



“Ours are the plans of fair, delightful Peace,
Unwarped by party rage, to live like Brothers.”

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FOR THE REGISTER.

No. XXII.

THE ADVANTAGES OF GOOD TILLAGE.

“Let us cultivate the ground, that the poor,
as well as the rich, may be filled; and happi-
ness and peace be established throughout our
border.”

Among the many imperfect and ru-
inous practices which prevail with our
farmers, that of cultivating too much
land is one of the most striking and
reprehensible. The consequences of
this practice are, a loss of labour, of
time and of crops. When too much
land is cultivated at a time, it is not
more than half worked; in conse-
quence of which, the crop is diminished
and the labor bestowed upon it ren-
dered ineffectual: the land also under
such management must be finally im-
provised; because in working over
so large a space, a great part every
year receives no manure and being in-
differently and frequently tilled, is
soon rendered barren. The great and
general ambition of farmers seems to
be, to cultivate large farms; the more
they cultivate, the greater consequence
they think themselves of; but one acre
of land, properly managed, will pro-
duce more than four, by improper cul-
tivation. If ever the cultivators of
our soil wish to attain to the char-
acter of good farmers, or if ever they
wish to experience the advantages of
good tillage, they must abandon the
practice of cultivating so much land as
they have heretofore done.

Some agriculturists may perhaps re-
gret too highly extend the benefits to be
derived from good tillage, yet it can-
not be denied, that such a practice
greatly contributes to the improvement
of the soil, especially when combined
with the judicious application of ma-
nures. As ploughing is one of the prin-
cipal operations by which good tillage
is effected, I propose to make some re-
marks on it in this, and the following
number. The consequences of plough-
ing, are not among us, perhaps, suffi-
ciently appreciated: on the perfor-
mance or imperfection with which the
operation is executed, the crops, wheth-
er of grain or grass, are in a great
measure regulated: when it is neg-
lected, the soil becomes foul, barren,
and unproductive. Ploughing is one
of the most essential operations in the
culture of the earth, and requires to be
performed with the greatest care.—
Whatever, therefore, may be the de-
sign of the Farmer, or the destination
of the ground, thus moved, it ought
never to be ploughed in a wet state;
because the soil cannot be improved
by such labor.

Farther, the plough ought to be car-
ried to a considerable depth into the
soil; and if one ploughing be not suf-
ficient, it will be advisable to pass a
second plough over the same furrow,
so that the land may be effectually
loosened; when being thus exposed to
the air, its fertilizing properties will
be considerably augmented, all peren-
nial weeds will be com-
pletely eradicated. Ploughing it cre-
ates food of plants, as it opens the
soil for the reception of vegetable mat-
ter from the air; and the surface
consequently enlarges, a greater
portion of land is thus exposed to its
action.

As to the frequency of plough-
ing, turning over ground, in order to
keep it tender, is suitable for the
cultivation of good crops, it is obvious
must be much difference accord-
ing to the nature and condition of the
soil, as well as the kind of crop that
is to be grown. The stiff clay, and
sandy soils, will, in general, need more
frequent stirring, in order to separate
the tenacious particles of the sandy
part of the soil, and to render it more
capable of supporting plants. Besides,
it is especially when it is of the
sandy kind, is not only more even-
ly covered, but its vegeta-
tion grows more quick, from its becom-
ing fully in contact with the
moisture and from the moisture being
more diffused and retained in the
ground. In regard to the season,
regard should also be
paid to our climate we have much clear
weather. We have therefore to
prevent evaporation, which is
done by extracting the riches of

the earth during the summer months.
It is the nature of heat to produce this
effect: care should be taken to per-
form all tillage as much as possible at
seasons when the heat is the least.—
Spring and Autumn are designated as
the proper seasons. In Autumn, pre-
pare for spring crops that your sow-
ings and plantings may be early and
seasonable. Early in the spring,
complete all your fields for crops.—
One ploughing in the fall, for an Indi-
an Corn crop is worth two ploughings
in the spring. When ploughing is
done in the fall, a great deal of stubble
and other weeds and vegetation are
turned under, which rot and improve
the soil; the ground also being turned
up at this season, lies to be exposed
throughout winter to the influence of
the atmosphere by which it is consi-
derably ameliorated; and the heat of
the sun is then too feeble to extract
from it, what it may gain from this
source. During the summer heats,
plough and harrow as much as possible
in mornings—towards evening, so as
to turn in the dews; and in damp and
clouded days.

A little experience will decide the
utility of this course—and the result
will be, that less than half your present
tillage lands will yield better crops
than the whole as now managed.

