



"Ours are the plans of fair, delightful Peace,
"Unwar'd by party rage, to live like Brothers."

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FOR THE REGISTER

RED CLOVER.

"Let us cultivate the ground, that the poor, as well as the rich, may be filled; and happiness and peace be established throughout our borders."

Red Clover is too valuable to need an eulogium. In every good system of agriculture, particularly in a system of improvement, Clover is absolutely necessary, as forming the basis of the whole, as without which, no valuable plan of cultivation can be pursued. The many thousands of acres of worn or exhausted land in the different parts of North Carolina, testify to the total and shameful neglect in the people of cultivating this valuable grass. Clover, aided by inclosing, together with gypsum and deep ploughing, is able to convert sterility into fruitfulness, and scanty crops into those the most abundant. In every part of the United States where the soil is in a high state of improvement, Clover is extensively cultivated, and is acknowledged to be the principal agent in effecting these improvements. I am persuaded that those who have lands susceptible of improvement, could not lay out their money to so good an interest as in the purchase of Clover seed; as their money would soon be reimbursed treble or quadruple fold in the rapid improvements which would be effected on their farms by means of the clover. Clover when well put in on a good soil, and having a top dressing of plaster of two bushels to the acre, will afford the first year three tons of good hay to the acre, the second year it may be cut once and afterwards pastured to the middle of October, the third year it will afford excellent pasture to hogs, sheep and milch cows during the summer, and in September may be turned under. It is the best pasture for raising healthy stock of every kind. Cattle, &c. grazing on it will be fatter throughout the whole season, than on any other pasture. The butter and cheese made from the milch cows, will be of a superior flavour and appearance, and will keep pure longer, than that made from any other grass or herbage. From its luxuriant and quick growth, it defends the earth from the scorching rays of the sun, and if not fed too late in the fall, will keep the earth warm in the winter; and in a measure defend it from the violence of the frosts. Clover cut green and permitted to lie six hours in the sun and then given to horses will prevent their having the slabbars. But it is when properly cured, the best hay for any kind of stock; and may be raised on the highest hills on a farm where there are no bottoms suitable to raise timothy; and the raising of it for hay is greatly to be preferred to any timothy meadow. When Clover seed is sown for the purpose of improving land speedily, it should be inclosed and the Clover neither cut or grazed, in order that it may extract from the atmosphere the greatest quantity of vegetable matter possible, to be given to the earth when elaborated into a form sufficiently permanent to benefit it.

But when Clover is intended to be mowed, one gailon or from eight to twelve pounds of seed to the acre should be sowed in February or March; and by giving a top dressing of plaster to the Clover as soon as the grain crop is off, it will be sufficiently large to mow on almost any kind of soil the year following. The following method of curing clover hay, is simple, cheap, and quickly performed.

Save a parcel of straw to mix with the Clover in the following manner. Let the clover the first day it is cut, lay in the swath; as soon as the dew is off the next day, turn it in the evening, haul it to the mow, barrack or stack, where it is intended to be deposited; then at the bottom put down a layer of the straw six inches thick; then another layer of clover twelve inches thick and so on with straw & clover alternately, until it is finished. I have never seen any moulded or mow burnt when put away in this manner.

Horses and cattle are fonder of the straw (when imbued with the juices of the Clover) in the winter, than of the best timothy hay that can be offered them, especially if a little brine is sprinkled over the straw at the time of stacking it away; by managing it in this way, the colour and smell of the Clover in winter will be equal to any

hay; and horses have been known to leave the green grass in midsummer and eat the hay thus prepared, in preference. Clover should be cut for hay when the blossoms are turning of a brown hue and are beginning to seed.

