultural Chemistry, and filled the chair with a *native* son of the State. This is one of the best indications of the times, and assures us that the practice of agriculture, and the philosophy of agriculture, are becoming matters of universal interest; that the thanking and inquisitive of all classes and conditions are at work in this field, and are asking for the how, and the why, and the wherefore. And it is to be hoped that the gentleman in charge of this branch at our University, will not confine his teachings to the laboratory; that he will, by the use of the press, magnify his office, making the circle of his usefulness equal to the limits of the State. And if he will visit our farms, he will find that, however depressed and disfigured is the husbandry of Orange, the hearts of our farmers are fully awake to the duties of hospitality and kindness. And he will find, too, that we have some men, who, without education, are, nevertheless, profound observers of nature and its laws, and who are full of the knowledge which they are constantly applying to practice; and it is not unlikely that our farmers would sometimes surround him, as did the wondering pupils of Goldsmith's village school master, and "marvel that one small head should carry all he knew." In behalf of the unscientific, I beg that his teachings be offered in the simplest language, divested, as far as practicable, of the technical terms of science. And let me assure him, that a school which trains the youth of the State for the active and business pursuits of life, must become a great favorite. But the Trustees will have but half accomplished their object in establishing a Professorship, if they fail to associate with it a Model Farm, near the University, on which the teachings of the school may be applied to the field. Practical experience is not to be dispensed with in a practical art. On such a farm we might hope to see illustrated all that is practicable on our soil and under our clime; and the whole duty of the planter, farmer, gardener, ploughman, grazier and shepherd be taught, as well as the complete management of the stall and dairy. All this will be eminently useful, in giving our educated young men a taste for rural pursuits; and will prepare them to enter with intelligence on their paternal acres, with the gratifying conviction that, in North Carolina, Agriculture is taking its proper rank with the liberal professions, and that, in all its minute and practical details, it is not deemed incompatible with the highest distinctions of talent and education.

I am not unapprised that men, occupying the first position in science and practical agriculture, hold that it is unreasonable to expect improvement in agricultural practice, much less an entirely improved system of agriculture, from the suggestions of chemistry. So did one, older than any of these, teach that "there is no new thing under the sun," and on the same page we are told that "the eye is not satisfied with seeing, or the ear filled with hearing." For myself, like a traveler at night, on an unknown path, surrounded by deaths and difficulties, I shall be disappointed, if I may not look to it as a lamp which I may take in my own hand, or have held up before me, to direct my hesitating steps.

Whilst it may seem tame and common place to many, yet in the hope that it may awaken closer observation, and obtain better applications of both labor and manures, I will submit a few plain considerations in regard to the soils of the county, and their adaptation to crops. And it may be that my opinions are not in unison with the expectations of others—In this I have no pride of opinion. I seek only the truth, and to tell what I think I know.

For all *practical* purposes, soils are classed under five heads—sandy, clay, calcareous, peaty and loamy. We have chiefly to do with two. Our county is nearly equally divided by two large bodies of land, sandy and clay soils,—sight and touch teach us this—varying in texture, substance, and supply of moisture. I know no county where the division is so nearly equal, and it is fortunate with reference to variety in production. I cultivate both,—cultivate neither to my satisfaction, for I am not able to provide, as yet, what I am sure is essential to the fertility of both,—lime, the bone of all fertility. I am sure that so soon as the vegetable mould is restored to exhaustion, it loses rapidly in production that no intelligent system of husbandry has ever been the prevalent possession of our land; and that not in the neighborhood, and hardly any single farm, has been at all correct since the occupation and settlement of the country.

And, without the aid of any other light than my own annual observation, I venture to express the opinion, that we have in Orange land that no tillage can improve and no amount of putrescent manures can replenish to fertility. And so it seems to me, it must remain, until, by the use of lime, or some other corrective, its acids are neutralized, and the capacity to appropriate, or combine with putrescent manures, imparted to the soil. Such acids may be compared to a dyspeptic, whose impaired digestion can extract no nutriment from the richest food, indeed rejects all food, or if retained, to the manifest injury and distress of the sufferer.

There is a wide difference between soils naturally poor, and soils originally good, but reduced by poverty to cultivation.

