

The Rutherford Star

AND WEST-CAROLINA RECORD.

"BE SURE YOU ARE RIGHT AND THEN GO AHEAD."—DAVY CROCKETT.

VOL. VII.

RUTHERFORDTON, N. C., APRIL 18, 1874.

NO. 10.

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In Memory of My Mother.

A long farewell we bid thee,
For thy days, sweet mother, are
done;
And the lips of sorrow whisper,
She is gone, forever gone!

Thine eye that once did sparkle
In the beam of wisdom and truth,
Its last cherry ray of light.

Thy smile was always lovely,
But far sweeter than the rest,
Was the one thy winging spirit
O'er thy lifeless features cast.

Again farewell we bid thee,
Fall off shall rise the prayer,
That thy disembodied spirit
May linger round us here.

When we think of thee, of heaven
Our second thought will be,
And when we think of heaven,
Sweet mother, we'll think of thee.

Tiresome People.

There are certain people whom I used to think wonderfully congenial; we liked the same books, pictures, and whatnot; had set ourselves to the accomplishment of much the same objects in life; never quarreled about the slightest thing—and yet for some mysterious reason I could never endure their company more than half an hour at a time. There were my old chums whose mature tastes and aims were very different from mine, yet near whom I could spend days and weeks and years with the utmost serenity.

How to account for this difference I did not know—until at last, I found that the trouble lay in the fact that these congenial ungenial friends were all in the same tone. It was like living in some monotonously gorgeous Yellowstone country, than which I could imagine nothing more wearying to the soul. You see ordinary people like you and me cannot stand a constant strain upon the higher emotions—I doubt whether anybody can. If there is not an abounding humor to make a variety in the experience of your grand, solemn natures, there is at least a grim savagery that takes its place, and answers the purposes of recreation. If we do not hear of Milton's laughing much, we are well aware that he knew how to call hard names; and as for the mortal who, having seen Hell, never smiled again, we were not told that the little Guelf boys and girls were in danger of being pelted with stones hung by that frantic Ghibelline!—Scribner's.

Three prisoners escaped from Ashe county jail, last week.

OFFICIAL

International Exhibition
—1876. By the President of the United States.

EXECUTIVE ORDER.

Whereas it has been brought to the notice of the president of the United States that, in the International Exhibition of Arts, Manufacture, and Products of the Soil and Mine, to be held in the city of Philadelphia, in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-six, for the purpose of celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the United States, it is desirable that from the Executive Departments of the Government of the United States, in which there may be articles suitable for the purpose intended, there should appear such articles and materials as will, when presented in a collective exhibition, illustrate the functions and administrative faculties of the Government in time of peace and its resources as a war power, and thereby serve to demonstrate the nature of our institutions and their adaptations to the wants of the people:

Now, for the purpose of securing a complete and harmonious arrangement of the articles and materials to be exhibited from the Executive Departments of the Government, it is ordered that a board, to be composed of one person, to be named by the head of each of the Executive Departments which may have articles and materials to be exhibited, and also of one person to be named in behalf of the Smithsonian Institution, and one to be named in behalf of the Department of Agriculture, be organized, and the safe-keeping of such articles and materials as the heads of the several Departments and the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Director of the Smithsonian Institution may respectfully decide shall be embraced in the collection; that one of the persons thus named, to be designated by the President, shall be chairman of such Board, and that the Board appoint from their own number such other officers as they may think necessary; and that the said Board, when organized, be authorized, under the direction of the President, to confer with Executive Officers of the Centennial Exhibition in relation to such matters connected with the subject as may pertain to the respective Departments having articles and materials on exhibition; and that the names of the persons thus selected by the heads of the several Departments, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Director of the Smithsonian Institution shall be submitted to the President for designation.

By order of the President:
HAMILTON FISH, Sec. of State.
WASHINGTON, January 23, 1874.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON, March 25, 1874.
Sir: I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with the order of the President of the 23d Jan. last, the following persons have been named by the heads of the several Departments, &c., mentioned in the order, having articles or materials to be exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition to be held in 1876, to compose the board directed to be created by the said order, viz:
By the Secretary of the Treasury—Hon. F. M. Sawyer.
By the Secretary of War—Colonel S. C. Lyford, U. S. A.
By the Secretary of the Navy—Admiral T. H. Jenkins, U. S. N.
By the Secretary of the Interior—John Eaton, Esq.
By the Postmaster General—Dr. Charles F. McDonald.
By the Department of Agriculture—William Saunders, Esq.
By the Smithsonian Institution—Professor S. F. Baird.
I have the honor further to inform you that the President has designated Colonel S. C. Lyford, U. S. A., to be the Chairman of such Board.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,
HAMILTON FISH,
The Hon WILLIAM W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

From State Agricultural Journal.

