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FOR THE REGISTER.

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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.

The dung of animals during the summer season is an item of great moment for enriching lands, if it is saved without subtracting from the more valuable item of the winter's farm yards. The most beneficial mode of its application, is penning cattle and sheep, graduating the size of these pens by observation, until the designated quantity of manure shall be deposited within two weeks at most, and ploughing it in on the day the pen is removed invariably. The loss from evaporation during summer is so great, that a pen ought never to remain above two weeks. By a regular course of removing these pens throughout a field, and immediately ploughing in the manure, the farmer will be agreeably surprised to find, that the number of acres improved in this way will infinitely exceed his hopes; for his ground will be equally enriched by far less dung, on account of these precautions against evaporation, and the cattle will, of course, go over a far greater space.

The land thus manured by the 10th of August, may be sown in turnips.—After that period, the pens which had stood from fourteen down to ten days (for the time should be diminished as the cattle fatten) should be removed every seven days, because no draft will be made from the land by a turnip crop, the quantity of the manure is increased, the evaporation is diminished by the length of the nights, and the cattle have improved in plight. Cattle and sheep managed in this way, will manure poor land sufficiently to produce fine crops of Indian corn and wheat, and a good crop of red clover after them, with the aid of plaister.

All the corn cobs on a farm should be carefully saved, and should be weekly scattered in the farm or stable yard to preserve them from the fire, where they absorb a rich moisture to be bestowed upon the earth as they gradually decay; thus constituting a valuable addition to the manure made in the farm yard.

When hogs are put up to fatten, if the pen is made in a proper manner, they may be made to make a good deal of manure, and there is none more valuable than that made by these animals. The hog pen should be made without a floor and contiguous to a hog house or shed where the hogs may be dry whenever they please; the pen consisting of a dirt floor, should be made hollowing in the middle, so that all the dung and other manures may be carried by rains into the centre or hollow of it. All the corn cobs which are daily accumulated in the pen should be collected as often & thrown into the hole or middle of the pen in order, to become saturated with its riches: all the chips which can be collected at the wood yards should also be thrown into the pen and also all other litter which may be conveniently come at. If hogs are managed in this way when fattened for pork, they will make more manure than exceeds the value of their food.

Mud taken from the bed of creeks, from marshes and the earth from the bottom of ditches, have been made use of as manure with success. If these matters are hauled out and spread upon poor land, they are found to improve it very much. If they are carted into heaps and are exposed to the frosts during winter, they become mellow and in many instances are found nearly equal to farm yard dung. But if they are composted or carried in the fall into the hog pens and farm yard, no manure in the spring can be better for Indian corn, wheat, &c.

By removing old or long standing fences, and ploughing up their sites a great deal of valuable manure may be obtained. This manure which will principally consist of fertile mould, may be collected in heaps after being ploughed up, and used when necessary. No manure is so valuable as this for gardens, for wheat lots or for tobacco; as it is free from producing worms or insects, or subjecting plants to fire like dung, it being mild and at the same time extremely fertilizing.

Ashes leached and unleached have been extensively used in agricultural purposes as a manure, and few have been found to succeed better. Ashes succeed best on dry, gravelly and loamy land; they also answer well on a cold or clayey soil, by rendering them more warm and open.

They are found to benefit nearly all kinds of crops, but most strikingly Indian corn, potatoes, flax and grass.

A gill or one handful of unleached or fresh ash spread round each hill of corn after it is first hoed, has a considerable effect upon it, making the corn far better, and is calculated as equal to a spoonful of Plaister of Paris applied in the same way. Farmers who have been in the habit of annually using unleached ashes as a manure, assert, that upon almost every kind of land, one bushel of ashes will produce an additional bushel of corn.

Ashes answer extremely well when applied to high and dry grass land.—Red and white clover are much benefited; the latter as much so, as from any other manure. Ashes are generally used to most advantage for grain crops, by being spread over ground well littered and ploughed in. Ashes sprinkled on land lately turned up from sward, are decidedly the most productive manure that can be applied. Ten loads of this manure, on poor land, will produce ordinarily twenty five bushels of wheat; the land then left in a state for yielding a crop of hay of between two and one and a half tons per acre, which it will continue to do for a great number of years.