It is highly useful, once in three or
four years, to plough a soil deep with
a view to loosen it and turn up the
clay—to expose it to the air and give
it an opportunity to acquire strength.

The first season that soils are thus
ploughed deep, they will not be so
productive—but the second year they
will gain strength the more rapidly, &
eventually prove most useful, especi-
ally if lime or compost manure is used
to dress it with, or a vegetable cover
has been turned under soils that are
ploughed deep and properly tilled,
become fertile to a great depth, and of
course, produce more abundantly and
are longer and more constantly pro-
ductive.

Light, sandy, or gravelly soils, are
generally most easily managed when
ploughed shallow—but they soon wear
out, and become sterile—and must be
restored by deeper ploughing, & by a
course of frequent ploughing and har-
rowing in dews-moisture, and in cloudy
weather, or by putting them to
clover and manuring and eventually
letting the clover grow until it seeds
and then turning it in. If red clover
cannot be procured, buckwheat is a
good substitute and is cheaper by three
to one. Sow it early in the season at
the rate of three pecks to the acre and
harrow it in. When grown to 12 or
14 inches high, or when in blossom,
turn it in with the plough and imme-
diately sow it again with the same
kind of seed and when a proper height
turn it in again as before. Two crops
of this vegetable may be turned under
in one season and in time to be pro-
perly harrowed and sowed with wheat;
when you will find your crop equal to
expectation and your land again in
good condition.

The following examples are finely
illustrative of the excellence of good
tillage:
I knew a farmer who had always
better crops of flax than his neighbors,
upon land not superior to theirs; be-
ing asked the reason, he answered, it
was because he always harrowed his
ground three times over, after it was
harrowed enough.

About 200 years since, great efforts
were made in France to revive the arts
of husbandry. The Flemings about
the same time, made similar efforts.
They endeavored to conceal from their
neighbors, their discoveries and im-
provements. They reduced the quan-
tity of arable land—increased their
manures—ploughed deeper and often-
er, and kept their tillage grounds per-
fectly clean like gardens. They soon
found that ten acres of land well ma-
nured and well tilled, would yield
more than forty acres by their previ-
ous mode of cultivation.

AGRICOLA.

NOTICE.

DISSOLVED By mutual consent on the
15th day of November, the Firm of
THOS. W. SCOTT & CO.
All those indebted to the Raleigh Store,
will please make immediate payment to
THOS. W. & J. SCOTT. As they are about to
remove from the State, no indulgence can be
given.
THOS. W. SCOTT,
G. H. SCOTT,
JNO. T. SCOTT.
November 16, 1817. 43 ff

THE PENITENTIARY.

Not being able to prepare for to day's Register,
the remainder of the Debate on this
subject, which took place in the House of
Commons, we give the following observa-
tions which were written by the Senator
from Lincoln county, with a view of offer-
ing them to the House when the Peniten-
tiary Bill should be brought forward, but
discovering a predetermination in the op-
posers of the measure to vote it down with-
out argument; the author conceived it
would be spending time to little purpose,
and therefore relinquished his first inten-
tion.

As a citizen of the world and as a
friend to the human family, I feel a
deep interest in promoting the Peniten-
tiary System; and when I survey
this great subject in all its bearings,
and remote consequences, I feel as a
Legislator an awful responsibility resting
upon my mind—a responsibility which
is not confined to the present
stage of my existence, but looks for-
ward to that solemn period when a fi-
nal settlement of all my accounts with
time, must necessarily take place.

This Penitentiary System involves
in its consequences the destinies, not
only of many of the present genera-
tion, but of myriads of intelligent be-
ings who have not yet seen the light:
who are in a state of nonentity.

When I take a retrospective view
of the sanguinary systems which have
prevailed in most other nations, and
contemplate the institutions of a bloody
die, which still continue to disgrace
the civilized world, I am ready to re-
joice & give thanks, that my lot has
been cast in this highly favored nation,
where we enjoy civil and religious li-
berty to the highest degree of perfec-
tion.

In many other nations, where they
make great pretensions to liberty &
civilization, we find the poor in gener-
al, but especially the unhappy victims
of vice and degradation, mangled by
the fangs of despotism. And indeed
the nation from which we derive our
criminal code, affords no proper stand-
ard for our imitation. (I had hoped
that the principle of the Penit. system
had been conceded by the legislature
of North Carolina, as being bottomed
on expediency, humanity and substan-
tial policy; but as I find objections
still likely to be brought forward a-
gainst it, I would only say that it is
enough for the Turk, the Siberian Cos-
sack and even the Briton—it is enough
for any of these nations who are yet
in a crude state of society, and have
never yet had their hearts suitably
warned with the genial rays of a be-
nign philanthropy, to make objec-
tions against such a system; but not so
for the American, where humanity with
all its divine attributes is so deeply
impressed on the human heart.

