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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.

Plaster of Paris is a valuable manure, and perhaps has been attended with better effects in those parts of our country where it has been extensively used, than any other manure. No other manure is so cheap and valuable for speedily improving exhausted lands when used in combination with red clover, as it gives to the latter an almost boundless fertilizing power. As soon as poor lands can be made to bring red clover, their fertility may soon be effected by the use of this manure. One or two bushels of plaster spread or scattered over an acre of clover growing on the poorest land, will make it so luxuriant as to fill on the ground, or if cut to yield one or two tons of good hay.

It is also beneficially used by rolling it with Indian corn seed, bushel for bushel, as it has a good effect on the crop. When spread over the coarse litter of an enclosed field or over farm yard manure immediately previous to ploughing them in, it has a good effect; as it makes these manures more efficacious and disposes them more speedily to rot.

Marle affords an excellent manure for sandy, dry, gravelly, or light lands of any kind; it likewise produces very beneficial effects on mussey and clayey soils; provided a due proportion be applied, and afterwards perfectly dissolved. In fact, it is a species of manure suited to almost every soil and climate. Farmers should always be in search for it on their farms. To our state it would prove more valuable than the mines of Potosi. It is mostly found in low flat lands near the margin of ponds, lakes, and rivers and at the bottom of low bogs. It usually will be found near the surface of the earth or within 12 or 18 inches depth. There are three kinds or species of Marle. 1st. Calcareous or shell marle. This is generally of a yellowish white, or yellowish grey color, but in some places of a brown or red cast. This species of marle is mostly of a loose texture; it effervesces with acids; when pulverized, it feels dry between the fingers; and, if immersed in water, it readily crumbles to pieces, but does not form a viscid mass. 2. Argillaceous or clayey marle, is of a grey, brown, or reddish brown color; being harder, and more unctuous, than the former species, and adheres to the tongue. It effervesces with aqua fortis, or spirit of salt; in water, it dissolves more slowly than the former. 3. Siliceous, stony or sandy marle. This species contains a greater proportion of sand, than of chalk or clay. It is of a brownish grey or lead color; it is, in general, friable and flaky, but sometimes forms very hard lumps. It effervesces with acids, but neither dissolves in water, nor moulders so speedily as either of the two former kinds.

The first and third, viz. the shell and stony, are those which abound most in calcareous earth, and have the most sand in their composition; they are, therefore, best adapted to strong, stiff clayey soils. The second, viz. the clayey marle, of those in which clay is considerably predominant, are found more advantageous in the light, dry, sandy, gravelly and leamy soils. A good artificial marle may be prepared by mixing equal quantities of pure clay and lime, in alternate layers, to form a heap, which should be exposed to the winter frosts. This compound is well calculated for light soils.

Lime is used as a manure, in its full as well as caustic state; it should however, never be made use of without duly attending to the nature and constitution of the soil to which it is to be applied, as on this circumstance, success will, in a great measure, depend. In its caustic state, it acts as a decomposing agent on animal and vegetable matter, and is especially recommended where soils possess a dormant principle of fertility. When, or slacked lime, is recommended to improve the texture of soils that are deficient in loose or sandy matter;

it will also produce good effects, where, in such soils, sulphuric, or other acids exist, that are prejudicial to vegetation, by the power which it possesses of neutralizing them.

Lime applied in its hot or caustic state to land, tends to bring any hard vegetable matter that it contains into a state of more rapid decomposition and solution, so as to render it a proper food for plants. To all soils, therefore that are stored with any quantity of inert vegetable matter, with roots or any kind of coarse litter, caustic lime is applied with every advantage.

All sour, cold, stiff or clayey soils, it also benefits in the highest degree; as it renders them more warm, lively and open, and destroys or neutralizes all principles contained in them noxious to vegetation.

In the State of Pennsylvania, lime is extensively used as a manure, and with the utmost success. No farmer there does without it; it can possibly be procured.