Considering Clover as necessary to the best plan of conducting a farm, it is the duty of every real friend to this necessary science, to promote the cultivation of it. A great obstacle to the propagation of this valuable grass, arises from the high price of the seed, owing to the trouble of gathering and the difficulty of cleansing it. Could this difficulty be obviated, Clover seed might be sold at a much less price than now demanded for it. The following plans of gathering and cleaning the seed, are practised in the states of Pennsylvania and New York, where they have long been in the habit of raising seed for sale. When clover is kept for seed, it must stand till the heads are very brown, or until one half of the field has changed its colour by the dryness of the Clover heads; you then begin to collect them, which is done by a machine invented at Brookhaven, in Suffolk county, New-York. It is drawn by a horse and guided by a man or boy, who will collect from the field by this means, the heads of clover growing on five acres in one day. This machine is of simple construction; it is nothing more than an open box of about four feet square at the bottom, and about two feet high on three sides, one part, which we may call the fore part, is open; on this part is fixed fingers similar to the fingers of a cradle, about three feet long, and so near together as to break off the heads from the clover stocks, which are taken between those fingers; the heads are thrown back into the box as the horse walks on. The box is fixed on an axle-tree, supported by two small wheels of about two feet diameter; two handles are fixed to the box behind, by which the man or boy, at the same time he guides the horse, lowers or raises the fingers of the machine so as to take off all the heads from the clover: as often as the box gets full of heads, they are thrown out, and the horse goes on again. All the heads of Clover, in what manner soever collected, ought to be put into small heaps or cocks, of the quantity of about the bigness of a large corn basket in the field, and there exposed, that the husk may rot (which effect will take place according to the state of the weather as respects heat and moisture) otherwise it will be very difficult to get out the seed. Some attention ought to be paid to these heaps or cocks, lest they should rot too much next the ground; it will sometimes be necessary in case of much rain to turn the heaps; by rubbing the heads in your hand it may easily be perceived when the husk is sufficiently rotten.

Whenever it is found that the heads are sufficiently rotted and dry, they are carted into the barn, & whenever it is found convenient, the seed is threshed out on the barn floor, and cleaned with a wire riddle. The other plan is, after the hay is threshed, the heads of the clover are put into a hoghead, to which is added a sufficient quantity of water to moisten the whole, in order to induce a fermentation. The farmer should carefully attend to this critical operation, and suffer the fermentation to proceed only as far as to affect the capsules of chaff, without injuring the seed. After this operation, the clover heads are spread on a barn floor to dry, when a slight threshing easily extricates the seed.

Clover seed is sown in different quantities, according to the richness of the soil, and the use that is intended to be made of the Clover.

If seed is to be collected from the first crop, the clover seed from four to six pounds to the acre is generally sown with the wheat on lands able to produce from eight to twelve bushels by the acre. The Clover on such lands will not be too thick to produce seed from the first crop, but standing tolerably thin on the ground, the heads will be well filled with seed. If your land be rich and you mean to mow the first crop, and collect seed from the second, from twelve to sixteen pounds is not too much to put to an acre. Sixteen pounds or more on winter grain has been thought by many farmers not to be too much per acre, and a less quantity on spring

grain. A top dressing is of great benefit to clover, if sown over it early in the spring; on stiff soils, ashes or soot is the best; on light lands the Plaster of Paris. If any of these are sown over it ever so thin, it will nearly double the crop.

AGRICOLA.

ENGLAND.

FROM THE BOSTON CHRONICLE AND PATRIOT.
Ninth Letter on the present state of England.

Principles on which the British government has been administered. Foreign policy, Colonial and Continental, in direct opposition to public interest.

In several of my last letters I have endeavored to shew that the British Constitution was radically defective in admitting an established political inequality—that the theory of three independent branches of government, representing separate interests and balancing each other, was visionary and impracticable, and that the British government, far from being founded on any such theory, is in fact an oligarchy, in which a party of the Aristocracy control the King and the Parliament, and through them the financial and military resources of the nation.

