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VOL. VIII.

HENDERSON, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1889.

NO. 9.

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TOBACCO CULTURE.

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL FOR PLANTING.

A Valuable Treatise on the Subject for the Inexperienced Farmer.

[By Maj. R. L. Ragland.]
The tobacco plant thrives in a deep, mellow, loamy soil, rich or made so with fertilizers. The sub-soil ought to be sufficiently porous to permit the water falling on the surface to pass downward readily, and not to accumulate to drown and stagnate.

If old land is selected, it ought to be followed deep in the fall or early winter, that the frosts may pulverize it. Turn under, if possible, some coarse farm manure, for its decay will greatly help to loosen the soil, while furnishing food for the crop. As a coarse manure for yellow tobacco, nothing is better than wheat straw turned under in the fall and winter. The plants rarely fail to ripen yellow in color on land thus treated.

In the early spring more manure may be applied, but it is better that this should come from the compost heap. Follow the application of the compost with one-horse turning plow, crossing the previous ploughing, turning not exceeding four or five inches deep—about half the depth of the first ploughing. Then, just before it is time to plant, run double-shovel ploughs over the lot, crossing again to thoroughly make fine. These repeated ploughings, crossing each time every previous one, never fail, if the work is done when the land is in proper condition, to put it in proper tith.

Let the planter remember that "a good preparation is half cultivation," and not stop until the land is in proper condition.

In preparing land for tobacco, be sure you don't plant varieties unsuited to the soil or type, else failure is inevitable. The cause of so much mean, nondescript goods on the markets every year is mainly attributable to failure in planting the proper varieties on the right kind of soil, and planters should carefully note this and sow seed suited both to soil and type.

If any one knows of a better way than let him pursue it—the writer knows of none better. And just here it may be well to state that perfection is not claimed for any mode or practice recommended in this book, but only the best methods known to the author are given, for guidance to the uninitiated. We live and learn, but life is too short to learn every good thing by experience unaided. Every man owes something to those who are to come after him; to freely give as he has freely received.

Having put the land in nice "order," lay off the rows with a shovel plough, three feet three inches apart, and follow, drilling along the furrow some good fertilizer at the rate of some one hundred and fifty to three hundred pounds per acre, according to the natural strength of the soil and the quantity of manure previously applied. Then follow with one-horse turning ploughs, lapping four furrows on the fertilizer trench, and when finished in this manner your lot is ready to be planted, when the beds have been "patted" with hoes, with "pats" two feet ten inches apart, to mark points for setting the plants. In the older portions of the fine yellow tobacco country the applications are becoming heavier from year to year, some planters using as much as six hundred pounds to the acre.

New ground, or old field that has grown up and been cut down, will require different preparation from old smooth land. But on the former our best lights are raised. Any preparation that will put the soil in fine condition, clear of roots, tufts and trash, is all that is required. Experience teaches that if land is cut down two or three years previous to its being prepared for tobacco, it greatly facilitates the preparation and helps its fertility. Much of the vegetable material, both in and upon the soil, rots, the roots break easily, and the soil is altogether lighter and finer.

While it is economy to dispense with the hand-hoe in making hills on old land—the plough doing all the work, as it ought; when it can be well done—yet on stumpy, rooty and rough land, the hoe is indispensable in the preparation of a hill, as it should be made to receive the plant. But before the hills are made, it may be well, unless the soil is naturally rich, and such is not often the case with soils best adapted to yellow tobacco, to apply some fertilizing material to hasten forward the plants, and mature them properly and early. Here commercial fertilizers have done, and are doing their best work. Bulky, coarse manures often do more harm than good on new and puffy soils. The smaller the bulk, and the more concentrating the fertilizing elements the

more readily they are appropriated and assimilated by the plants, if of the right material, and in the most available form. Nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash, lime and soda, are most necessary for the tobacco plant; and a fertilizer which supplies the relative quantity of each, and from the proper sources, will never fail to show good effects therefrom if the rainfall is sufficient to quicken their action.

Most of the soils best adapted to the finest types of tobacco, especially bright and sweet fillers, are thin and poor, and need plant-food to push the plants forward and rapidly in growth and maturity, so that the product may be ripened and mellowed of yellow color, preparatory to being housed and cured.

Good crops of fine quality have been produced on these poor gray soils by the aid of fertilizers (commercial) alone. Extensive areas of gray salicious soils in the yellow belt are rendered capable of producing good crops of fine yellow tobacco, by the aid of commercial fertilizers alone, when of composition suited thereto.

MODE OF APPLYING FERTILIZERS.
Planters differ in the manner of applying fertilizers, whether in the hill, drill or broadcast. That the same quantity will go further and produce larger results the first year, for the quantity used when applied in the hill or drill, is generally conceded. But advocates of broadcasting claim that when the crop, to which the fertilizer is applied, is to be followed by another in quick succession—to be sown in wheat as soon as the tobacco is removed—then broadcasting is best, for reasons which seem too apparent to need explanation.