In short, no manure has been found, as yet, to continue so long in the ground as ashes. When ashes are unleached, viz: when they have not been reduced by water (or by being drawn) in richness, they are to be used as a manure more sparingly; and when they have, more copiously.

AGRICOLA.

THE BANKRUPT BILL.

This measure having, from its importance, occasioned much debate in Congress, and having been strongly advocated, and as strongly opposed, in order to give our readers some idea of the arguments for and against, we propose to publish, in each issue, one side of the question. The following is from Mr. HARRISON, of Philadelphia, the father of the bill:

The first section of the bill having been read—

Mr. HARRISON, of Pennsylvania, rose. He observed he was happy to obtain the attention of Congress to this interesting subject, at a period, in all respects so favorable to a full and fair discussion of its merits, and a just and impartial decision upon them. That he was so deeply impressed with the importance of the Bill to a great, valuable and suffering portion of the people represented here, that he rose to explain and enforce it with an anxiety by no means calculated to aid him in the attempt. He found encouragement, however, in the profound tranquility of the country, so favorable to the consideration of our domestic concerns; in the fraternal harmony now so prevalent in this hall; and in that spirit of accommodating and kindness which would always be found among the representatives of a people desirous of promoting each other's happiness; of aiding each other's necessities, and advancing the general prosperity. If, under auspices so favorable, the bill for establishing a uniform system of bankruptcy, shall be rejected as unwise and impolitic, Mr. H. would consider the question so decided, at rest for many years; & that it would be a waste of the time of the House to attempt it again.

Mr. H. said it was not his intention at this time to enter into the details of the Bill, but to give a general view of the nature, object and probable effects of the system proposed; to existing evils which require to be redressed, and explain the efficacy of the remedies provided by this bill. Mr. H. called on those gentlemen, whose constituents might have no immediate interest in these remedies, not on that account to refuse them to others to whom they were, in the highest degree, essential. Mr. H. here gave a general historical view of the relation of creditor and debtor, under Roman law, with the tyrannical and cruel power afforded to the former over the por-

son of the latter and his family: the amelioration of the condition of the debtor under the milder influence of the christian emperors, and gradual progress of the same principles in England, and other commercial countries: observing that in proportion as the people of a country advanced in civilization and refinement, it became commercial, and acquired a just knowledge of the interests of commerce, the condition of the debtor, when really honest and unfortunate, had improved, and the power of the creditor to gratify his malignant passions by wanton and useless cruelty, had been restrained and abridged. In the origin of the bankrupt system of England, the Bankrupt was considered a criminal; but at present, says Blackstone, the laws of Bankruptcy are considered as laws calculated for the benefit of trade; and founded on the principles of humanity as well as justice. If such is the character of a bankrupt law, need it have any further recommendation to our attention and favor? We know the importance of trade, and we acknowledge the obligations of humanity and justice as fully as any people. The subject seems to have been considered in the same light by the framers of our constitution; who have, therefore, among the enumerated powers of Congress, expressly granted the power to establish uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies. Mr. H. said he considered this as a declaration of the will of the people that Congress should act on this subject, at least, so far as to establish a uniform rule. It binds us to no particular system, it is true, but it does enjoin upon us most impressively, to provide some one which shall be uniform in its operation on the different states, giving a certain known rule, and preventing those numerous and obvious evils that must arise from various and conflicting systems in the different states, by which relation between debtor & creditor, so interesting to all classes of our citizens, must forever be changing, he imperfectly understood, and be daily producing inequality and injustice between the creditors and debtors residing in different states. Mr. H. contended it was the duty of Congress to carry into effect the will of the people thus solemnly declared; not to obey any imperative, absolute command, but in a way that cannot be misunderstood, and ought not to be disregarded without the most clear and cogent reasons. Mr. H. insisted that when the several states parted with this power, it was only to attain that uniformity of system, which could be established only by the general government; and that the states having surrendered the power for this purpose, had a fair claim on the general government not to disappoint this expectation; but to apply the power to the uses intended by the grant of it. Mr. H. here charged upon the general duty of Congress to take up and organize all the ceded powers in the Constitution; and explained the difficulties that have arisen with some of the states, only because Congress have been relying upon state courts for the execution of many of the laws, instead of organizing and bringing into action all the judicial powers of the United States. Mr. H. therefore, in the first place, relied upon this constitutional obligation in support of the bill, or some law upon this subject which shall produce uniformity in relation to it.