Lime is generally used there in its hot or caustic state, and so careful are they to preserve it in this state, that as soon as the limestone is burnt, the lime is heaped up and covered; lest by being exposed to the influence of the atmosphere, to excessive frosts & thaws, rains and snows, it should become as mild as common lime, and therefore lose all its more active and beneficial properties. In Pennsylvania, the farmers know that poor land will not bear so much as rich land. From this they conclude that lime must act as a stimulant, and that the quantity applied to the land ought to bear an exact proportion to the quantity of vegetable matter contained in the soil.

From 30 to 35, and sometimes from 40 to 50 bushels, are applied to an acre; it is frequently ploughed into the soil in the fall when the ground is fallowed up; or it lays in heaps in the field till spring and then ploughed or harrowed in.

Indian corn is the first crop that is put on the soil after it has been limed, as it is a gigantic plant, and able to imbibe the supplies of lime that will be given or is able to tolerate operations of the lime on the soil. For oats and clover may be sown as a first crop after the land is limed, but in this case, at a year old, will be injurious. One of the most beneficial effects of the lime on the land, consists in rendering the red clayey soils extremely luxuriant, which are soon afterwards.

Spreading lime on a clayey soil, and suffering it to remain on the surface, through winter, and then ploughed; and the lime being well incorporated by heavy drags or harrows, is found a very advantageous mode. Laying on the lime, and mixing it thoroughly with the soil by frequent stirrings, without dung, is generally preferred. It has been repeatedly observed, that fresh lime and stable manure, put on together, are by no means so efficacious, as when the latter is applied in the season succeeding the liming: Dry vegetable matter ploughed to the soil with fresh lime does better. When land is over limed, the remedy is to give the land a good dressing of farm-yard manure, or any kind of vegetable matter; such as buckwheat or oats turned under, in order to absorb something for the lime to act upon; or to let it lie a year or two till a heat of the lime is partly given out, and then it will have its effect.

AGRICULTURE.

SPEECH OF MR. TYLER ON THE BANKRUPT BILL.

Having made a motion to take out the first section of the Bankrupt Bill— Mr. Tyler, of Virginia, said, that he was governed, in submitting this motion, solely by a desire to compromise time. Should the committee be opposed to the principle of the bill, there could be no necessity to delay its rejection, or impose on its friends the task of amending its various sections. It is always with embarrassment, said Mr. T. that I present myself to the view of the House, in the debate on any subject, and nothing could be better calculated to increase that embarrassment, than the circumstance of finding myself in opposition to the honorable member from Pennsylvania (Mr. Hopkinson) who so ably and elaborately

addressed you on yesterday. I am a novice in argument—he an old experienced veteran. My thoughts, which are our forces in debate, are undigested and undisciplined—those of the honorable gentleman are well trained and regularly arranged in order of battle. I have ventured my little skiff upon the water, and when it shall sink and be forgotten, his more noble bark will have outlived the storm, and floated in triumph on the waves. So be it sir, I have obeyed the influence of duty in having presented this motion, and I shall submit composedly, to any result.

The honorable gentleman (said Mr. T.) on yesterday demanded of this House, to carry into execution all the powers of the government, and represented it as our bounden duty, in every instance in which the constitution gave the power, to exercise it. The gentleman's position leaves us no alternative. Our discretion is taken from us—our volition is gone. If the gentleman be correct, we are stopped at the threshold of this enquiry; for inasmuch as the constitution confers on Congress the power to adopt a uniform system of bankruptcy, according to his doctrine, we are not to enquire into the expediency of adopting such system, but must yield it our support. Here, sir, I join issue with that gentleman. What, sir, (asked Mr. T.) is the end of all legislation? Is it not the public good?—Do we come here to legislate away the rights and happiness of our constituents, or to advance and secure them? Suppose, then, by carrying into effect a specified power in the constitution we inflict serious injury upon the political body; will gentlemen contend that we are bound by a blind fatality and compelled to act? Sir, such a doctrine cannot be supported even by the distinguished talents of that gentleman. The powers of this constitution are all addressed to the sound discretion of Congress. You are not imperatively commanded, but authorized to act, if by so acting the good of the country will be promoted.

