



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1818.

No. 962.

VOL. XIX.

FOR THE REGISTER.

No. XXIX.

MANURES—CONTINUED.

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.

For conducting the business of a farm to full advantage, the farmer is to pursue objects which systematically embrace such a regular course of particulars, as shall best follow and depend on each other; for obtaining the one whole of the design of farming.— It is not immediate produce alone that we aim at; for, whilst we wish to obtain repeated full crops, our reason assures us, that it is indispensably necessary to that end, that the soil be preserved in full vigor.

The mind, then, is employed principally, on the objects of preservation and improvement of the productive powers of the earth.

Observations on the state of common farming, fix the opinion, that no unconnected, random pursuits, tend to insure a succession of advantageous husbandry, for any length of time.

Well chosen rotations of crops, together with due culture, are believed to be so favorable to the ground as to need but little manure in comparison of what the common, or ill chosen crops absolutely require. Still the steady and attentive application of manures, is held to be an essential duty in farming, a great link of the chain in every instance. If rich soils require, comparatively, but a moderate quantity, in a rotation where ameliorating crops are prevalent, yet muddling and poor soils want all that can be obtained; and under the present courses of crops especially, all soils eagerly demand more manure than can be readily procured. These exhausting courses we see continually impoverish the soil. Too many farmers, therefore, incline to move to fresh lands, where they would act the same murderous part over again. Farmers had, therefore, better learn betimes to improve their lands, or at least to keep them in good heart by a steady attention to the making of manures.

The principal source for the production of the greatest quantity of manure on farms, is the farm yard.— If cattle were confined to these yards throughout the winter and plentifully littered, they would make far more manure than could even be imagined. But the manner in which cattle are at present managed, they hardly make a load of manure. In the present practice, hay and fodder are stacked in the fields, and the cattle are fed round the stacks and fodder houses: the disadvantages whereof are,

- 1. A wasteful use of the provender.
2. The dung lying as it is dropt without straw, or other vegetable substances brought to it, the manure is little in quantity; and
3. That little not lying in heaps, is reduced abundantly by exhalation and rain, without leaving any thing to the soil.

In the English and Flemish practice (scarcely observed by a few of our husbandmen) cattle are carefully housed, or otherwise confined to a fold yard, in which are shelters against cold rains during the whole winter, and as far through the spring as food will last: the advantages of which are,

- 1. A fair expenditure of the provender, without waste.
2. Less exhaustion of the juices; because of the dung lying together in large heaps.
3. The dung being mixed with the straw, and other vegetable substances brought to the beast as litter, the whole is trod together, and forms a large quantity of very valuable manure.

It may be no exaggeration to affirm, that the difference in the quantities of manures obtained from an equal stock of cattle by those several methods, may be as three to one.

If six acres may be annually manured by the inferior method, then may eighteen by the superior. Now, on a supposition, that manured land is kept in heart five years, without repeating, in the one case but thirty acres will always remain in good order; in the other, ninety acres: a very important difference. Indeed, it is all the difference between an husbandman's poverty, and his riches.

Litter is an essential to cattle, when let into yards, without which yard gra-

ture is of small account; and, unless it be in full proportion to the number of cattle in the yard, it is not thought highly of; but is as a half done thing. Good farmers in England deem full littering of cattle, when in yards, of such importance, that, after reaping with sickle and binning their wheat, they cut the stubble and stack it for litter. Besides straw and stubble for litter, they apply to the same use, fern, and such other vegetable substances as they can procure; and they buy straw from common farmers who are not in the practice of littering. In all countries, common farmers are indifferent to improvements: they look not beyond old habits. A full littering is three loads of 12 or 1800 lbs. of straw to each grown beast. Indian corn stalks may be carried from the field in great quantities in a skeleton frame cart (if not cut up and fed when fresh) when they are more nourishing, owing to the saccharine juice with which they abound. A farm-yard should be so constructed as to prevent any thing to pass away from it. This is done by making an excavation or hollow in the middle of the yard, so that every part of the surface should descend towards the centre of it. Connected with the farm-yard and opening into it, should be shelters for the cattle, hoes, sheep, &c. These shelters should be closed to the north, east and west points, and only open to the south, in order to secure the stock from the piercing winds and inclement storms of winter. These shelters should be covered with cornstalks or top fodder; the latter the best.— Having such shelters, cattle will keep in better order with a great deal less food, than they would without them; neglect in providing such shelters, reflects severely on the economy and good management of our farmers, especially when it is considered that nearly the same labor which is now consumed in packing away top fodder in the form of stacks, would, if differently packed up, make good shelters for cattle, and at the same time secure this kind of fodder equally well.