Having prepared the land for hilling apply the fertilizer by whichever mode the planter prefers, and in such quantity as the natural strength of the soil indicates, laying off the rows three feet three inches apart, and make the hills about two feet ten inches distant from centre to centre. Mark the measure on the hoe handle and require the hillers to apply it frequently as a guide. The rows should be wider apart than the hills, to afford proper cultivation without breaking and bruising the plants at the final ploughing—a matter of no small importance, as the least blemish on a fine leaf nearly destroys its value as a wrapper.

To Encourage Manufacturing.

[Wilmington Messenger.]
The Chamber of Industries last evening took two steps forward in the matter of inviting and encouraging new manufacturing enterprises in the city of Wilmington, especially, and for the incorporated towns and cities of the State in general.

The first proposition requests the Legislature to propose an amendment to the Constitution authorizing incorporated towns and cities in North Carolina to exempt from local taxation the capital, property and plant devoted to manufacturing purposes.

This is right, and so far as we know, Wilmington is the first city in the State to move in the direction indicated. To cities and towns situated as she is, this is a necessary move. Our city tax rate is practically a prohibition of manufacturing industries. The tax rate here is one and three quarters per cent. Added to the State and county taxes, the burdens of taxation in Wilmington proximate three per cent. The profits of manufacturing, except in some of the novelties protected by patents, generally are not large now-adays, and competition is daily rendering them smaller. Men will not embark their money, industry and enterprise in experimental undertakings, where the rate of taxation sets the chances against them. A margin of one and three quarters per cent. may be sufficient to wreck an enterprise at the beginning, which otherwise might ultimately turn out a handsome success. Three per cent. is an obstacle so formidable as to deter the most enterprising and ambitious from investing in manufacturing buildings and machinery.

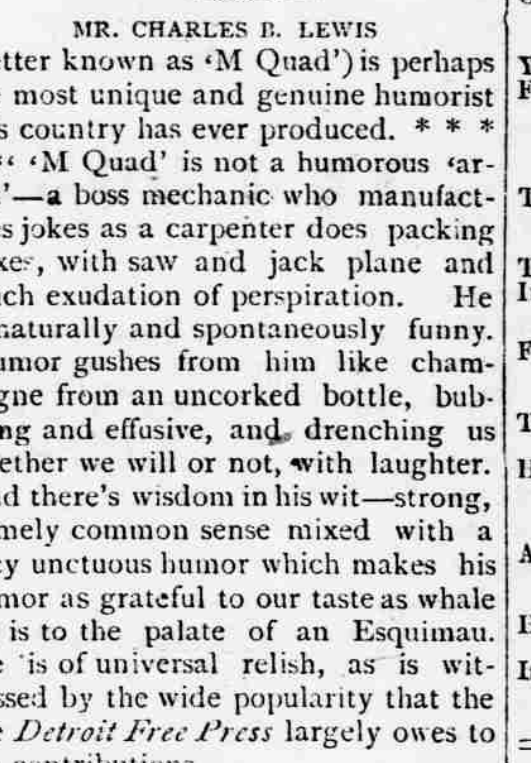
It is certain that if North Carolina towns and cities are to thrive as manufacturing, and industrial centers, the capital, property and plant so employed must go free of excessive local taxation. Other States have practised this exemption, and grown great, powerful and rich. Instead of drying up, their public treasuries have overrun from the contributions by increased populations which acquired and created new and additional properties for taxation. It is only necessary to instance Georgia and Pennsylvania.

Eager Eyes of Capitalists on Reidsville.
[The Times]
The eager eyes of capitalists are turned towards our magic city of 5,000 souls, and the Times trusts that our people may come closer together in interests than ever before.

A VERY FUNNY MAN WHO HAS A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION.

C. B. Lewis the Famous Humorist of the "Detroit Free Press."

As our readers would doubtless like to know something of the most famous humorist of the day, we present the below excellent likeness and the following admirable sketch by Edmund Kirke, lately published in Harper's Monthly Magazine:



MR. CHARLES B. LEWIS (better known as 'M. Quad') is perhaps the most unique and genuine humorist this country has ever produced. * * *

"'M. Quad' is not a humorous artist—a boss mechanic who manufactures jokes as a carpenter does packing boxes, with saw and jack plane and much exudation of perspiration. He is naturally and spontaneously funny. Humor gushes from him like champagne from an uncorked bottle, bubbling and effusive, and drenching us whether we will or not, with laughter. And there's wisdom in his wit—strong, homely common sense mixed with a racy unctuous humor which makes his humor as grateful to our taste as whale oil is to the palate of an Esquimaux. He is of universal relish, as is witnessed by the wide popularity that to the Detroit Free Press largely owes to his contributions.

