



AND

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

"Oursure the plans of fair, delightful Peace,
"Unwarped by party rage, to live like Brothers."

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INCLOSING.

"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."

1. Land is inclosed for the purpose of raising vegetables to benefit it by their shade, and by extracting manure from the atmosphere to be given to it when elaborated into a form sufficiently permanent to enrich it.

Why are woodlands richer and more productive than worn or exhausted lands? The trees growing on them continually shade the ground, and give to the land an annual dressing of manure in leaves, rotten limbs & trunks, and plants which are spread abroad by the winds and rot on its surface.—This dressing of manure which the surface of the earth is annually receiving, forms so many additional layers of vegetable mould; and its fertility, instead of being diminished by the growth of the trees, is constantly augmented by them, they being the agents by which its fertility is effected; hence woodland or fresh cleared land is much more rich and productive, than soils whose surface is kept naked, and whose fertility is constantly extracted by the crops cultivated thereon, without being restored again. In inclosing lands to be improved, we imitate the process by which nature improves them. Lands that are inclosed and from which grazing is entirely excluded, however poor, will throw up a coat of vegetables which shade the ground during summer, in autumn they fall and rot, by which its surface is improved. The next year vegetation becomes more luxuriant, in consequence of the accession of fertility gained by the last year's coat of manure. Thus exhausted fields are annually enriched by annual dressing of manure in weeds, grass or clover &c. which fall and rot on their surface.

Inclosed fields will also throw up a growth of bushes, which may be used advantageously in filling up gullies and in curing galled places. In this way it has been found from experience, that exhausted fields which are inclosed, and from which grazing is excluded, annually and rapidly improve. For the purpose of adopting the inclosing system to the greatest advantage, every farm should be divided into four shifts; one of which is only to be cultivated at a time, while the others remain at rest, inclosed and ungrazed.

The best course of crops to be pursued under the inclosing system, is, Indian corn—wheat sown in the fall on the same ground with the corn—the next spring red clover sown among the wheat, and after the latter is removed, the clover to remain uncut & ungrazed for two years. Red clover is cultivated by those who wish speedily to improve their lands under the inclosing system; as it extracts and bestows upon the earth in a less time, a greater quantity of atmospheric manure than any other vegetable; and its peculiar propensity to be improved by a top dressing of the plaster, gives it an additional value.

The inclosing system, to succeed well, must be combined with a great number of agricultural practices, at enmity with those which at present prevail.

It is at enmity with the practice of summer fallowing of wheat.

It is at enmity with the practice of shallow ploughing, and accords with that of deep ploughing.

It accords with the doctrine of turning in a clover lay, or a bed of any other vegetable matter, for a crop speedily sown or planted thereon, without disturbing this new bed of vegetables.

It also accords with the practice of ploughing in vegetables in a hard or dry state, instead of a green or succulent state.

It is also at enmity with the custom of exposing a flat surface to the sun, and accords with the practice of cultivating and preserving land in high ridges and deep furrows.

Among the several modes of improving land hereafter to be treated of, inclosing deserves to be ranked as one of the most valuable. It works so wisely, so constantly, and at so small an expense of labor, that properly used, it insures an annual improve-

ment. We have only to inclose our exhausted fields and exclude grazing, to prepare to fertilize their surfaces by successive drafts of manure to be drawn from its inexhaustible treasury, the atmosphere. The earth swims in atmosphere, and inhales its refreshments. Vegetables cover the earth, and are the visible agents to which its surface is indebted for fertility. If the vast ocean of atmosphere is the treasure of vegetable food, vegetable manure is obviously inexhaustible.—Vegetables take their stand upon the earth to extract the riches of the atmosphere, larger than the earth itself, and to elaborate them into a proper form for fertilizing its surface.