The best lands of this county, in both classes of soil, have long ago been brought under the plough. [illegible] the fallow system, and the fallow of the fat spots as any of the fallow fields, and you will find that the [illegible] of our soils to be exhausted by culture in succession, in proportion to its natural or original fertility. In both districts let us devote our manures to the improvement of the naturally good lands, to enable them to yield and withstand [illegible] the poorer lands for the support of timber, now every day becoming more valuable.

The sandy soils of Orange suffer less from excess of drought and rain. They are found in those places that furnish a soil tenacious enough to retain sufficient moisture for vegetation. It is well known that the fertility of sandy soils greatly depends on the capacity of the soil to absorb and retain moisture. Now it is to be observed that there is a wide distinction between moisture and wetness. Put sand and pass water through it as a sieve; and [illegible] will, on [illegible] hand, retain it as in a sponge, so much [illegible] the last particle of water [illegible] the bottom. The clay soil drinks water as an animal [illegible] thirst, and exhausts itself by it as well as the season of trying drought as the poor sandy soil.

As a planter and a farmer, I have sustained my heaviest losses in seasons of long continued drought, and as the head of a large family have had my anxiety more excited by this cause than all others. As practice is worth all theory, I am able to declare that the best protection against extreme wet or drought, on either sandy or clay soils, is deep and thorough drainage by ditching, and deep and thorough tillage by ploughing and subsoiling. The mid land counties of North Carolina seem to be the home of drought, or at least suffer as much from it as any portion of the country; which, I suppose, is to be accounted for from the fact that it is so far removed from the controlling influences of the mountain, and the evaporating surface of the ocean, its bays and inlets. In connection with deep tillage as a protection against drought, and undertaken chiefly with a view to sustain the products of a kitchen garden, I trenched with a spade three acres, three feet deep, with most satisfactory results. But I did not disregard the teaching of nature; her laws are not to be safely disregarded; I did not venture to reverse her order in laying down the strata of my soil. I put the clay where I found it, at bottom, and the sandy loam at top. The clay soils of Orange are more in need and more greedy of manures than the sandy soils, and like the unsatisfied miser will continue to take a little more. The clay soils will take to advantage long and unfermented manures; if it is not idle, it is at least a great waste, to apply such manures to sandy soils. In sandy soils decomposition is slow, never perfect—washes alike by filtration and evaporation. Of all the manures that I have used on sandy soils, no one has so uniformly responded to my wishes as wood ashes, leached and unleached. They contain both clay and lime, assist sandy soils to retain moisture, correct acidity and furnish lime.

The sandy soils are more friable, therefore, more free from water, more easily cultivated and drained, and any degree of fertility more easily imparted, provided it rests on a sound subsoil, and the darker the subsoil the better, if it be uniform. The color of our subsoils is less uniform than that of our soils. Many of the subsoils are very pure colored, and the more they are so, and the higher the colors they maintain, the more injurious are they to the surface above them. The best is the brown, the worst is the blue and white. Since the days of Lord Coke, the lawyers have taught us that he who possessed the surface had and held all above it—"*Cujus est solum, ejus est usque ad coelum.*" But it is to modern times, and chiefly to James Smith of Deanston, in Scotland, we are indebted for the knowledge that the subsoil passes with the surface, and that the value of the surface depends much on the character of the subsoil.—And I think it is on the light sandy soils, resting on good clays, that we may hope and expect to see the most beneficial effects from the use of the subsoil plough. I do not anticipate much from it on heavy clay soils, unless accompanied with the most perfect system of drainage, as such soils will soon settle down into their former compactness, increasing wetness without providing for its escape.

The clay soils are more difficult to bring up to the highest degree of fertility, more difficult in culture and drainage; yet when brought up, retain it longer; or, as the celebrated and eccentric Mr. Randolph used to say of it, "it has a better memory." And such was his real, or pretended, aversion to clay soils, that often times, in his brilliant, and witty, and sarcastic fire side and four room conversations, playing on the name of his great rival in the House of Representatives, he would declare that "no man could make any thing out of clay, at top or bottom."

I have thought that sandy soils improved under the hoof and pressure of heavy animals; and on the other hand I am satisfied that clay soils are injuriously by too closely packed, holding water on its surface to stagnation. Whilst sandy soils may be moved by the plough when wet, clay soils cannot be approached, adhering to the feet of ploughman and team, and depriving the plough of its power by adhesion. When dry, it is subsoil, difficult to be turned up, and when turned up remains in large and unmanageable clods. Nor is the sandy soil of our county so much under the influences of our variable winters; it is not so powerfully acted on by frost, whilst on clay soils the roots of plants, especially wheat, are liable to be thrown out. Sandy soils are improved by the admixture of clay, and clay soils by the admixture of sand; it is to chemically and mechanically.