Having, as I trust said Mr. T. overthrown this position of the honorable gentleman, I will now, by the indulgence of the committee, proceed to investigate the propriety of adopting this bill. If there was no other objection to its adoption, the circumstances of its containing exclusive privileges, on a particular class of society, would seem to call for my opposition. Sir, I am in principle opposed to the grant of exclusive privileges. The very nature and genius of our government, is opposed to any such grant. But even if I was disposed to yield this principle in any case, I could not do so in this. Are not the farmer, the manufacturer, the mechanic, equally entitled with the merchant, to your protection—to the benefits of your laws? This bill is confined to the merchant. What have the agriculturalist and mechanic done to forfeit their claims to your justice, your liberality? Look to the events of the late war. Who fought your battles? Who conquered at New-Orleans? Who, in fact, caused the star spangled banner to wave in triumph over the proud cross of St. George? Sir, said (Mr. Tyler) let me not be understood as detracting from the merit of the merchant, many of them also deserved well of the country. Their money was liberally contributed to relieve our necessities. They furnished the sinew; and the other classes to which I have alluded, the bone and muscle. They are all then entitled to your patronage. Why then, let me ask, is this bill limited to only one class of the community? You are told that by relieving the merchant of his debts, you offer him new stimulants to industry and exertion: That when a load of debt is pressing on him, his energies are cramped and oppressed, that by relieving him of such pressure, they are again awakened into a new existence. With the honorable man I should hope sir, said Mr. T. that when involved, a desire to meet his engagements, to comply with the principles of integrity, would be found a sufficient stimulus to exertion. But admit that it was not so, I ask sir, if the farmer, the mechanic, the manufacturer, would not be operated on the same way with the merchant? Would not the same inducements produce on each the same effects? Are they composed of different materials, or made up of the same flesh and blood? I esteem the conclusion inevitable. But,

continued Mr. T. it has been contended that this indulgence should be extended to the merchant because of the superior risk he encounters in his adventures. His property is afloat upon the ocean—a flaw of wind is enough to ruin him; at this moment he is rich, at the next poor.—True, but are not the farmer and manufacturer intimately connected with all his transactions? Who furnishes the articles for his adventure; who loads his ship? Sir, the interest of each class is connected, and interwoven with the interest of every other class, and if the merchant fails, he also brings ruin upon the agriculturalist and manufacturer. But it has been insinuated, and may be hereafter urged, *ex terminis* a Bankrupt law can only apply to merchants—that the framers of the constitution must have received the word as it is received in England, although I am ready to admit that reference must be had to the common law, in order to obtain the proper signification of legal terms used in the instrument under which we act; yet I cannot well imagine why we should resort to the statute law of that country, especially when the states of this Union had adopted bankrupt laws not in name, but in substance, prior to the formation of this constitution. The civil law was also well understood by those who framed this instrument, and that law in this respect applied to all classes in the community. But even if we resort to the English law, the courts will be found to have decided many persons not merchants to be embraced in its provisions. The honorable gentleman from Pennsylvania, gave in the course of his remarks, a conclusive argument on this subject.—He stated and stated correctly that inasmuch as each state had an insolvent or Bankrupt system of his own, from whence much evil might arise, the authority was vested in Congress, to adopt a general regulation for the purpose of ensuring harmony among the states and introducing an uniform system of justice.—From all this, I conclude that the law ought to be general in its provisions and made to embrace every class of the community.

But, sir, said Mr. T. I will candidly state, that if the present bill was general in its provisions, yet I could not yield it my support. I regard it wrong in principle, and injurious in its detail; and I contend that if passed in its present form, it would not operate beneficially to the mercantile interest.