The advantages of the inclosing system may be happily illustrated by the following experiment:

A slip of a willow was planted in a box containing 200 pounds of earth: in a few years the willow grew so rapidly as to exhibit a tree of 200 pounds weight, without having diminished the earth in which it grew. Had this willow been cut up and used as a manure, how vastly would it have enriched the two hundred weight of earth it grew on. This fact shews that the 200 pounds weight of willow was entirely gained from the atmosphere; & further shews, that by the use of vegetables, we may collect manure from the atmosphere, with a rapidity and in an abundance far exceeding that of which we have robbed the earth. It is 200 pounds weight of willow, was a prodigious donation of manure, by the atmosphere, to the 200 pounds weight of earth in which it grew. It was so much atmosphere condensed by the vegetable process, into a form capable of being received & held by the earth, and of being reduced to manure by putrefaction.

But the inclosing system may be objected to by some, who may say, if we inclose our lands and exclude grazing, and cultivate but one fourth part of our farm at a time, what shall we do with our stock and with that part of our labor which is usually employed in cultivating a greater space of land? These two questions may be answered in one. The surplus labor arising from the inclosing system, may be employed in preparing pasture for the stock, by draining and cleaning up all marshes and swamps, also all other low or wet places, and converting them into meadow and grass. And some part of the highland may also be devoted exclusively to grazing, by preparing a well tilled standing pasture.

The great object is to exclude the tooth and the hoof from the inclosed fields, to accelerate their improvement under this system; and, in proportion as the land improves, so will the stock increase; for the increase of stock depends as intimately upon the improvement of land, as the increase of crops. Therefore, as the land improves under the inclosing system, so will the crops increase; and as the crops increase, so must the stock, there being an increased quantity of food, to be consumed, and of vegetable litter to be made into manure.

The surplus labor which has heretofore been employed in killing land, may be more profitably employed in cultivating less land, and consequently, in doing more justice to it; and in making more abundant crops, by bestowing upon it more faithful tillage and more faithful manuring. The great misfortune with our farmers is, they cultivate too much land.—The consequence is, wretched husbandry and half crops. One of the great advantages of the inclosing four shift system, over that of the three shift system, (viz. corn—wheat—pasture) is the profit of making greater crops from less land. The same crop from a fourth may produce profit, and yet, a loss from a third. If 120 acres of poor land produce 120 barrels of corn, and the expenses of cultivation amount to a barrel an acre, there is no profit; but if 90 acres of the same land are improved by inclosing, so as to produce 120 barrels, there will be a profit of 30 barrels.

There are still many other objects for the employment of the surplus labor, which must be combined with the four shift and inclosing system, to accelerate and augment the rewards it will bestow. If in abundance must be made, crops will increase, roads & tillage must be improved, transpor-

tation will increase with litter, the making of manure and plaster, if resorted to, is by no means biggishly in providing employment for labor.

In treating of inclosing, I am fully aware that I have not done the subject that justice which its importance as a system of improving land demands.—But I hope I have said enough to put the mind of the intelligent reader on the track to pursue the subject further—and if he is disposed so to do, he is referred to Taylor's Arator, in which work the subject is treated at large and with an ability proportionate to its importance.

AGRICOLA.

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

AMELIA ISLAND.

It is rarely that as much confusion perplexes the discussions, public and private, of a national topic, as has been carefully promoted in regard to the occupation of Amelia Island by the authority of the United States. The authors and friends of that measure, relying on the notoriety of facts, and on the conviction of their authority, did not think it necessary to enter into a vindication of a measure which they had no reason to believe would be assented. Of this omission advantages have been taken, fair and unfair, by free investigation and bold assault, and by nods and winks and sly suggestions. The ample columns of the Aurora have been crammed with a huge mass of papers, having no real bearing on the question, and of arguments deduced therefrom, which must of course be of the same character. We have been told that this Southern Patriot did, and what another said—where one was born, and where another has lived or died; all which information, sufficiently interesting indeed in itself, as must be every thing concerning the Revolution in the South has yet no sort of bearing on the question at issue; since it neither proves the right of the so-called Patriots of Amelia to occupy the island, nor disproves the right of the United States to take it from them. Neither does it at all touch the policy of the United States; which, after all, must be the guide of our statesmen, taking care that, in pursuing it, they neither violate the written or common law of nations, nor exceed their own powers. The mode of treating this question is particularly disingenuous, as it confounds with the rational and high-minded Patriots of the South, a description of men of whom we will say no more than that there were among them but one or two South-Americans, and that their acknowledged object was the plunder of the ocean.