The stock should be confined during the whole of the winter in the farm-yard, and not turned out, as is frequently the case, to wander after the provender or miserieble flog of the stalk fields, in which they empty themselves and scatter their dung; by which much manure is lost, great injury in many cases done to grass lands, and the stock, from being exposed to cold and other causes, benefited in a far less degree than is commonly imagined.— A hoof should not unnecessarily leave the yard.

The farm-yard should always be well supplied with litter of some kind; such as refuse straw, weeds, cornstalks, rich earth or leaves from the woods, or several of them together, in order to imbibe the soakings of the dung and urine dropped by the stock; and of that thrown out of the stables. All kinds of refuse substances, capable of being converted into manure, ought to be thrown into the yard. To effect this purpose every leisure opportunity should be taken to collect various vegetable matters, such as coarse grasses, leaves, straw &c. in as large quantities as possible, & the whole should be carried to the yards, and stacked in convenient situations for the purpose of being made use of as litter.— Besides these, there are other earthy matters that equally demand attention—such as peat or boggy earth, mud from ponds and ditches, scrapings of roads, & other substances of the same kind, as can be conveniently obtained. Such materials as are necessary, being by these methods procured, the best mode of proceeding seems to be, that of covering the whole of the farm-yard where the cattle stand and tread, as also the sheep folds &c. with layers of these vegetable and earthy matters, eight, ten, or more inches thick, according to the number of cattle and other circumstances; the great object in view being to make as much manure as circumstances will possibly permit.

AGRICOLA.

FOUND

ON the 19th of December last, on the main Road north from Martinville, Guilford County, N. C. a BANK NOTE. Any person describing said note to the satisfaction of the Subscriber and paying the expense of advertising, &c. may obtain the same by applying to THOS. CARROW, jr. one mile west of Martinville. January 25 38 3w

VIRGINIA SCHOOL BILL.

A member of the General Assembly who represents that portion of the people of the State among whom Mr Jefferson resides, having requested that gentleman's advice and opinion on the measures proper to be adopted in regard to the literary fund, has lately received from him the following highly interesting communication, in reply to a letter addressed to him on the subject of the system of Primary Schools, set forth in a bill offered on the 5th instant in the House of Delegates, as a substitute for the bill reported by the committee of Schools and Colleges:

MONTICELLO Jan. 14, 1818.

DEAR SIR—When, on the 6th inst. I was answering yours of Dec'r. 29, I was so overwhelmed with letters to be answered, that I could not take time to notice the objections stated, that it was apprehended that neither the people, nor their representatives, would agree to the plan of assessment on the wards for the expenses of the ward schools. I suppose that by this is meant the pecuniary expense of wages to the tutor; for as to what the people are to do, or to contribute in kind, every one who knows the situation of our people in the country, knows it will not be felt. The building the log house will employ the laborers of the ward 3 or 4 days in every 20 years. The contribution for subsistence if averaged on the families, would be 8 or 9 lbs. of pork, and half a bushel of corn for a family of middling circumstances—not more than two days' subsistence of the family and its stock—and less in proportion as it could spare less. There is not a family in the country so poor as to feel this contribution. It must then be the assessment of the pecuniary contribution which is thought so formidable an addition to the property tax we now pay to the state, that neither the people, nor their representatives would agree to. Now, let us look this objection in the face, and and bring it to the unerring test of figures—premiting that this pecuniary tax is to be of 150 dollars on a ward.