Frequently on spots of cold mud clay soils, I have noticed stacks of corn, where, [illegible] for a hill of cotton, to supply [illegible] a spot or two of pure sand in the hill. To the gardeners of the county especially would I suggest proper attention to the admixture of soils. Sand is essential to the production of many of the root crops, and the strawberry and raspberry can only be had in perfection from such soils; whilst clay is better suited to cabbage, and all the flimsy coated plants which have a tap root, hence its preference for wheat, red clover, and the oak. Twenty years' tillage and observation induce me to say, that for loss the best soil who has a good mixture of clay and sand through its arable parts.

One feature I have observed in the clay soils of Orange, which is confined chiefly to that part of the county called the Hawfields; I allude to the influence and action of the winds on it, when impelled by the running bear and broom sedge for there, as every where else in Orange, clover and the grasses are doing but little in re-establishing fertility. Doubtless every one here has often remarked the gullies that region are instantly widening, even on lands that have not been under the plough in the last thirty or forty years, to influence of the winds. They seem to be regarded by the husbandmen as in certain cases, and, like the cats they continue to watch the work of their deformity. Not unfrequently the cultivated fields look as if they had been swept by a broom, and the air is filled with the soil in the form of a red dust.

It is an ugly feature, but sheep tillage, heavy coats of vegetable matter, with a free application of lime, will in time to come be found the remedy. Literary immigrants to this region represent it as a most captivating district, covered by almost luxuriant pea vine and majestic forest trees. Their lands originally need vegetable matter, sand, and lime. But lime is not to be had at any reasonable rate; and if to be had, cannot be used profitably or successfully on soil nearly destitute of vegetable matter. A thorough clearing of those old lands in the month of August, deep plowing and seeding broad cast with the cow or goat pea, as it best withstands rain storms, and a dressing of plaster on the pea vine before bloom, will furnish the soil as with large and abundant supplies of vegetable matter; enabling the farmer to fatten his pork and his soil, making large additions to the supplies of food for both man and land. The pea should specially become a crop of the county, both as a drill and broad cast crop. In a recent conversation with one of the best observers, and most accurate, painstaking and successful wheat growers of Eastern Virginia, who stands at the very head of the list as a land improver, he gave it as his opinion that a heavy pea fallow is the superior of clover in preparation for a wheat crop. And the fact is well known, that plaster acts as well on the pea as on clover, increasing the spread of the vine, and yielding a more fruitful pod.—These suggestions, I trust, may not go unheeded. If taken up, and prosecuted with industry and intelligence, they will tell speedily and largely on the wealth of the county, especially in the largely increased products of wheat and pork.

The opinion is often expressed, that Guano will not act so efficiently on clay as on sandy soils. I see no good reason for it, and I certainly do not hold it. Mr. William Albright, of Chatham, has obtained and reported the very best results in a wheat crop on land that he describes as a clay red and wasted clay soil. And in this fact, I never witnessed a more marked an exhibition of the effects of any manure on any crop, as I saw on the red lands of Alamance, in cotton, where a liberal use had been made of Guano, associated with plaster, in equal parts, and applied to the drill. It surpassed my own experiments on a sandy soil. I am satisfied that Guano should only be used with plaster, charcoal, or fresh woods mould, and never in association with lime or ashes. Not until Rail Road freights are reduced, shall we be able to use either lime, or any other mineral or marine manures, to any very great extent; and for an enlarged system of improvement in Orange we must rely mainly on the pea and clover fallow, with a bushel of plaster to the acre as a top dressing. Under such a system, we should soon exhibit improved fields of wheat, and one of the best grazing and dairy districts east of the mountains of our State.

I would urge our farmers, especially those on clay soils, to confine their corn crop, as far as it is practicable, to the improved or manured portions of their lands, as it is only from such portions we can reasonably hope for a paying crop. In nothing do we commit a greater error, than in making ourselves so entirely dependent on the corn crop. With us it is meat, mait; meadow, and manure. The clay soils will make the best returns in the small grain crops, pasturage of light animals on clover, and pea crops. Such soils, when nearly destitute of sand, are too slow for either cotton or tobacco, unless, by the application of large quantities of the most stimulating manures, their character and capacity be much changed and quickened. Such lands, every where, constitute the best districts for farming, and maintaining a mixed system of husbandry. On the sandy soils, both cotton and tobacco may be cultivated, on highly improved lots, with a good degree of success; and the establishment of manufactories near, as should stimulate us to better efforts in their production, both as regards quantity and quality.