How to make a Cotton Crop.

As time for cotton planting is near at hand, I will try and give your readers some of my experience with cotton and its cultivation.

A thorough preparation of the land is essential for a good cotton crop, and the more thorough the preparation, the better will be the results. All land intended for cotton, should be broken up in January and February, in order that all the old stalks and vegetable matter may have time to decay before planting time. Should any part of your land break up in clods, and remain so until the middle of March, run your sweeps over the land when it would be a little too wet for the turn plow, and you will have a nice seed bed. Land broken up early, causes the grass seed to germinate near the surface, and in bedding you kill out the earliest grass, and get the start. The earlier barnyard manure is put in, the better, either broadcast or in the drill; if in the drill, only two furrows should be thrown upon it, in order to give a fresh bed for seed by splitting the middles just before planting.

Cotton rows should be laid off in proportion to the strength of the land: say from two feet nine inches, to five feet. I believe more cotton is lost by having rows too wide than too narrow. Guano same as barnyard only, at time as possible. I've never derived any benefit from second application after planting.

A good stand is very essential, without which you need not expect a good crop. The less seed sown, [if a stand can be obtained,] the better; for cotton standing thin in the drill before being chopped out, is less liable to lice, will not die out as much, and will grow off better, and make more cotton than when sown thick. No plow should ever be permitted inside of a cotton row, after the cotton is planted, except a sweep. Barring of cotton, I've no doubt has cost every farmer who has done it, one-fifth of his crop annually. In barring off, the lateral roots are cut, all dirt is taken from the young plants, the winds blow it down, the rains wash it up, and it is impossible for the plants to grow, until the top roots extend below the furrow cut by the plow, and then one-fifth is covered up by the plow in trying to dirt it. My plan is, to have my beds as fresh as possible at planting time, to let my cotton come up before the grass; start my sweeps [Dickson] as soon as my cotton is up, then side as close as possible, not to cover the cotton entirely up. The consequence is, the first rain washes the dirt down around the cotton, covering the little sprigs of grass, if any, and leaving a ridge about two inches wide for the hoe, and hands will chop one-third more land thus treated, than any other way I've yet seen, and leave the cotton standing up, and the lateral roots undisturbed.

Always chop to a stand the first time, no matter who says "block it out." And take pains and get out every sprig of grass the first time, and be sure and break the crust and pull it from the cotton. I've had farmers to ask me why I was so particular about having the crust broken and pulled off. They thought the plow cover up such places. You can't plow sufficiently close the first time to cover up such places without covering the cotton, and then you countenance hands who are disposed to slight their work—a bad sign on a farm. I would not thank a man to block my cotton, nor would I give one cent for any machine to do it. Cotton chop-

pers and pickers haven't yet been invented, nor never will be in our day and generation—I mean successful ones. Sweep close, chop to a stand, get all the grass, break the crust (if any) to kill the seed that is germinating; keep your sweeps moving rapidly, going round every ten or twelve days; and you need not have more than one hoe hand to every fifty acres, [if you have good plow hands,] after your cotton is chopped out. You will have no trouble in picking out, and your expenses will be one third less than the old way. Try it and report.

FRANKLIN.
April 3d, 1874.

Save.

It is a remarkable fact in the history of farmers, that it is rarely those who have the greatest gross income, who make the greatest progress in wealth. In the upper portion of South Carolina, more men have made fortunes by tilling poor lands than have grown rich by cultivating rich lands. The same thing, no doubt, has taken place in other sections of the country. Those persons cultivating poor lands contract, through necessity, the habit of saving, whilst those cultivating rich lands contract the habit of wasting. On every farm in this section of country there is annually wasted, in one way and another, an incredible sum. During two-thirds of the year, no sort of attention, on the majority of our farms, is paid to making manure. Not only so, but what accumulates, of its own accord, is permitted to be washed down the creek, or to rot in the barnyard at night, during the summer months, on our farms. On the contrary, they are permitted to take up their quarters on the public high way; or, if penned at all, the object is to secure their presence in the morning, and no effort is made to save the manure. A cow properly penned, during the whole year, will make manure enough, if it is carefully saved, to pay for all the food that she will eat during the winter.

