RALEIGH REGISTER

AND

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

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

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FOR THE REGISTER.

No. XXIV.

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND.

"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."

Agriculture, as an art, consists, not in impoverishing, but in fertilizing the soil & making it more productive than in its natural state. Such is the effect of every species of agriculture, which aspires to the character of an art. Its object being to furnish man with subsistence, comfort and happiness: whatever defeats that object, is crime of the first magnitude. It should therefore be our first study to improve or fertilize our lands, knowing that fertility is the first and grand object to be attained, as upon this only can a good system of agriculture be founded. To what avail is the best rotation of crops, the best contrived implements of husbandry, or the most perfect use of those implements, when applied to a barren soil? It is absurd to talk of a good system of agriculture, without discovering, that every such system, to be good for any thing, must be bottomed upon fertility. Before, therefore, we launch into any system, let us first learn how to enrich our lands. The disposition of our soil and climate to reward husbandry bountifully, is exhibited in the great crops which are produced on good land under almost any species of cultivation. This is a consideration of high encouragement, and should induce us, to make it the first object of our efforts to improve our lands, as without effecting this, all other agricultural objects beneficial to ourselves or our country, must fail.

But, instead of attending to this first and important principle in agriculture, how widely do we depart from it; for one acre annually enriched, at least twenty are impoverished.

What is now the present practice of our farmers?

Their practice is to clear a piece of land every year, which is very commonly continued until there is little or no wood left, either for fuel or fences; and very often it happens that in the latter stages of this erroneous conduct, more than half their cleared land is so far exhausted, as not to be worth cultivation; more acres of which, than they annually clear, it is amply within their power to reclaim and render as fertile as it ever was, and that with half the expence: yet, strange to tell, every acre is neglected, while the clearing business is pursued with avidity, until at length the fatal blow is struck, and necessity compels them to part with their murdered estates for a trifle, and seek refuge in a new country.)

As many are still engaged in the ruinous practice of destroying their lands, they are requested to pause & seriously consider the consequences of such a system. A system of agriculture whose tendency is to make land annually less fertile, must finally terminate in its impoverishment:—and consequently in the want and misery of its cultivators. It is well known how prone children are to follow the example of their parents: if there was no other evidence, the conduct of our farmers is full proof of it, who have from age to age followed the beaten track of their fathers, of cutting down their woods & exhausting their lands. How then can a father reconcile it to his conscience when he considers that the system of farming which he is pursuing must finally terminate in the consequences just mentioned, and that although he may not live to experience them, yet his posterity may, who by the force of example, will naturally adopt the same system.

How this consideration may weigh on the minds of others I know not, yet I must confess that it has great weight with me; and if there was no other, it would induce me to use all my efforts to pursue a good system of agriculture, in order that my posterity might follow the example, and in consequence of it enjoy an ample subsistence, comfort and independence.

All that is necessary, to induce farmers to change their system of agriculture, from one of exhaustion and impoverishment, to one of renovation and improvement, is to convince them of its practicability and utility. Farmers in general, are rational and intelligent, and when reasons of such weight are presented to their minds as to satisfy them that their present modes of agriculture are imperfect and ruinous, they will readily abandon them, and adopt those which are calculated not only to be more profitable to them and their posterity, but also more beneficial to their country.

It has been found in every district and country where agriculture is conducted upon a rational plan, and is consequently in an improved and flourishing condition, that it is much easier, cheaper, and more profitable to improve exhausted lands, than to cut down and reduce to cultivation uncleared or wood lands.

Exhausted lands that have been renovated far exceed in uniformly profitable product, any thing known by the cultivators of newly cleared lands. Such lands may, and do, throw up luxuriant crops, for a short period: but their continuance, in a constant and systematical succession, is not experienced. When they are exhausted by bad management, other lands must be sought for: to be also worn out by similar ill treatment. No farmers of well and long cultivated fields, now wish to sacrifice their wood lands, to the acquisition of a new surface. They know the advantages of renovated old lands.

In all cleared lands that have been exhausted by long cultivation, few stumps or roots are to be found: hence three acres of such land can be cultivated with more ease and less labor, than one acre of new ground: and it must be acknowledged by all, that the labor and time which are necessary to grub an acre of ground, cut down the trees upon it, maul rails and enclose it—coulter it and prepare it for cultivation; would be more than sufficient to collect and make manure enough to manure double that quantity of land so as to produce far more abundant crops.

And every acre of exhausted land thus manured and improved, is so much gained; because it enables us to preserve our wood land for fuel, fences and the building of houses: so that by reclaiming our exhausted lands and annually enriching them, we shall soon be enabled to get them in good heart to produce abundantly any kind of crop: and further, as such lands increase in fertility under this system of improvement, the space cultivated may be diminished—by which means the necessity of clearing fresh land every year will be entirely prevented. Here then is a vast saving of labor! a vast saving of land! and consequently a vast saving of profit!