On the sandy soils of Orange, as a general rule, we must not expect the best crops of wheat and oats; yet from such soils only, can you obtain the best crops of rye. I have never obtained a good crop of rye on a clay soil. No crop yields a larger amount of long food for stock, on poor sandy soils; and when sown early on good soil, it will furnish fine green food for stall feeding of stock, in the months of February, March, and April, and then yield a good crop of grain. By every consideration of self-preservation, we are called to make better efforts to expel the Northern grocer from the State with his butter, and the Ohio and Kentucky horse, mule and hog driver, from our county at least.

I shall make no suggestions to any one to expend a dollar for the importation of Devons or Durhams, until he has provided food for them. But it is a reproach on us as farmers, and no little deduction from our wealth, that we suffer the population of our towns and villages to supply themselves with butter from another Orange county in New York. In all the sea-ports, soon to be opened to us, good butter is seldom worth less than twenty-five cents, and oftentimes thirty. I know no business that will pay better than a well-kept dairy. I know not when I have been more humiliated, as a North Carolina farmer, than when, a few weeks ago, at a Rail Road Depot at the very doors of our State Capital, I saw wagons drawn by Kentucky mules, loading with Northern Hay, for the supply not only of the town, but to be taken to the country. Such a sight at the Capital of a State whose population is almost exclusively devoted to agriculture, is a most humiliating exhibition. Let us cease to use every thing, as far as it is practicable, that is not the product of our own soil and workshops—not an axe, or a broom, or bucket, from Connecticut.

Could I be the means of inducing every farmer of Orange to keep ten acres of his best lands well set in clover and orchard grass to be fed to stock in stalls, I should, in the production of manures, and in the more and more of living, have accomplished more for the solid wealth of the county, than an entire regiment of second rate politicians. Doubtless we have much land in Orange that is too cold, wet and poor for the production of clover; and it will burn out here as every where else. But, as a general rule, good clover may be obtained on any soil that will yield a luxuriant crop of black-eye peas. Our branch land, of which we have much, will, if properly prepared, yield most abundant crops of red top; and heavy crops of both Lucerne and Italian rye-grass can be obtained from any of our deep, dry and rich soils.

As farmers, we have not only been imperfect cultivators, especially in preparation; attempting too much in clean culture, doing nothing perfectly, taking all from the soil, and giving but little back, and that little leached of its best essentials; but we have made ourselves too dependent on the cereals for food, and on the most precarious of all the staples for income—wheat. If it is wise in nations to maintain a division of labor, it is certainly not less wise in farmers, especially those far removed from market, to produce a variety of crops. I will simply offer some suggestions, that seem to me to promise good; and I wish to revive a worn-out old humbug.

Elsewhere the Ground-Pea is attracting notice, is entering largely into commerce, and is being largely distributed in the Northern States and Canada, by means of the multiplied Rail Roads, and is now an object of importance in the markets of our own State. A single planter in one of our Eastern counties has obtained from it an annual income of $6,000. He obtains from fifty to seventy-five bushels to the acre, cultivates five acres to the hand, which, at $1 a bushel, yields an income of $250 to $375 to the hand. No such result can be had with the staples on similar soils. Our cotton planters have contented themselves with a crop yielding from ten to twelve dollars per acre, and the summing up on a large surface gives a living result. But a farmer on a small surface, if he looks well to his interest, will seek to maintain the highest concentration of fertility and tillage, and to produce those crops in which there is least risk in saving, and cost in sending to market.

In this connection, I would suggest also the Yeast Hop. It is a crop of growing importance, especially for breweries, not to name other uses. Its culture in the United States is confined almost entirely to one State, and in that State the production has, in a very short time, increased 200 per cent. A thousand pounds to the acre is not an unusual crop, and finds a ready sale at thirty cents a pound. And this season, two brothers in Watertown, New York, produced a crop of 30,000 pounds on twenty acres; yielding, as a reward for labor, on twenty acres, the large sum of $9,000! This is quite equal to hunting gold in California, and is far more certain. That this crop may be produced in Orange, on deep, dry and rich soil, I do not question, from my acquaintance and care of the vine in my garden. The picking of the crop will not be more laborious than the picking of cotton.