I propose now to review, in a cursory way, the general principles on which this government has been carried on. Pope's maxim, that the government is best which is best administered, is false, if he meant to assert that all governments were of equal value. To what other cause but the influence of better social institutions can we ascribe the superiority of some nations over others in intellectual and moral improvement? It may be admitted, however, as a very strong presumption in favor of the goodness of government, that it is generally well administered. The constitution must be valuable which naturally places good and wise men in power. While, on the other hand, when we see the business of a nation conducted for centuries on principles directly adverse to its real interest, it is impossible not to conclude that there is a radical fault in the manner of electing public officers and conducting public affairs.—We shall find that the general course of British policy has been of this description, and shall therefore be brought by the practical test of the administration of the Constitution to the same conclusion which we had previously drawn from the review of its principles.

I shall consider the proposed subject of inquiry under the heads of *foreign and domestic policy*; the first of which naturally resolves itself into the general divisions of *colonial and continental affairs*. In order to take a correct view of the subject, it is necessary to keep steadily in view the proper objects of government. The interest and wish of the inhabitants of the British islands is to live securely and happily. The business of those who find themselves charged with the magistracy is to make and enforce such general regulations as the good of the whole may require, and to guard against foreign violence. The extension of territory—the acquisition of influence in other countries—national glory, lately so called—are objects with which they have no concern if they could obtain them for nothing, and it is a treacherous abuse of power to sacrifice the lives and property of their constituents for such objects. With these principles well established, let us first enquire what has been the colonial policy of the British government?

1. The first point in this policy has been a constant endeavor to appropriate to themselves, as it is called, extensive tracts of territory in every part of the world. The pretended right to such territories, whether by discovery or first occupation, is too ridiculous to require any notice. The right of dominion over colonies that have settled for their individual advantage in other countries, is equally groundless. The foundation of every right of this kind must be the general good of both parties, the nation governing and the nation governed.—Now what pretence can there be that it is advantageous to a colony, for instance, Massachusetts, to have its internal regulations made by a body of men a thousand leagues off, entirely

ignorant of their wants, and of course entirely incapable of providing for them? On the other hand, the inhabitants of the British isles derive no advantage whatever from making these laws, supposing them capable of it.—Experience has shewn also, that unless a colony is able to defend itself against actual violence, it will inevitably perish, while the pretended duty of defence in the mother country only involves them in a series of foreign and pernicious quarrels with which they have no concern. Who defended Massachusetts against the savages, her real enemies? Her own valor and perseverance. What involved her and the neighboring French colonies in a series of frivolous, bloody and expensive wars in which she had no interest? The principle of colonial dependence on the mother country.—The supposition of an association between nations in distant parts of the globe on equal principles for these purposes, is just as absurd, because such an association would defeat its own object. The same laws are not expedient in different & distant countries, and the means of defence must be at hand to be used when wanted. Who could think seriously for a moment, that any advantage would result to either party, if China and the United States should enter into a political association and agree to call themselves one Empire—be governed by the same laws and magistrates, and act together for purposes of defence? It is clear that such a union would be impracticable, and, if accomplished, mischievous.

These ideas are the plain dictates of common sense, and as clear as demonstration. Yet, in direct opposition to them, we have seen the British government moved by a constant and systematic rage for forming a political association with countries in every part of the globe. They first directed their eyes to the West, and insisted, per force, that the vast American continent should be incorporated into the same political body with their constituents at home. Nothing could be more unnatural or more ruinous to both parties, yet nothing but absolute force could persuade Britain to relax her hold, and even now she insists upon the same pernicious connexion with Canada and the West-India isles.—Not contented with the West, she turns her face to the rising sun, and the vast and boundless east must be governed by the laws and institutions of a little island on the other side of the globe. A new continent is discovered in the Southern hemisphere.—This must form a part of the great family. No doubt the political principles that suit the climate of the Thames will fit it to a hair; and so of all the other islands or continents that have been or may be discovered. The seven islands on the western coast of Greece, the former abodes of freedom and piety, must join the confederation; and the ministry are in hopes that China will consent to be a member of this great political partnership, and are fitting out a fleet at Portsmouth, as appears by the last intelligence, to carry her an invitation.