Are not then these considerations sufficiently weighty to induce us to adopt the system of improvement proposed?

But there are other considerations which should also have their weight. Both religion and patriotism powerfully plead for it; and it is our duty, and would be our interest to retrace our steps, should it even take us half a century of years to recover the fertility first found on our lands. But the process of improving them is not slow, but rapid; the returns not distant, but near; and the gains not small, but great." Should there be any, notwithstanding what has been said, still disposed to prefer the murder of the little life left in their lands, to the process of improvement, let them pause and forbear; not for futurity, nor for God's sake, but for their own sake." "The labor yet necessary to kill the remnant of life left in their lands, will suffice to revive them. Employed to kill, it produces want and misery to themselves. Employed to revive it gives them plenty and happiness."

AGRICOLA.

MR. MADISON'S ANSWER

To the address of the Legislature of Virginia to him on his retirement from office.

[Communicated by the Governor to the Legislature of Virginia on the 18th ult.]

WASHINGTON, MARCH 1st, 1817.

DEAR SIR—Having received through you, the address of the General Assembly of Virginia, of February the 10th, I have to request that you will take charge of the enclosed answer to it. I must tender you my acknowledgement at the same time, for the friendly and flattering manner, in which you have fulfilled the resolution of the General Assembly.

I should express my feelings very imperfectly, if, in recurring to the events which led to the present enviable condition of our country, I did not avow my admiration and profound gratitude for that series of brilliant achievements which distinguished the American arms; and offer my congratulations on the reward, so dear to honorable and virtuous minds, which you have received for the part you bore in them, in the suffrages which elevated you to the important station which you fill.

Be pleased to accept assurances of my esteem and cordial respect.

JAMES MADISON.

Governor Preston.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 1st, 1817.

To the General Assembly of Virginia.

I have received, fellow-citizens, from Governor Preston, your address of the 2nd ultimo. The sentiments which it conveys, are particularly endeared to me, as being those of a State with which I am connected by the ties of my birth, and of my home: and by the recollections of its confidence and partiality, commencing at an early stage of my life and continued under different public manifestations, to the moment of my final return to the station of a private citizen. The language of the address derives a further value from the high character which the state of Virginia has justly acquired by its uniform devotion to free government: and by a constancy and zeal in maintaining the national rights, which no sufferings or sacrifices could impair. Nor can I be insensible to the consideration, that this expression of kindness and approbation, comes at the close of my public career through a period of uncommon difficulties and embarrassment.

A candid review of the entire period, of which that made a part, will always do justice to the course of policy, which, under peculiar circumstances not likely to recur, was sanctioned by the national voice, and pursued by the national councils. The review will show that the obstinate rivalship of powerful nations in trampling on our dearest rights and dearest interests, left no option but between resistance and degradation: that a love of peace and a hope of justice, selected every mode of resistance short of war, in preference to war: that, although the appeals made to the commercial interests and the mutual jealousies of the contending parties was, at length, not without effect in producing a relinquishment of the aggressive system, even by the power against which war was declared, and before the declaration: yet the relinquishment was at too late a day to prevent the war; that it is strictly true, therefore, that this last resort was not made, until the last hope had been extinguished, that a prostration of the national character, and of the national rights, could be otherwise avoided. It is of record, also, that not a moment was lost, after the sword was drawn, in opening the way to reconciliation; nor an opportunity permitted by self-respect untried, till it was at length restored to the scabbard where it now happily remains.

On the prosperous condition of our country, which has succeeded a conflict rendered peculiarly severe, and peculiarly glorious, by contingent events as flattering to our adversaries as they were unlooked for by either party, I cordially unite in your congratulations; as well as in the hope that all the lessons afforded by the past may contribute to the future security and increase of the blessings we now enjoy.

Through the remaining days of a life hitherto employed, with little intermission, in the public service, which you so much over value, my heart will cherish the affectionate sentiments which the representatives of my native state have addressed me; and will offer its fervent prayers for the public prosperity and individual happiness of its citizens.

JAMES MADISON.

☞ *JUST PUBLISHED,*

GALES'S ALMANACK FOR 1818.

CONTAINING besides the Astronomical Calculations, some valuable Articles of Agriculture; some instructive and entertaining Miscellaneous Matter, Anecdotes &c. with a list of the Members of the approaching General Assembly, &c.

Orders will be duly attended to.

Oct. 30.

Mar's Works, Philadelphia, Dec. 24.

STEAM ENGINES.