It is I believe a maxim in political
jurisprudence, that human laws should
be adapted as near as possible to the
state of society, i. e. to the genius and
feelings of the people who are to be go-
verned by them. If this position be
correct, it will very properly apply to
our present subject. Who is there of
us who have not been on juries in cri-
minal cases, where we have evident-
ly discovered the human heart revolt-
ing at the sanguinary nature of our
criminal laws? In my own experi-
ence, I am satisfied that thousands of
my fellow citizens have such a tender-
ness of conscience on this subject, and
are urged by such an irresistible im-
pulse of feeling, as to be tempted to
extend mercy at the expense of law
and justice, by suggesting doubts and
difficulties where there were no rati-
onal grounds for them. Yet these
are feelings which do honour to the hu-
man heart, and ought to be cherished
by all wise legislators: and it appears
to me that the Penitentiary System is
well calculated to obviate all difficul-
ties on this score.

It is highly honorable to this coun-
try that two of our most prominent
national characteristics, are fortitude
and humanity—the first to guard our
sacred rights against all invaders, the
second to extend the soft hand of mer-
cy to the vanquished. Witness in our
last war the noble feats of valor achiev-
ed by our warriors against the ene-
mies of our country and the more go-
like humanity extended to the conquered
enemy. Witness the American Sol-
dier and Seaman, cheerfully giving up
part of his wardrobe to cover the na-
kedness of his vanquished foe. Here,
then, we find what sort of materials
we have to work upon in reforming the

state of society. Shall we then with
these noble examples before us, even
in the lowest classes of our fellow-citi-
zens, despair of making general im-
pressions on the face of society by ex-
ample, by precept and by mild correc-
tion? Shall we who applaud acts of
magnanimity towards a national ene-
my, deny acts of mercy towards our
own misguided fellow citizens? With
such materials in our hands, shall we
not, as wise legislators, instead of
whipping and maiming and mutilating
& killing our deluded fellow-citizens,
rather endeavor, by mild correctives,
to heal that madness of the mind
which leads them from the path of du-
ty, and point out to them where their
best interests lie? This is a consum-
mation devoutly to be wished for.—
What nation under Heaven ever suc-
ceeded in reforming the state of soci-
ety by severity of punishment? Let
us shift our course then and direct our
Penal Laws into such a channel as
will most favour sound principles and
sound habits in all ranks of the com-
munity. This may be a work of time,
but I am far from thinking it imprac-
ticable. If a change of this kind could
be brought about in the course of fifty
years, it would be a godlike achieve-
ment and place the stamp of eternal
fame on the generation which produ-
ced it.

I would not be understood to insin-
uate that the perpetrator of the most
atrocious crimes should be a subject
of the Penitentiary—the murderer, for
instance of the first degree, I would
consign over to that punishment which
was denounced against him by the
Great Legislator of the Universe.—
This Divine Lawgiver, when he issued
that awful mandate, that, “Whoso-
ever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall
his blood be shed,” being intimately
acquainted with all the secret springs
of the human heart, righteously judg-
ed that the man who was so deeply
gone in human depravity as to be ca-
pable of going forward, deliberately
and with malice aforethought, to take
away the life of his fellow-man, had
not only forfeited all claim to the
rights of humanity, but was utterly
disqualified for mixing any longer with
civil society.

I believe it will be conceded, that
civilization and mild punishments have
progressed with an equal step; but
for the crimes of murder, rape, trea-
son, &c. the punishment of death, is,
perhaps, the lowest degree which ought
to be required by the community: in-
asmuch as these are crimes so infinite-
ly dangerous and offensive to society
and are marked with such a malignant
degree of moral depravity as is not
likely to be eradicated by any mode
of punishment. But in this highly
civilized nation, will any person under-
take to assert that there is no possibi-
lity of reformation in thousands of in-
stances? How many thousands of
young people are brought up in this
country under the influence of igno-
rance, idleness and licentiousness
through the neglect of their parents,
who might be transformed into useful
citizens by the salutary discipline of
a Penitentiary? If a father have a
son who has become guilty and refrac-
tory on his hands, will he not endeavor
by all possible means to redeem
him, rather than suffer him to go on in
his mal-practices, until, by the laws of
his country, he is cut off from society?
The Legislators are appointed the
guardians of society, and it is their
indispensable duty to make provision
for the safety of the state community.
The object, therefore, is to have an in-
stitution established somewhere with-
in the limits of the state, which will
afford every person, (with a few ex-
ceptions,) who has been convicted of
criminal offences against the laws of
the state, a fair opportunity of refor-
mation. This being done, society has
discharged its duty and is no farther
accountable. But if any of those con-
victs who have been tested by the a-
bove experiment, become incorrigible,
and are convicted a second or a third
time for the same or similar offences,
then, as enemies to society, I would
advise that they be treated with such
severity as is necessary for the safety
of the community.