I think it needs but the knowledge of facts, and an impartial examination of the subject of Silk Culture on the part of us, to convince all that it is a branch of business from which may be derived great profit to those who engage in it with intelligence. It is not to be doubted that the climate of our State is as well suited to the health and constitution of the worm as any part of Europe; this is the testimony of the best informed. In our own manufactories American silk is worth two dollars a pound more than any imported silk. At the late World's Fair in London, the premium for the best sample of silk was awarded to a silk grower of Virginia, demonstrating that we may make ourselves the rivals of Lyons, as we now are of Manchester. A silk periodical states the fact, that three children in Connecticut, attending school daily, produced a crop worth $175! One hundred pounds can be produced from an acre of mulberry trees, planted as thick as we plant corn, and each pound is worth from eight to ten dollars. Every Poor-House in the State should be surrounded by a mulberry orchard, and under the direction of an active and benevolent overseer of the poor, the paupers would soon be able to supply themselves with the important luxuries of life. To the helpless female, dependent on the painful labors of the needle, the aged and infirm, disqualified for muscular effort, silk culture is full of promise.

There is no part of our population that feel so keenly the fangs of want as the indigent female, and none so willing to be directed in useful pursuits. Hence all manufactories for the employment of female labor, are to be regarded as benevolent and charitable institutions. The wisest and best charity that we bestow, is to enable others to help themselves. And this class of our population, now without employment, should be engaged, on a large scale, in the manufacture of willow-ware, corn brooms, and other items suited to female taste and capacity.

No people have accomplished much, in letters or the arts, until wealth is accumulated and leisure allowed. With equal truth it may be said, that in husbandry no will directed efforts have been made and sustained in the rearing of fine animals, until the earth has been tamed and carpeted with the grasses. Domestic animals are essential to efficient tillage, and to proper supplies of food and clothing, and add largely to the wealth of the farmer in the production of manures, and are not to be dispensed with. The value of neat cattle exceeds that of all other stock in the United States. But not until we shall be able to provide full supplies of food, and extend to them a more humane care, should we attempt to improve our stock of cattle by costly importations, that may perish the first summer by so fatal a disease as the distemper. At present it will be to our interest to make judicious selections from such stock as we have, which embraces a few of the best, and many of the worst, and almost every variety of shape, color and character. Formerly the best stocks of cattle in our county, were to be found in the possession of the late William Pickett and the elder Strayhorns; and I occasionally see well marked descendants of these stocks of cattle on the Town Common. But at this day, we shall find in the herds of Mr. Cain and Mr. Norwood, all the elements to build up a stock of cattle equal to all the wants of the county for labor and the dairy. Pickett and the Strayhorns were large hay makers; and cattle, like the plants we cultivate, grow great or small, according to the quality and quantity of food that they have given to them. We shall see no general improvement in the stock of the county, until our habits of care and keep are wonderfully amended, especially in the nuisance and waste of permitting cattle to go at large.

I should fail in my duty to you, and in my estimation of the value of an animal that makes his home in every latitude between the equator and the arctic,—that was an object of especial care to Abel, the first born of our race,—of Job, who counted his flocks by thousands,—of Moses, the statesman and law giver—of David, King of Israel, the hero and poet,—and of the good men who, "keeping watch over their flocks by night," received the first tidings of the birth of Him who proclaimed peace on earth and good will to man. The very name of the animal in Hebrew, is expressive of fruitfulness and abundance. And, in modern times, every where with enlightened nations, to the successful cultivation of the arts of peace, the Sheep has been regarded as an animal of the first importance. For a long series of years it made Spain and Portugal the most wealthy and powerful of European nations. And it was not until England became a wool grower, and by the wisdom of her statesmen and financiers, offering large bounties to the artist of Spain and Flanders, did she set around her "sea girt Isle" those pedestals on which will rest, for all time to come, the pillars of her national grandeur, civilization and strength; now sustaining on her soil a family of more than fifty millions of sheep, with an average yield of from four to seven pounds of wool.