THE subscriber continues to manufacture his Columbian Steam Engines, containing the following peculiar properties, viz:

1. It operates on the great advantageous principle of nature. As the heat is increased arithmetically, the elastic power of the steam is increased geometrically; every addition of about 30 degrees heat in water doubles the elastic power of the steam. Or, in other words, very little increase of heat produces great increase of power; doubling the consumption of fuel in a given time, produces about sixteen times the power and effect in the same engine. Thus it enables a small, simple and light cheap engine, to do work equal to the large, complex, expensive and hazardous one, with about half the consumption of fuel.

2. It is constructed on the true principles of nature. All its parts are of a circular form, that cannot be heat and changed so as to break and explode, by the elastic power. It will, therefore, bear greater elastic power than boilers of other forms; in the proportion that a bar of iron will bear more pulling straight endwise, than it will on its middle, to bend and break it, when laid horizontally supported at the ends; above one hundred times the power that any other form will bear.

3. The boiler being constructed of sheets riveted together, of circular forms, it is impossible to make every part of equal strength. And the pressure of the steam acting equally on every part, the weakest part will yield first, by a very small opening, to let the power of the steam or water escape, which will extinguish or check the fire, and stop all danger. It is therefore impossible to explode the boiler in so dangerous a degree as others do, by bending and breaking, in changing their form to a circle, by the elastic power of steam, which raises gradually.

4. The greater the elastic power, and the hotter the water in the boiler, the less will be its heat at the small distance of two or three feet, issuing from one of these small apertures, that will first yield; because the very instant it issues the elastic power in the hot water explodes, and disperses the steam in mist so thin, and mixing with the air, that it instantly gives out its heat, and is reduced below the boiling degree, at the distance of 3 feet.* No injury has been done in any of the many instances where such leaks have yielded, in boilers worn by use, or burnt out; yielding so often that new ones have been made. Nor need any danger be apprehended, as it is evident that the boiler cannot be exploded.

5. It requires no more water than is boiled into steam. And the boiler may be made inexhaustible, by letting the steam that escapes from the engine pass into a tight vessel; there to be condensed into water again, by its own pressure, & the water may be returned to the boiler to supply it. This vessel may be a tight tube, passing through all the apartments of a manufactory to warm them, or to heat water. And thus the fuel may be applied to double purpose in many instances.

6. The boiler generates more steam than others, being so formed, that sediment does not adhere to its bottom, to form a non-conductor, and cause it to burn out; and it is well planned to receive the heat and retain it in the water, until a great elastic power is obtained.

7. It is less complex, and more easily kept in order, repaired, understood and attended.

Those who may want a steam engine for any use, are not expected to believe implicitly, but are requested to hold in suspense, *assertions* made by persons ignorant of the principles and properties of the engine, until they enquire for themselves respecting some of the many Columbian Steam Engines now in use; or, visit one personally, and they will find it to contain all those properties; and is preferable for the following purposes, viz:

Steam Boats. It being lighter, more powerful, more governable; to vary the power, to stem the various currents, consuming and carrying less fuel and water; will carry *more* freight, or passengers; and ascend currents, or perform any passage in *less* time.

And for salt or turbid waters, such as bays, and the Mississippi, the inexhaustible principle may be used; the boiler may be filled with pure fresh water, and a pure supply be obtained from steam, arising from the salt or turbid water used outside, to condense the steam in the tight vessel. Iron boilers will then suit better than copper, and there will be no danger from explosion, nor of being scalded by the small leaks.

The difference in the expence of fuel, of the profits of passengers, freight and time, will amount annually, to more than the whole price and expense of the engine, on many waters, or for many purposes.

Manufactories. As the steam may be applied to heat the water, and to warm all the apartments.

Paper Mills. The steam may be applied to heat the vats, and warm the drying rooms;

Saw, or Grinding Mills, Furnaces, or Forges. As so little water is necessary, that it can be set at the ore banks, or in any convenient place, where a well can be had.

For every other purpose where power may be wanted, there is a difference between this and the low pressure engines, equal to its full price, in a few years use.

Several persons have began to infringe my rights, having found that what I had published was true, viz. That as the elastic power of steam should be increased, the power of the engine and speed of the boat would be increased, without a proportionate increase of the consumption of fuel.

Some construct and use my specified boiler, in whole, or in part; by using high pressure steam to a condensing engine, to evade my rights. Others have constructed boilers of different forms, which they believed to be equally safe and strong; and attempting to use high pressure steam, and they exploded their boilers; neither of which can succeed perfectly.—And they unitedly proclaimed, that it was the invention of high pressure, which caused the injury; to my very great wrong; by depriving me of the profits of my invention, and to the injury of the public, by depriving them of the benefits of the useful discovery. And I am constructing to put the engine of the patent laws of the United States in force and in action, which will probably overtake them.