In the next place, Mr. H. contended that the example & experience of every commercial nation known to us, was authority not to be disregarded. He then explained the reason for such a system as applied to commercial men, rather than any other citizens, arising from the nature and extent of their business: the hazards to which they were exposed from the enormous credits they were obliged to give in the course of their business; from their distant connections & agents to whose fidelity and capacity they must trust so much; from the dangers of all the elements; from the political changes in their own and foreign countries; and, in short, from every quarter and source from which danger and ruin can come. Mr. H. contended that a business thus peculiarly exposed, required peculiar regulations and protections; without which, men would not embark in it. He thought this protection peculiarly necessary to this country; young, enterprising, & com-

paratively deficient in capital, even for the business that, on commercial principles, may fairly be done. The country too wants all the labor, and industry, and energy of all its citizens, and cannot afford to have many thousands of them bound hand and foot, at the wantonness and will of their creditors, without the possibility of producing by this bondage the least reduction of the debt; while the debtor is subjected to incalculable suffering, and the community to a most serious loss. It is delightful, said Mr. H. to anticipate what a mass of talent and industry will be set loose by the passage of this bill; and which is now daily diminishing and perishing in hopeless want and useless activity.

Mr. H. then contended that the unusual hazard and losses to which our commercial men have been exposed many years by the great and sudden changes in the political relations of the world, against which no prudence could guard, entitled them to all the care and indulgence of the government. He said that the country had grown rich and prosperous by commercial enterprises, which had been ruinous to the individuals engaged in them. That the public treasury had been filled with duties paid on goods, for which the merchant had never seen the first cost; that there had been instances of merchants failing who had, within a few years, paid millions into the general coffers. Have such men, said Mr. H. no claim upon the country? Shall we turn coldly from them in the hour of their misfortune, while we riot in the wealth produced by their exertions, & are made glad by the prosperity which has grown from their ruin? Shall we leave them to waste and to perish, while no man living receives the least benefit from their sufferings, nor the least gratification either, unless it be that of a demon?

The third ground on which Mr. H. maintained the necessity of passing the bill, was the situation of the insolvent laws now existing in the different states, and the ruinous and disgraceful effects produced by them.—Mr. H. here explained at large the nature of these insolvent provisions; their inequality, uncertainty, and injustice; threatening to destroy all credit and confidence in the country; to make the commercial intercourse between the states so unsafe, that its extent must be greatly abridged, and we shall become aliens to each other. He then considered the effect of the insolvent laws as regards the debtor, the creditor, and the community. It was unjust, he said, as regards the debtor, because it makes no distinction between honest misfortune and criminal prodigality. The principles of the insolvent laws require only a full surrender of the property in the possession of the insolvent at the time of his application; but the manner in which he has lost the rest, whether by extravagance, waste, gambling, or the indulgence of any other folly or vice, cannot affect his right of discharge.—Is it consistent with justice or sound policy, to deal out the same measure of indulgence to such a man, as you give to one who, in the fair and usual prosecution of his business, without the impeachment of fraud, perhaps not even of imprudence, finds himself stripped of all his property, and unable to satisfy the demands of his creditors? The insolvent laws make no distinction in these cases, while the bill on your table puts it in the power of the creditors to make a discrimination so essential to justice and policy. In the case of the honest unfortunate debtor, the law is as much too rigorous as in the other case it is too mild. In what condition do you place him? He becomes the eternal slave of his creditors, without yielding to them the profits of a slave. He is dead to every exertion; he is lost to all usefulness; he has no means to earn a farthing; no inducement to make the attempt.—When embarrassments distract his efforts, and difficulties crowd upon him, he exhausts himself in unavailing struggles to the last, because he sees that whenever he ceases to do so, he must be forced to a goal. This is the certain end of his career. He is put there to starve and perish within its walls, while his miserable wife and children starve and perish without.—And why is this done? Does not the voice of humanity cry out against it?