In an address like this, I cannot give the names of the varieties, much less the accumulated teachings of centuries for their care and keep. Our countrymen to the north of us, are going forward in this enterprise with the utmost confidence and liberality; and the most experienced and trusted wool-staplers and shepherds of our own country and Europe are retained, without regard to price, to make selections for importations to this country, which is telling with wonderful force on the flocks of the northern States.

We have every inducement in North Carolina, especially in this part of it, to go largely into this business as a business. A dry and healthy climate, a rolling surface, sweet and varied herbage, cheap and exhausted lands abundantly watered,—all invite to it with assurances of the best success. The field pea, both vine and pod, will furnish abundant supplies of food; and our old fields, enclosed with stone walls and burnt off annually, will in a few years furnish abundant pasturage—doubling the value of the lands at once by the durability of the enclosures, and putting our entire surface to profitable husbandry without any additional laborers. I regard the agricultural capital of the county increased to the amount of ten dollars by the addition of every sheep that yields three pounds of wool.—It cannot be many years before the hill sides and slopes of Orange will be covered with fine flocks, and sheep husbandry become a leading interest of the county. And if the legislature will protect us against the hordes of worthless dogs that annually decimate our flocks, we must protect ourselves. A substantial tax would at once rid us of a race that, like the drones and loafers of our own species, will take a living if it be not given to them. It is to be hoped that the next legislature will settle, and forever, in North Carolina, that wool is of more value than dogs' hair; and it is not doubted that the good sense and good taste of the Representative who declares his preference for the royal Merino, or the gentle South Down, will be sustained and confirmed at home.

It has ever been a matter of surprise, that both National and State Governments have prohibited, in all our past history, so little direct care for the great interest of Agriculture. In both branches of our State Legislature we have had "Standing Committees on Agriculture"—a sort of dark room in which is stowed away the useless lumber and furniture of a legislative hall, and from which has never issued the first ray of light or hope to the farmer. The establishment of the Agricultural Bureau at Washington has, within a short time, accomplished much good, by the dissemination of improved seeds and roots, as well as by receiving and imparting to tillers of the soil much useful information.—And a gift of fifty dollars to each County in the State, is at least a recognition of the plough, but it will not furnish each County in the State with a stock lamb from either Mr. Reybold's or Colonel Ware's flocks of imported sheep.

I should be wanting in gratitude, and false to my admiration of the noblest of all animals, in association with which I have passed of my life, in the discharge of out-door duties, in search of health or social intercourse, did I not make an appeal to you in behalf of the Horse. I have only to request that you will visit any large collection of horses at our county town on any public occasion, to obtain from you the candid confession, that our stock of horses is on a level with every thing in our husbandry. With us the race of noble bloods is well nigh extinct. Our horses are all woefully deficient in all the essentials of size, figure, bone muscle, depth of girth, game and action. I do not wish to be regarded as the advocate of a "mammoth race" in any of our domestic animals, especially the horse.—Such a race is not suited to our capacity to keep, our service or climate. We need a horse of all work—a roadster in the farm horse—and if we consult our interest or our pleasure, we will begin anew.

In the Southern States, all the efforts that have been made to improve the horse, have been directed by a single idea, and controlled by a single object—the attainment of the highest speed. And the achievements of the Southern race-horse on the best contested fields, have placed him at the very head of the racing calendar, both in Europe and America. We need no such horse; nor, as farmers, have we any use for a race known in our county as the "telegraph line," reared to hard times on broom-straw, and doomed to harder service, oftentimes looking as much like an over grown hound as a horse; and which, under the influence of a spur both in the head and heel of the riders, have performed some most astonishing feats, eclipsing Fremont and Kit Carson, in speed if not in duration. My own observation, sustained by the judgment of the best informed, induces me to suggest that, so soon as any attempt shall be made to improve our stock of horses, we should seek for the well known crosses of the Vermont Morgan and the Cleaveland Bay. It is to be hoped that our intelligent farmers will look closely into this interest, and when a beginning is made, it shall be directed by the best liberality and judgment.—And in this, associated means might accomplish much good, not only for the adventurers, but for the entire community.