Not possessing the documents which would give me the numbers to be quoted, correctly to an unit, I shall use round numbers, so near the truth, that, with the further advantage of facilitating our calculations as we go along, they will make no sensible error in the result. I will proceed therefore on the following postulates, and on the ground that there are in the whole state 100 counties and cities.

Table with 3 columns: Description, In the State, In every County on an average. Rows include free white inhabitants, militia companies, tax on property, and number of militia.

Let us then proceed, on these data, to compare the expense of the proposed, and of the existing system of primary schools. I have always supposed that the wards should be so laid off as to comprehend the number of inhabitants necessary to furnish a captain's company of Militia. This is before stated at 500 persons of all ages and sexes. From the tables of mortality (Buffon's) we find that where there are 500 persons of all ages and sexes, there will always be 14 in their 10th year, 13 and a fraction in their 11th, and 13 in their 12th year; so that the children of these three years (which are those that ought to be devoted to the elementary schools) will be a constant number of 40; about enough to occupy one teacher constantly. His wages of \$150, partitioned on these 40, make their teaching cost \$3 1/2 a-piece annually. If we reckon as many heads of

* The bill in question originally proposed to establish Primary Schools in each County, one College, and one University; but the bill now before the Legislature and likely to pass, distributes annually \$45,000 out of the Revenue of the Literary Fund (nearly half of it) among the counties of the commonwealth in proportion to their white population.—The quota of each, along with the residue of the proceeds of the glebe lands, if any, in any particular county, to be applied by certain commissioners in each county to the education of poor children in reading, writing and arithmetic.

families in a ward as there are militia (as I think we may, the unmarried militia men balancing, in numbers, the married and unmarried exempts) \$150 on 57 heads of families (if levied equally) would be \$2 24 on each. At the same time the property tax on the ward being \$500—12, or \$416, and that again subdivided on 67 heads of families (if it were levied equally) would be \$6 20 on a family of middling circumstances, the tax which it pays to the state So that to \$6 20, the present state tax, the school tax would add \$2 24, which is about 36 cents to the dollar, or one-third to the present property tax: and to the whole state would be \$150—1200 wards, equal to \$180,000 of tax added to the present \$500,000.

Now let us see what the present primary schools cost us, on the supposition that all the children of 10, 11 and 12 years old, are as they ought to be at school: and, if they are not, so much the worse is the system; for they will be untaught, and their ignorance and vices will in future life, cost us much dearer in their consequences, than it would have done, in their correction, by a good education.

I am here at a loss to say what is now paid to our English elementary schools, generally through the state. In my own neighborhood, those who formerly received from 20s. to 30s. a scholar, now have from 20 to 50 dollars; and having no other information to go on, I must use my own numbers: the result of which, however, will be easily corrected, and accommodated to the average price thro' the state, when ascertained; and will yet, I am persuaded, leave abundance of difference between the two systems.

Taking a medium of \$25, to 40 pupils in each ward, now cost \$1000 a year, instead of \$150, or \$15 on a family, instead of \$2 24; and the 1200 wards cost to the whole state \$1,200,000 of tax, in addition to the present \$500,000, instead of 180,000 only; producing a difference of \$1,020,000 in favor of the ward system, more than doubling the present tax, instead of adding one-third only, and should the price of tuition, which I have adopted from that in my own neighborhood, be much above the average through the state, yet no probable correction will bring the two systems near a level.

But take into consideration, also, the important difference, that the \$1,200,000 are now paid by the people, as a poll-tax, the poor having as many children as the rich, and paying the whole tuition money themselves; whereas, on the proposed ward-levies, the poor man would pay in proportion to his hut and peculium only, while the rich would pay on their palaces and principalities. It cannot, then, be that the people will not agree to have their tuition tax lightened by levies on the ward, rather than on themselves; and I as little believe that their representatives, will disagree to it; for even the rich will pay less than they now do. The portion of the \$180,000, which, on the ward system, they will pay for the education of the poor, as well as of their own children, will not be as much as they now pay for their own alone.