It is not generally known where he was born, nor is that of much consequence, since his career did not begin till he was blown up, some seventeen years ago, on an Ohio River steamboat. He is perhaps the only example of a man who has been lifted into fame by being tossed a hundred feet into the air, and coming down more dead than alive, to tell the story. He did this: Standing at his printer's case, when he was so far recovered as to limp about, he put into type "How it feels to be blown up," and the whole West burst into laughter. That laugh made "M. Quad" famous. He was then transferred from the composing room to the editorial department, and ever since, short extracts from the Free Press have been copied into every journal throughout the country.

About ten years ago he invented or rather created—"His Honor" and "Bijah" and "Brother Gardener" of the "Lime-kiln Club"—characters totally dissimilar, but each as natural, original, individual, and ludicrous as any in American literature.

"Artemus Ward" created one character; "M. Quad" has given birth to three, and each one has, during a period of ten years, given delight to millions. The man is precisely what we are led to expect from his writings: He is by turns "His Honor," "Bijah," and "Brother Gardener," with the dry humor and quaint wisdom that is peculiar to each character.

"His den," as he calls his "sanctum," is an upper story of the Free Press building, is a curiosity shop filled with odd mementoes and knick-knacks: Here is a bit of rope that helped to hang a murderer, and a pair of shackles of the old slave time; there are bullets from Gettysburg, powder-flasks from the Merrimac, and swords, sabres, muskets, and shot and shell from a score of battle fields; while around the wall, side by side with portraits of Sheridan and Custer, busts of Grant and Lee, are pictures of a dozen of the most noted criminals. But the oddest thing in the room is a slender man of about forty, with close-cropped gray hair, heavy mustache, keen intelligent eyes, and an earnest, somewhat eager expression, who sits at an old fashioned table and looks up with a smile of welcome as a stranger enters his apartment. This is "M. Quad," known among his personal acquaintances as C. B. Lewis. He is modest, and not at all puffed up by the fact that he has a weekly audience of a million, nearly one half of whom are matter of fact Englishmen, who take him with their beefsteak and ale, as a sure help to a healthy digestion. He is spoken of as odd and eccentric, and that he may be, but I incline to the opinion that this peculiarity is due to the fact that nature produced him in one of her genial moods when she would do the world a kindly turn by bestowing upon it a gentle soul, who should do us good by spreading for us a wholesome feast of mingled wit and wisdom.

HAPPY THE MAN.

BY CHARLES EUGENE BANKS.

Happy the man who in some rural glade Contented dwells nor of its confines tires; The rich, sweet-smelling soil returning with its spade Where the dark earth, with little toil is made To yield sufficient for his few desires.

The rush and turmoil of the greedy town, Its sin and pride and shame to him unknown; Nor beggar's whine, nor surly mammon's frown, Nor cracked-voice vendors crying up and down, Nor drunkard's oath, nor ruined virtue's moan.

Instead, the morning pulsing full with life, O'erflooded with the varied songs of birds; The pure, fresh air with scents of flowers filled; Nor discord here; nor sound of sordid strife, But eloquence without disturbing words.

With swelling breast he roams the dewy meads, The meaneast flow'r his joy and tender care; The winds that, murm'ring, stir the tangled reeds, Fit orchestra adapted to the needs Of Nature's drama acted for him there.

Of castle massive often he has read, Of mosque, of temple and cathedral grand— Yet turns for beauty to the fields instead, Finds some new pleasure wheres'er he treads, In meadow, wood or on the yielding sand.

The cliff abrupt; the river's silver flow; The eagle's flight; the teardrop-ridden wind; The gleaming salmon swimming to and fro In quiet pool, the timid, graceful roe— All dear companions of his student mind.

For him the peace of close converse with God, To him the door of Nature opens wide; The woods, the hills, the daisy-sprangled sod, He loves them all—where others blindly tread.

He moves serene—his being satisfied, Amid such scenes his gentle life is passed, The ward of Wisdom, learning what is best; His creed to love, his church the vaulted vast.

In contemplation riches at the last— He falls asleep upon a kindly breast. —Arkansas Traveler.

Excellent Work for North Carolina.
[Wilmington Star.]