It is but naked justice for me to declare, that for all the drudgery of the farm, the Mule is without an equal. It is known that he is almost exempt from disease, subsists on short and coarse food, attains great age, and meets all the demands on him in the heats of summer and the storms of winter with almost unflinching firmness and fidelity. No animal is more worthy of our care, counsel and with reference to his capacity for intense labor, or the facility with which he may be disposed of in the market. The rearing of mules in the Western States was never prosecuted on so large a scale or with so much profit.—It is a certain source of great individual profit, and is now, in association with the culture of cotton and the transportation of trains to the Pacific shores, an item of much national importance. Those reared on our own soil suit us best, and we should at least supply our own wants.

It will be in vain that we shall establish State and County Agricultural Societies, possess ourselves of the best agricultural Journals, introduce new crops, clover and the grasses, improved stocks of domestic animals, build Railroads and improve County roads, if as farmers we go not to work with a stronger will, and a fixed determination to excel. Let us tolerate no loafer or idler.

"The idler is a watch that needs both hands,
As useless when it goes as when it stands."

And,

"The drone is a nuisance to the hive,
Stays, but can scarce be said to live:
And well the bees, those judges wise,
Plunge, chase and sting him till he dies."

Unless we intend to yield our homes to the fox and the owl, and abandon the graves of loved ones, the axe must be laid aside, and more labor, and more capital devoted to the accumulation of manures. This is the crop of all others that we most need. This is the wand of Midas that turns all into gold. This is the key to the farmer's treasury. Farmers should regard manure as a part of their capital, not to be secured by paper and parchment, but by substantial roofs and sheds; as money, which requires but to be properly employed to return him usurious interest. They should husband it as their cents and shillings, which they intend to increase to dollars. And he that will not feed his crops with manures, should not complain if his crops fail to feed him with bread. We must, with a liberal hand, spread fatness and fertility over our wasted homesteads, in the form of barn yard manures, and, so soon as it can be accomplished, cover every acre of our open lands with marine and mineral manures to the full extent of our capacity to use such fertilizers; and then, and not till then, will the ox and the ass know their master's fields and cribs.

Wasted fields and naked sterility every where surround us. Reduce your surface; cease to cultivate lands that do not pay for tillage; concentrate your labors and manures; strive in every way to furnish larger and better supplies of domestic manures. Let every thing that is capable of decomposition be gathered up; permit no waste; confine your stock to your own fields or lands; do not drive them to live in lanes, or your neighbor's old fields. In charge to counties, for all time to come, every man's crop may be measured with perfect certainty by the quantity and quality of his manures. The best care and the most liberal defense will be [illegible] [illegible] valuable, the easy [illegible] [illegible] cation of manures. [illegible] will [illegible] matter can you better devote your care and attention.

Seek to make your homes sweet, especially in the eyes of your children; endeavor them to aid you in ornamenting it. Continue employed and happy at home, are the best guarantee for virtue and domestic purity. No country so happy [illegible] if [illegible] the world be [illegible] made so lovely that it will not be needful [illegible] to heaven; make us think that it may be [illegible] indeed to the land of purity. By [illegible] per, causing grasses [illegible] [illegible] clovers, learn [illegible] a wood and a [illegible] man and shrubbery trained and trimmed by his own hands. No man is so poor but that he can contribute something to make our world more beautiful. He can leave behind him monuments of his good sense and of his refined taste, if not of his opulence. He who plants a tree, set an orchard, or builds a stone barn, may be long remembered than he who rides a [illegible] [illegible] are. The rose or the jessamine at the door of a homestead, or the ivy of the valley at the grave of a child, is quite as certain or [illegible] of a pure heart and gentle feeling as gold [illegible] and silver plate, or chiseled marble.

"Surround your dwellings by fruitful and well kept gardens. A patch of cabbage, six rows of Irish potatoes, and three rows of onions, do not constitute a farmer's garden. Use only the best seed, and plant only the best fruit. It is as easy to cultivate the Virgulue and the Bartlett, as the Choke Pear; the Green Gage, as the Horse Plum. No man is better entitled to all the good fruits of the earth, than he who tills it. And Lord Bacon declares, of the garden, "that it affords the purest of human pleasures, the greatest refreshment to the spirit of man, without which, buildings and palaces are but grass handiworks."

Money is as much the sinew of Agricultural improvement, as it is of war. In the one it brings plenty and contentment, in the other desolation and woe. Capital no where makes a more sure return, and not often a more liberal return, than when judiciously applied to agricultural improvement. Like good seed, sown on good ground, it comes back with many fold.—Use your money like the thrifty and enterprising in the other pursuits. Make yourselves the owners of the best tools, especially of the best ploughs, teams, and carts, and, at any cost, of the best seed.