And will the wealthy individual have no retribution? and what will this be? 1. The peopling his neighborhood with honest, useful and enlightened citizens, understanding their own rights and firm in their perpetuation. 2. When his own descendants become poor, which they generally do within three generations, (no law of primogeniture now perpetuating wealth in the same families) their children will be educated by the then rich; and the little advance he now makes to poverty, while rich himself, will be repaid by the then rich, to his descendants when become poor, and thus give them a chance of rising again. This is a solid consideration, and should go home to the bosom of every parent. This will be seed sowed in fertile ground. It is a provision for his family looking to distant times, and for a duration beyond that he has now in hand for them. Let every man count backwards in his own family, and see how many generations he can go, before he comes to the ancestor who made the fortune he now holds. Most will be stopped at the first generation, many at the 2d, few

will reach the 5d, and not one in the state go beyond the 5th.

I know that there is much prejudice, even among the body of the people, against the expense and even the practicability of a sufficient establishment of elementary schools, but I think it proceeds from vague ideas on a subject they have never brought to the test of facts and figures; but our representatives will fathom its depth, and the people could and would do the same, if the facts and considerations belonging to the subject were presented to their minds, and their subsequent, as certainly as their previous approbation, would be secured.

But if the whole expense of the elementary schools, wages, subsistence and buildings, are to come from the literary fund, and if we are to wait until that fund shall be accumulated to the requisite amount, we may justly fear that some one unlucky legislature will intervene within the time, change the whole appropriation to the lightening of taxes, and leave us where we now are.

There is, however, an intermediate measure which might bring the two plans together. If the literary fund be of one and a half million of dollars, take the half-million for the colleges and university, it will establish them meagerly, and make a deposit of the remaining million. Its interest of \$60,000 will give \$50 a year to each ward, towards the teacher's wages, and reduce that tax to 24 instead of 36 cents to the dollar; and as the literary fund continues to accumulate, give one-third of the increase to the colleges and university, and two thirds to the ward-schools. The increasing interest of the last portion will be continually lessening the school-tax, until it will extinguish it altogether; the subsistence and buildings remaining ways to be furnished by the ward in kind.

A system of general instruction, which shall reach every description of our citizens, from the richest to the poorest, as it was the earliest, so will it be the latest, of all the public concerns in which I shall permit myself to take an interest. Nor am I tenacious of the form in which it shall be introduced. Be that what it may, our descendants will be as wise as we are, and will know how to amend and amend it, until it shall suit their circumstances. Give it to us, then, in any shape, and receive for the inestimable boon the thanks of the young and the blessings of the old, who are past all other services but prayers for the prosperity of their country and blessings to those who promote it.

TH: JEFFERSON.

BY AUTHORITY.

An act making appropriations for the payment of the arrears, which have been incurred for the support of the military establishment, previous to the first of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for defraying any expenses which may have been incurred for the support of the military establishment, and those which have been incurred for calling out the militia, previous to the first of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, there be appropriated the sum of four hundred thousand dollars; and that there be appropriated the further sum of one hundred thousand dollars, to defray any of the aforesaid expenses which may have been incurred from the first of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, to the first of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the act passed on the third of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, entitled "An act supplementary to an act entitled 'An act further to amend the several acts for the establishment and regulation of the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments,'" shall not be so construed as to prevent the President from making transfers from any appropriation which may have been made for the support of the military establishment, previous to the first of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, agreeably to the provisions of the act passed on the third of March, one thousand eight hundred and nine, further to amend the several acts for the establishment and regulation of the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments.

H. CLAY, Speaker of the House of Representatives. JOHN GAILL, President of the Senate, p. February 16, 1818.—Approved, JAMES MONROE