Does the prudent trader require its provisions? He never ventures upon any hazard to the whole amount of his capital; he is satisfied with a regular, slow, but certain profit. If visited by misfortune, arising from unforeseen occurrence, he has, in the general, taken care to reserve a sufficiency to meet his engagements, and to act the part of an honest man. These are the men who constitute the pride and boast of your mercantile character. They require no legislative provision operating as a receipt in full of all demands; and if such men should, against all reasonable calculations, be unfortunate, their creditors will understand their real interest, and indulge them on their contracts. Will not the creditor understand his own interest as well as the honorable member from Pennsylvania? Will they not also know that their debts will not be discharged by confining the body of their debtor in jail? Sir, a prison is no place in which the debtor can retrieve his ruined fortune or comply with his engagements. I appeal, said Mr. T. to the experience of every member of this committee, if it be not a fact, that indulgencies are almost in every case, in which an honest man has fallen into misfortune, extended to him by his creditors. I repeat then, that the fair and prudent trader does not wish for this law. Upon whom, then, will it operate beneficially? Who will seek refuge under its provisions? The bold, dashing and thoughtless adventurer; he commences life without capital; his first flight is made with paper wings; he goes into bank, obtains an accommodation; secures as far as practicable his creditors; runs in debt to the artist; purchases, on credit, from the farmer and manufacturer, puts to sea. If successful, he complies with his engagements and is rich; if otherwise, he takes a receipt in full under this bill—pays off thousands by a sale, and is in no

worse condition than at first. He is then thrown back again upon society; not to pursue a more prudent course, but to re-act his former extravagancies. You have made him more adventurous by this bill; he even now deserts the insurance office: for by so doing, if successful, he secures to himself the amount of the insurance, and if otherwise, he resorts again to the wholesome medicine of this law. Mark him still further; to-day he is insolvent; to-morrow he is free from debt. He again adventures. Let us imagine him successful. The winds have been more prosperous; the cloud no longer lowers; he is rich. What is his course then? Does he pay off his debts? No sir; he dashes through your streets, said Mr. T. in all the pride of wealth, and laughs in the face of his, perhaps starving creditors. Is this honorable? And yet is not this bill calculated to produce these effects? Can it be regarded dishonorable in him to pursue this course when your law points to it, and justifies him in it? Is it not to be presumed that your laws are based on honor, on justice? I charge gentlemen to beware, lest in their exertions to ameliorate the condition of the debtor, they inculcate dishonorable and unworthy principles. Sir, said he, the member from Pennsylvania exposed to us on yesterday, the evils arising under the existing state systems. In order to excite our sympathies in favor of this bill, he told us that at this time there were 70,000 insolvents in the United States. I did not understand whether merchants alone were taken into the estimate, or whether all classes were embraced. But, in order to have derived any weight from this view of the subject, ought not the gentleman to have contrasted our situation with the situation of some country in which this his favorite scheme, is in operation?—Look to England, the country from which we borrow this system. The a they enjoy the full benefit of the bankrupt law, and yet I will undertake to say, that in England alone, connected with Scotland and Ireland, and whose population does not by many millions, exceed our own, the proportion of insolvents in that country and this, will at least be found to be in the ratio of a thousand to one.

Mr. Tyler then said, that in his judgment, this law was calculated to introduce fraud to an extent certainly never witnessed in this country. Sir, said he, will not this bill, should it pass into a law, become here what it is on the other side of the water? What has been the course of things there? Has the embezzlement of effects been prevented there? Parliament has gone so far as to make the concealment of effects by the bankrupt, punishable with death; and yet how often is the crime committed? Every inducement is held out by the law to dishonesty; a starving wife and children implore bread and protection at the hands of the husband and father; your law tempts him to secure it for them by concealing his money or effects, by proclaiming to him, be secret for some three or four months, until the present storm has subsided—until your creditors have given you a certificate of discharge, & then you may in safety enjoy the fruits of your dishonesty? But Sir, what does it do? Why it holds out the temptation in the one hand and the punishment in the other. Conscious of the difficulty of preventing the fraud, what way does this bill take to guard against it? You first put the man on his oath; you then hold out inducements to informers; and even this is not all; no sir, said he, you then call upon the wife to give testimony in condemnation of her husband, thereby breaking up the marital bonds, and altering the established laws of society. The lovely, delicate, trembling female, is rudely dragged before the tribunal created by this bill, and reduced to the condition of either swearing falsely, or of convicting her husband of perjury. Away then, say I, with a system to be executed only by such means. Sir, said Mr. T. if you wish your citizens to be honest and virtuous, do not by your legislation, hold out an invitation to a different state of things. A republican government can only be supported by virtue; and the end of all our legislation should be to encourage our fellow citizens in its daily practice. "Once a debt, always a debt," is a sound rule of policy. The honorable gentleman, (Mr. Hopkinson,) asked