By a judicious use of money, and by wiser and better applications of labor, it is not unreasonable to predict, that, stimulated, as it is hoped the agricultural heart and mind of the county will be, by the passage of the Locomotive across our plains and valleys, in the next ten years, the products and values of the County, agricultural and mechanical, may be nearly doubled. This may seem extravagant; but what has been accomplished elsewhere, by manuring, draining, good tillage, alternating crops, clover and grass culture, and substituting fallow crops for naked fallows, I undertake to say for the farmers of Orange, can, will, and shall be accomplished here.

These are the means by which Great Britain, this season, obtains her largest yield of wheat from her old and deep-tilled soils. These are the means by which the valley of the Po, Flanders, and many of the older portions of the world, have been made to surpass in production our young and fruitful America. These are the means which are being used in portions of our own State with most satisfactory results, quadrupling the value of the land and the income of the planter. And the same industry and intelligence, applied on the soil of Orange, will accomplish the same results here.

And, standing here, on the boundary of this ancient county town—associated as it is with some of the most interesting chapters of our early history, the seat of hospitality and kindness, the home of old and long cherished friends, and a community in which I have ever felt the most sincere and friendly interest—may I be permitted to say, that I had hoped that the pick and the drill would hardly have commenced their Herculean labors along the base of yonder miniature mountains on the other side of the river, before the trowel and the hammer would have been heard in the work of improvement on this side. If self-interest and self-respect cannot awaken you, nothing that I can say will. You are surrounded by a profile of beauty that the taste and fancy of a Shenstone could never have conceived, and all about you are positions worthy of the best designs and rural embellishments of the gifted and lamented Downing. If you will, you may make it "the lovely village of the vale," a spot at which the traveler, as he flies by, may look with delighted admiration, and desire to halt and refresh himself. Here, without fear of vernal or autumnal fevers, you may spin and weave, hammer and plane, stitch and grind, and collect all the associates of thrift, wealth and intelligence; and assemble once more, in large numbers, the children of distant and unhealthy districts for education. But these things are not to be accomplished by lounging under pleasant shades, discussing party politics, the size of a melon, or a tomato.

We have all been discouraged; and discontent and want have deprived us of our best material. But a new day dawns on us; better hopes and brighter expectations invite us to new diligence; we have a goodly heritage, and we shall be false to duty if we lack the energy and the manliness to improve it to the utmost. Exempt from those terrific epidemics that decimate whole districts; occupying a temperate latitude, in which grows almost every plant essential to our comfort; free from the extremes of climate; we can ever be at work. The old can give us the benefit of their wisdom and counsel; the young, the restless power of youthful enthusiasm; and woman, virtuous woman, whose hand is as prompt to its duty as her heart is responsive to our joys and sorrows, will smile on those who seek to make her home the abode of beauty, peace and plenty. And we depend only on the favor and promises of Him, who hath said, that so long as the world endureth, seed-time and harvest, summer and winter shall never cease.

The Doom that awaits Us.—Archbishop Hughes has been making political speeches in the adjoining British Provinces. That he can do without incurring any censure, because he is a privileged Roman Catholic. In one of those speeches he says that—"if we Americans do not like the rule of foreigners to which we are now subjected though the support the said foreigners receive from the "democracy," we had better pack up bag and baggage and leave the country." Though these are not his precise words, we give his exact meaning. Let us learn from this, then, the doom that awaits, unless the good sense and true patriotism of the American people shall in a short time take away from future emigrants the right of voting entirely, and confine it to those born on the soil. When the head of the Irish Papists talks thus openly of forcing the natives to leave their country and seek a home elsewhere, it is time for *every good Citizen* to become a Know Nothing.

Baltimore Clipper.

NEGRO STEALING.—Dr. R. L. Crawford returned from Virginia, on Monday night last. He was successful in recovering his negro boy Toney, and disposed of him in Richmond. With Dr. Crawford, came a gentleman from Virginia in pursuit of the man who sold Toney. The sheriff went in pursuit of him yesterday, and returned with him last evening. The man turns out to be M. M. Chaney, who resides in the upper part of this district. This is briefly all we have learned, but the matter will undergo a legal investigation. If the sheriff had [illegible] with his prisoner ten minutes sooner, the matter would have come before this court.—*Louisville Ledger.*