We have had for some days and have read a part of a very valuable work just issued by the National Bureau of Education entitled "The History of Education in North Carolina," by Charles Lee Smith, a native of our State, and Fellow in History and Politics in Johns Hopkins University. We purposed writing of this interesting and instructive volume at length, but other matters have drawn us off at present and we can only hurriedly refer to it now. It is a credit to the judgment and ability of our young friend, and will do good at home in telling our people of many things of which they had no knowledge, and it will do good abroad in correcting false impressions and in answering the ignorant criticisms of certain Massachusetts writers who affect to "know it all, and yet who are extremely ignorant of historic facts connected with North Carolina. We thank Mr. Smith for the thoroughness of his work and in a few days we hope to give due attention to some of the important facts embodied in his excellent "contribution to American Educational History." The following sketch of him is furnished the Raleigh News-Observer by Dr. Stephen D. Weeks, another young North Carolinian, who is devoting much of his time to historic investigation and composition, and who gives promise of future distinction and usefulness. He says:

"Mr. Smith is a young man to have done such good work. He was born in Granville county, N. C., August 29, 1865, and is a son of Dr. L. Turner Smith, now of Durham. He was graduated at Wake Forest with the degree of B. S. in 1884; during the fall of that year he taught for Fray & Morson, in Raleigh; in January, 1885, became assistant editor of the Biblical Recorder, and continued as corresponding editor during 1886. In January, 1886, he entered the Johns Hopkins University as a graduate student; was University scholar, 1886-'87; Fellow in History and Political Science, 1887-'88, and is now Fellow by courtesy and instructor in History. He takes his doctor's degree in June, and on March 1st, will become General Secretary of the Charity Organization Society of Baltimore City.

Make Every Man His Own Mark.

[Biblical Recorder.]
Let the young man learn to develop his own native talent, his own mother wit, and by proper use of superior advantages, confer honor on the mother who bore him and on the father from whom he sprang, in letting them be heard in the pulpit, on the rostrum, in the political arena, or wherever in God's providence his work may lie. You greatly resemble them because God intended it, and you cannot help it. What right have you to dishonor your own mother, in losing your individuality in another mother's son?

THE STATE GUARD.

AIDED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

The Bill Appropriating \$5,000 to the State Guard Becomes a Law.

[Wilmington Messenger.]
We congratulate the Legislature on the appreciation the majority of the two houses have shown by the passage of the bill appropriating five thousand dollars to the State Guard, and the establishment of a permanent encampment for perfecting in the military drill, and training and perfecting the State militia.

The institution of the State Guard, as a limited military force of the State, to be kept in a high state of efficiency as the nucleus for the organization of the whole militia of the State, in the event of need thereof, was a happy consummation. It has given us an efficient, well drilled and finely disciplined military force, always ready and in easy call for any emergency, while it relieves the masses of our people from the annoyance of the annual musters that were required under the old militia system, when the law compelled all able bodied persons, between eighteen and forty-five, to turn out once a year, armed and equipped, for the annual drill of the State militia, by districts, and occasionally for general muster at regimental headquarters.

Under that system we had no efficient militia, and in an emergency the civil authorities could not have depended upon the military power of the State for effective aid in the execution of the law, the maintenance of peace or suppression of disorder. But all that is changed now. We have distributed over the State, fine military companies of young, vigorous, enthusiastic men, proud of their organization, armed and equipped in all respects as the soldiers of the United States Army, and upon the request of the civil authority, and at command of the Governor, can be thrown and massed in any portion of the State in a few hours.

This is our guarantee for the peace of the State. It is the great protecting arm which North Carolina has thrown around the women and children; conscious of the power and security of which, we live and move undisturbed, without apprehension of organized violence or dangerous disorder from any source or quarter.

The Legislature has done well to support and promote the efficiency of the State Guard, and those who, from want of understanding, have opposed what better intelligence insisted upon and secured, will not have long to wait to be convinced of the terrible mistake that would have been made, could they have had their way.

The selection and acceptance of the site at Wrightsville, for the Encampment ground tendered to the State in fee simple, was fortunate in all respects. The three railroad systems concentrating here, through their connections with the other (the Richmond and Danville) permeate the whole State, and will bring the military companies to this point more readily and with less cost than to any other point on the coast.

The location is admirable for the seacoast battery which the general Government is to establish for us; it is pleasant, attractive and healthy, and within fifteen minutes, by rail, of the largest city in the State.

Onward the Watchword.

[New Bern Journal]
1889 will make imperative demand upon North Carolina. Onward is the watchword. The barriers must be removed whenever they are found. The East and the West must be linked together with iron bands and New Bern and Wilmington be the gates of her commerce. There is no littleness in North Carolina. We are not envious of Charleston and Norfolk, but we are jealous of our own honor and ambitious of honorable achievements. For reasons utterly incomprehensible to ordinary minds, the fairest part of North Carolina—the garden spot of the world—has been permitted to languish for want of the fostering care of the State. Let the Executive, the Legislature and the people awake to a proper realization of the situation, and 1889 will be the most glorious year in our history.

Julian Carr for Railroad Commissioner.
[Letter in Durham Plant.]
I believe one of the strongest points in Mr. Carr's character, that "eminently qualifies" him for the position, is prudence. Never would he act until every one had been heard and every circumstance fully weighed, but when he once reached a right and just decision he would see it carried out if a thousand obstacles opposed.



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