N. B. All kinds of castings, and machinery of iron, for manufactories, mills, and engines, are executed at good works.

OLIVER EVANS.

* This may be tested and proved, by opening the water-guage cock.

LETTERS IN THE POST-OFFICE

RALEIGH, N. C. JAN'Y 1, 1818.

. *Please to notice the date.*

JOSIAH ATKINS, Mrs. Mary Alexander, Teresee Acock, Joseph Alston, Smith Abernathy, Samuel Andrews, Col. Jn. Alley 3.

B—Redmund Barnes, Pasley Barco, H G. Burton, Joseph Bird, Thomas Battle, Joseph Brown, James or Benj Brown, Jacob Bullabow, Irby Bunch, Rev Nath'l Bowen, Wade H Bynum 2, Major John A Bird 2.

C—Clerk Supreme Court, Clerk Superior Court, Clerk Federal Court, Azel Clifton 2, Josiah Crudup 2, Samuel Cobb, Roswell Cook, Elizabeth Cook, Mariah Cary, Benson Carr, John F Carter, Hezekiah G Chamberlaine, John W Cape, Christopher, Alex Cooper.

D—Susan Davis, Lewis Davis, Jas E Dickins, John Demos, Samuel Davenport, John Daniel, Lorenzo Dow, Alsey Doby, John D Delacy, John Duncan.

E—Joseph Edwards, Alsey Ellis.

F—Mary Farrow, Thomas C Fay, R Fitz, Ransom Frazer, Rhod Foster, Nancy Flornoy, Robert Fowler, Lillington Fowler.

G—Lilian Griffis, Edward Gray, Jane Gales, Z Graham, Dennis Gray, Elizabeth Gidey, Robert Glass, James Gillet, Wm Gaston 3, Wm Gray 3.

H—Willie Harrison, Randum House, Sheard House, Peter Hoole, Thomas Hall, Nathan Hall (for Mills) John Jackson, Benj Henderson, Samuel High, Isaac Hutchins, Benjamin Hoeley, Wm Hunter, James Hinton, Joshua Hunter 3.

J—George Jefferys, R N Jeffreys, Martha Johnson, Amos Johnson, John Jackson, Lucan Jones, Kimbro Jones, Hard Jones, Calvin Jones.

K—Sarah Kigo, Frederick Khone, Frederick Kneech, Charles Kennon, Wm King, Berry King, Abbey King.

L—Joseph Lamb, Rachael Locust, Wm C Lord, Joel H Lane.

M—James Marion, John Marion, printer, James J Mitchell, Nancy Mitchell, Mangrum Mitchell, A D Murphey 3, John Marshall, Frederick Massey, Acrill Myatt, Matthew Moody, John Moore, Henry Moore, Wade Cullers 4, Francis M Gehee, Mary M Kee, Geo McDowell, Parthenia M Dowell, Charles McKenzie, Wm M Farlane, Joel McCorkle.

N—Frederick Nash, Giles Nance, Thomas Nichols, Wm Nichol.

P—Robert Powell, Wm Powell, Hinton Pugh, Pinkney Pylant, Rev N Patterson, James Pyles, Laurence Pettford, Thomas Peers, John Parker, Tho Price, John Pusey, Wm Peace, Wm Paylor, Tilman K C Pool 4, Burwell Perry 2.

R—Jeremiah Rhodes, David Ruth, junior, Mary Roussau, Alexander Ross, Samuel C Ralston, Thomas Roberts, James Roberts, Richard Roberts 2.

S—Littleton Sledge 2, Benjamin Stewart, Frankey Strickland, John P Strickland, John Samtelar, John Smith, Emily Smith, James Sanders, Thomas Sanders, Edith Sanders, John Singleton, Thomas Spain, Willie Simmons, Robert Sneed, Charles Shoemaker, Allen Stewart, David Stephenson, Samuel Simpson, Surveyor General, Samuel Shelton, Lydia Sugg, W A Sandy, Wm Seagraves, Dempsey Sorrel, Albert Speight, Jas Spikes.

T—Robert H Taylor, Burwell Temple, John Terrell, John Terry, sen Madison Turner, J D Toomer 2.

V—John Velvin, William Vading.

W—James Wood, Jesse Wood, sen. James Warren, Ridley Warren, Henry Warren, Wm Wamble, Sally Wallace, Mary Whitehead, Rev J Weatherspoon, Shadrach Wedding, Henry V Webb, William Walker, Wm Walton, Thomas Watson, William Ward, W Wellons, Hartwell Wynn, Matthew Winstead, Samuel Wetherton, Mildred Yeargan.

S. LEMAY, P. M.

BLANKS OF ALL KINDS,
may be had at this Office.