Another example of waste in this country is found in the construction of corn-cribs and their grain houses. It is astonishing the amount of grain, especially corn, that is eaten up or destroyed by rats. There is not one corn crib in every five hundred that is rat-proof, and there is not a plantation in the country on which the rats do not destroy five per cent, annually, all the corn made. This is a clear loss; for rats and mice counteract the ravages of nothing else, so far as is known. A corn-crib can be so constructed that a rat cannot get in it. The cost is, comparatively, very little more than the cost of building a crib in the usual way.

It is wonderful, the amount of capital wasted in agricultural tools and implements. A large number of farmers use tools of so inferior an order that they may be regarded as time-wasters. Good work cannot be done with such tools, and the amount of work is much less than what can be executed with tools of good order. A plowman can do more and better plowing with a good plow than he can with a bad one. The wear and tear on the horse or mule, in the case of the bad plow, is greater than in the case of the good one. Using bad tools is a waste of time and capital. This capital and time saved and properly invested, would relieve the country from many a strait, and increase the wealth of the nation by increasing the wealth of the individuals.—Yorkville Enquirer.

"Come, don't be timid," said a couple of snobs to two mechanics; "sit down and make yourselves our equals." "To do that we should have to blow our brains out," replied one of the mechanics.

The Ties of Home.

No view of life is worth anything which does not recognize, as a fundamental fact of human nature, the existence of countless ties, which bind each man to his fellows, many of which he did not make and yet can not destroy. If only a man recognizes in any degree the reality of even one such tie, it raises him out of himself from the narrowness and pettiness of merely personal aims. Who knows not the beauty, and even holiness, of home affections? The labor and watching, and self-denial of parents for their children or of children, for their parents, are not evils, to be compensated for by a return in this world or the next; they are, and are felt to be, actual blessings, in which "it is blessed to give rather than to receive," for they exalt and widen out the whole nature of those who make the sacrifice, and deliver them from that worst tyranny—the tyranny of selfishness and self-indulgence. Who knows not the blessings which are enshrined in the sacredness of patriotism or loyalty? Look at them on the battlefield, and you will find them the only bright spots in its darkness and horror, the only influences which exalt and glorify nature otherwise ignorant or self-indulgent, frivolous or brutal. Who knows not the softening and glorifying power of charity over the souls of those who practice it freely and as a matter of course? Look at the nursing sisters of an hospital; at the visitors and Bible-women, who make their way of errand, who (putting their higher character and mission aside) are so often the only representatives of human love and charity amid the grinding of the great machinery we call "business," and you will see in each and all of them a beauty, a tenderness, a grace and peace of spirit, which the power of love alone can give, and the world can not take away. If we could conceive a community, in which such brotherly love was perfect, no power could stand against it. It would need no miracle (as has been well said) to make its power of this world, and its peace the earnest of the happiness of the next.—Exchange.

The press is the guardian of our liberties. To keep it pure in its sentiments, is to add to its power and influence for good. A corrupt newspaper, like the deadly Upas tree, poisons all who come in contact with it. To accept its teachings, is to drink the unwholesome water flowing from a poisonous fountain. The pure sentiments of a good paper are to the mind what the cool sparkling water is to the body—refreshing and health-giving. Newspapers that teach justice and morality, and advocate honesty and patriotism as the basis of good government, should receive liberal support from all citizens who desire to advance the best interest of the public. A good paper should never languish for the want of support. It should be upheld, strengthened, and its usefulness enlarged by the patronage of those who believe in its sentiments. The great journals of our large cities may tend to enlighten the people on the news of the world, but to the country press, exerting its quiet influence in every section of our land, we are indebted for the moulding of public sentiment on all important public questions.—Republic.

A clergyman at the examination of the young scholars of his Sunday school, put the following question: "Why did the people of Israel set up a golden calf?" Because they had not money enough to set up an ox," was the reply of a little chap, who took a dollar and cents view of the matter.