Amongst the objections raised a-
gainst the Penitentiary system, one
of the most plausible seems to be, that
it has a tendency to increase the num-
ber of convicts. This objection ad-
mits of an easy solution. The hu-

mane feelings of the citizens of this
country must forever recoil at punish-
ments which are evidently out of
all proportion to the demerits of the
crimes committed; hence it is, that
many are suffered to escape who, un-
der a milder system, would be brought
to punishment. (Moreover the great
increase of population in such a coun-
try as this, and the immense influx of
foreigners (who are not always of the
best character) will, I think, sufficient-
ly account for the increase of the num-
ber on the criminal list.

I am the more inclined to advocate
the Penitentiary system, when I re-
flect that no wisdom in creation can
render me a satisfactory reason why
I was brought into the world under
more favorable auspices than thou-
sands of my fellow-creatures whom I
see around me; and had I been born
with the same perverse natural pas-
sions, and been brought up under the
influence of the same evil habits of
education, the probability is, that I
should have been as abandoned as the
gougeonest man I ever knew. And here
I will take the liberty to assert, that
no man has an absolute control over
his owndestines, and that some men,
by nature, are possessed of more un-
derstanding, more industry, and more
perverse passions and propensities than
others. These passions and propensi-
ties being brought into action through
the force of bad example and fostered
by evil habits of education, are cal-
culated to lead their possessors far a-
way from the paths of rectitude. It is
evident that some people are constitu-
tally virtuous and some constitu-
tally vicious. What shall I say then?
Shall not we who have been born and
brought up under the influence of more
favorable auspices than many others,
give thanks and adore the Divine Dis-
poser of our several lots, and instead
of dearing death, and destruction so
liberally on those who have been less
fortunate than ourselves, endeavor, by
good example and mild correction, to
ameliorate the condition of the guilty
and degraded of our own species?
Perhaps if many of us could retrace
our genealogy for two hundred years
back, we might discover that some of
our ancestors were transported to this
country to save them from falling vic-
tims to the bloody code of the mother
country. Seeing, then, we have all
offended against the pure and perfect
law of the Great Master of the uni-
verse, and look for mercy at his hand,
let us all learn to practice the univer-
sal rule of equity:

“Never to deal with others worse
Than they would have them deal with us.”
The result of the whole matter is
this; that the present criminal code of
this State has a name to live while it
is dead; for, through the humanity of
the Juries and the Government, it has be-
come a mere nullity. The State is
saddled with the expense of imprison-
ing and supporting criminals and fur-
nishing courts of justice; and finally,
they are let loose to commit their de-
predations on society as formerly.—
This is certainly offering great en-
couragement to roguery. From the
preceding considerations, it is evident
that public sentiment and public feel-
ing are both in direct hostility to the
present criminal code of this State.—
It appears, therefore, that some sys-
tem is loudly called for which is bet-
ter adapted to the present state of so-
ciety; and as it is, the province of all
wise legislators, to heal the maladies
of society, and only to lop off the mor-
tified members, the Penitentiary sys-
tem seems well calculated to stay the
avenger of blood, and prepare an asy-
lum, a city of refuge for the unfortu-
nate of the human family.

NOTICE.
WHAT on the 25th day of January next, at
the Store-House of Alexander Gray, on
the Richmond of Girarde, will be sold at Ven-
due, on a reasonable credit, about thirty
likely NEGROES; consisting of Men, Wo-
men and Children; belonging to the Estate
of Swann Parke, dec'd.

JOSE HARPEL, Admrs.
ALEX. GRAY,
Randolph county, Dec. 7 32 Sw
JUST PUBLISHED,
GALES'S ALMANACK FOR 1818.
CONTAINING besides the Astronomical
Calculations, some valuable Articles on
Agriculture, some instructive and enter-
taining Miscellaneous Matter, Anecdotes
&c. with a list of the Members of the 4th
proceeding General Assembly, &c.
Orders will be duly attended to,
Oct. 30.