2. To suppose that this systematic annexation of distant territories is made from an opinion that it is for the real good of both parties, would be to accuse the British government of absolute insanity; and the principles on which the association thus formed is regulated, which form the second great feature of their colonial policy, sufficiently shew the nature of their intentions. All these vast countries are held like dependent and subject provinces, governed by magistrates, and, in a great degree, by laws to which they are strangers, and subjected to the most oppressive commercial restrictions. Here cupidity defeats its object and actually loses the selfish advantage that would accrue from permitting colonies to enjoy a free commercial interest with all the world.—They do mischief, it would almost seem, out of wantonness, though probably from gross ignorance, when upright conduct would better serve their own purposes. To pretend to question the superior advantages that parent countries would derive from independent colonies trading with all the world, would be unpardonable, since the experience derived from our own history in confirmation of the soundest and clearest reasoning. But

all this is lost on European administrations. Spain is playing over again, at this moment, the same game of blind infatuation that Great Britain did half a century ago. In short, the interest of Great Britain suffers by this monopoly of colonial commerce—the colonies are ruined by it.—The facts and principles upon the subject are generally known to well informed men—but the system continues.

So does the system of Commercial restrictions at home, though the impolicy of them has been acknowledged by every body for half a century. The prohibitions, the impositions, the monopolies granted to particular companies or nations, are all monuments of a barbarous system now quite exploded in principle but still existing in practice. What can be more disgusting than the policy that cuts off almost entirely the commercial intercourse between France and England? Is it not almost ridiculous to see the English permitting themselves to be debarred from the pure and salutary wines of France, because this system was thought by fools a long time ago to be advantageous? The only country in which these commercial restrictions and monopolies are entirely unknown is the United States, and it is also the only country where the government emanates from the people.

The colonial policy of the British government has then been always in direct opposition to the interest of the nation, and has always exhibited a gross inattention to the plainest principles of political economy. I say nothing at present of the immense positive sacrifices of the public good which have been made at the shrine of this mistaken system, but proceed to inquire into the principles on which the British government have maintained their relations with the continent of Europe.

It is obvious that the real interest of the British nation requires nothing more in relation to the continent, than safety from a violent attack. And of this there has been no danger since they acquired their decided maritime superiority. Their navy always has been and always will be their only real defence. With proper care this navy can be maintained in a state for immediate action, and with the immense commercial marine of the English will never want a supply of the best of seamen. If the whole continent were in the power of one individual, this means of defence would be as adequate to the purpose as it now is; so that they have no pretence of this sort to justify them for interfering at all in the affairs of other European nations.

Ignorant of these circumstances, or entirely inattentive to them, it has been the systematic policy of the British government for centuries to take a part in all the quarrels of the continent, and to assist in fomenting them. This taste may be ascribed in part to the foreign extraction of their kings, who naturally retain an interest in the affairs of the nations from which they derived their origin. Thus, we find the successors of the Norman conqueror, who inherited large possessions in what is now France, engaged in a series of wars to secure or extend them, and finally to support some chimerical pretension to the French crown. For these purposes they repeatedly invaded and occasionally conquered France, but whether vanquished or victors, the effect upon the interest of the people was still the same. The repose, the lives and the property of the conquerors and lawful proprietors of these countries, were sacrificed to the less quarrels of brigands, who had no right to govern them, to whom the party had the slightest equity. The kings of England also, in the general madness that pervaded Europe to perish in honor. When the race of the Normans were more native to the throne, we find interference in foreign matters is the more remarkable as the nation was suffering at this time under one of its most violent convulsions—I mean the thirty years war; and as James I. was connected by marriage with one of the contending parties. His pacific disposition probably relieved his country from sharing the miseries of this struggle, and his successors had too much business on their hands at home to think of going abroad for more.