The first objection directed against the order for occupying Amelia, was the defect of power in the Executive; the expediency of the measure not being questioned. The events of the last three years seemed to have absorbed all recollection of our previous national history; and all memory appeared to have passed away of an act which, when it passed, was the subject of much public controversy.—Though the existence of the act in question was well known, yet, as it had never been officially published, & appeared to have been forgotten, its publication was lately directed. On the publication of this act, the clamor subsided for a moment, and nothing was heard but a few exclamations at such an act having been so long kept secret, and at the danger of the Executive being invested with such secret power. To shew how just this complaint is, we have turned to a letter of the Secretary of State to Mr. Foster, then British Minister, dated Nov. 2, 1811, more than six years ago, in which is the following passage:

"The subject was brought before Congress at its last Session, when an act was passed, authorizing the Executive to accept possession of East Florida from the local authorities, or to take it against the attempt of a foreign power to occupy it, holding it in either case subject to future and friendly negotiation."

It further appears, from the same document, that our Minister at London and Paris had previously officially announced these acts, with proper explanations to the British & French governments.

The recollection of this very secret act, the import of which had been announced to the nation and to the world some half dozen years ago, having

been recalled by its official publication, the government, and the government, from a different position, to the effect we shall soon see.

There was no reason, it is said, for the measure, admitting it to be authorized; since, if Florida is to belong to the United States, they might as well purchase it of the Patriots as of the Spanish government.* Now, we undertake to say, that the Executive was bound to act as he has done, apart from all considerations of favor or affection, and in strict conformity to the declared intentions of our government for many years past. No argument can be necessary to establish this, when we have it in our power again to refresh the memory of writers and readers, by producing documentary proof of the policy avowed to the world by the United States, in the most formal manner, so long ago as before the commencement of the late war with Great Britain.

Subsequent to the taking possession of the part of West Florida which we claimed as forming part of the purchased territory of Louisiana as held by France, the British Minister resident here (Mr. Foster) thought fit, at the instigation of the Chevalier de Onis (who like the Patriot Minister now, had been appointed but was not received as the Minister of Spain) to make a representation on the subject to our government. His official note bearing date the fifth of September, 1811, will be found in the National Intelligencer of Nov. 1811, and in page 131, vol. 8, of the American State Papers; to which valuable work those desirous to peruse all the correspondence on the subject are referred.—From the answer of the Secretary of State (Mr. Monroe, dated on the 2d November, 1811, and communicated to Congress a few days after, we transcribe the following paragraph, having an important bearing on the present question.

"It would be highly improper for the United States, in their respect for Spain, to forget what they owe to their own character, and to the rights of their injured citizens.

"Under the circumstances it would be equally unjust and dishonorable to the United States to suffer East Florida to pass into the possession of any other power unjust, because they would thereby lose the only indemnity within their reach, for injuries which ought long since to have been redressed. Dishonorable, because, in permitting another power to wrest from them that indemnity, their inactivity and acquiescence could only be imputed to unworthy motives. Situated as East Florida is, cut off from the other possessions of Spain, and surrounded in a great measure by the territory of the United States; and having also an important bearing on their commerce, no other power could think of taking possession of it with other than hostile views to them. Nor could any other power take possession of it without endangering their prosperity and best interests.

"The United States have not been ignorant or inattentive to what has been agitated in Europe at different periods since the commencement of the present war, in regard to the Spanish provinces in this hemisphere; nor have they been unmindful of the consequences to which the disorders of Spain might lead in regard to the province in question, without due care to prevent it. They have been persuaded, that remissness on their part might invite the danger, if it had not already done it, which it is so much their interest and desire to prevent. Deeply impressed with these considerations, and anxious, when they acquitted themselves to the just claims of their constituents, to preserve friendship with other powers, the subject was brought before the Congress at its last session, when an act was passed, authorizing the executive to accept possession of West Florida from the local authorities, or to take it against the attempt of a foreign power to occupy it, holding it in either case subject to future and friendly negotiation."