Does not the policy of society condemn it! Is not every sound sentiment of justice outraged? Why will you permit a cruel and merciless man to imprison another at his will; to snout him from the fair light of Heaven; to deprive him of the sweet air we breathe; to palsify his limbs and break his heart? For some dangerous crime? No, unless misfortune be a crime. For some loathsome vice? No, unless poverty be always vice. To what use, for what good purpose, is this permitted and done, to the creditor or to the community? To the creditor, nothing; for gold is not found in the vaults of a jail, and debts are not paid by sighs and groans. To the community, worse than nothing; lasting, serious injury; the loss of the labor, the industry, the talents, of many a useful citizen; often the charge of maintaining his family, made destitute and miserable. Mr. H. remarked that another unfortunate effect of the insolvent system was, to put it entirely out of the power of the insolvent ever to retrieve his affairs. His friends are driven from him—knowing that, should he afterwards appear in business, even with their means and assistance, a suspicion of fraud, in which they might be implicated, would arise. It would be supposed the insolvent had secreted the funds with which he again appears, and that his charitable friends had lent themselves to the fraud. Besides, as whatever might be found in his possession would be liable to the grasp of his creditors, it is obvious there is no inducement to his friends to furnish him with their assistance and funds, nor for the insolvent to desire that they should. He therefore drags on, living partly on miserable, and often dishonest expedients, and the charity of those who do not become weary of his wants. If the insolvent laws, said Mr. H. are so pernicious in their effects on the debtor, let us see how much better they are in relation to the rights of the creditor. They subject him to the grossest frauds, in every shape and from every quarter. They place him in a position with his debtor which offers every temptation to the latter to cheat him, and furnishes him amply with the means of doing so. The first right of a creditor would seem to be a full and fair opportunity of enquiring into the affairs of the insolvent; of knowing how he became unable to pay his debts; what property remains to be applied to them, and what has become of the rest. This never is afforded, and never can be, under the administration of an insolvent law.—The nature of the proceeding forbids it—the tribunal before which the examination takes place is not calculated for it, and the whole affair has become a mere mockery, which the vulgar attend for their amusement, and nobody looks to for any advantage. The notice given to creditors is such as cannot reach one half of them; the means of detecting fraud are so incompetent, that it is idle to resort to them; the discoveries to be made must depend so entirely on the examination of the insolvent himself, who has been taught, by the experience of thousands, how to pass the ordeal, the court considering this business as a sort of intrusion on their more important duties; in short, the whole proceeding, from its commencement to its termination, is a mockery so contemptible in its progress and so inefficient to any one good result, that creditors submit to be defrauded rather than appear as parties in such a proceeding, with a full knowledge that their opposition will be effectual neither to discover the frauds of their debtor, nor prevent his discharge. What can be the amount of utility of the examination which takes place under these laws, when the court will appoint one or two days for one or two hundred cases, and will generally find the time amply sufficient for all the enquiry to be made? Mr. H. said he had known as many as one hundred insolvents discharged in one morning; had seen them sworn off by six and eight at a time; each struggling to get his hand upon the book; repeating the oath, or rather parts of it altogether; and exhibiting a scene of confusion equally disgusting and iniquitous. But the monstrous evils of these insolvent systems are found, not so much in what is wrongfully done under them, as in that which may be rightfully, or rather lawfully done. And here, said Mr. H.