It would be superfluous to add a word of comment to so complete an answer to all who contend that the occupation of Amelia was not justified by the act in question, or that it was not in pursuance of previously declared policy of the government. If such arguments, we have shewn, the records of the country afford a decisive refutation.

"In this argument, by the way, we find a key to some of the excitement on this subject, which we should have supposed the parties would have had discretion enough not to discuss. The question has been a long one, and, as the Aurora some time ago, the plan was proposed.

BY AUTHORITY.

An act all ways compensation on to the members of the Senate, members of the House of Representatives of the United States, and to the Delegates of the Territories, & repealing all other laws on that subject.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That at every session of Congress, and every meeting of the Senate, in the recess of Congress, after the third day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, each Senator shall be entitled to receive eight dollars, for every day he has attended or shall attend the Senate, and shall also be allowed eight dollars for every twenty miles, of estimated distance, by the most usual road, from his place of residence to the seat of Congress, at the commencement and end of every such session and meeting, and that all sums for travel, already performed, to be due and payable at the time of passing this act. And in case any member of the Senate has been, is, or shall be, detained by sickness, on his journey, or from such session or meeting, or if his arrival has been, is, or shall be, unable to attend the Senate, he shall be entitled to the same daily allowance. And the President of the Senate, pro tempore, when the Vice-President has been, or shall be absent, or when his office shall be vacant, shall, during the period of his services, receive, in addition to his compensation as a member of the Senate, eight dollars for every day he has attended or shall attend the Senate: *Provided always*, that no Senator shall be allowed a sum exceeding the rate of eight dollars a day, from the end of one such session or meeting, to the time of his taking his seat in another: *Provided also*, that no Senator shall receive more for going to, and returning from, the meeting of the Senate, on the fourth day of March last, than if this act had not been passed.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That at every session of Congress, after the said third day of March, or the third day of March, and severally, each Representative and Delegate, shall be entitled to receive eight dollars, for every day he has attended or shall attend the House of Representatives, and shall also be allowed eight dollars for every twenty miles, of the estimated distance, by the most usual road, from his place of residence to the seat of Congress, at the commencement and end of every such session and meeting, and that all sums for travel, already performed, to be due and payable at the time of passing this act. And in case any Representative or Delegate has been, is, or shall be, detained by sickness, on his journey, or from the Session of Congress, or, after his arrival, has been, is, or shall be, unable to attend the House of Representatives, he shall be entitled to the same daily allowance. And the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be entitled to receive, in addition to his compensation as a Representative, eight dollars, for every day he has attended or shall attend the House: *Provided always*, that no Representative or Delegate shall be allowed a sum exceeding the rate of eight dollars a day, from the end of one session, to the time of his taking his seat in another.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the said compensation, which shall be due to the members of the Senate, shall be certified by the President thereof, and that which shall be due to the Representatives, and Delegates, shall be certified by the Speaker; and the same shall be paid as public accounts, and paid out of the Public Treasury.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That all acts and parts of acts, on the subject of compensation to members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and Delegates of the Territories, be, and the same are hereby repealed from and after the third day of March last.

H. CLAY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN CALHOUN,

President of the Senate, pro tem.

January 22, 1818.—Approved.

JAMES MONROE.

An act for the relief of Winslow and Henry Lewis.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the proper accounting officers of the Treasury Department be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to settle, in such manner as may [be] just and reasonable, the claim of Winslow and Henry Lewis, for money deposited in the hands of M. M. Noah, late consul of the United States at Tunis, and which may have been applied by the said M. M. Noah to the payment of certain bills or exchange, drawn by said Noah on the Department of State, for the purpose of raising American prisoners at Algiers. *Provided*, that the sum to be allowed shall not exceed six thousand and five hundred and ninety-six dollars, and forty-nine cents.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the amount thereof, when as a certain sum shall be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, on January 22, 1818.