



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

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FOR THE RALEIGH REGISTER.

SPECULATIONS
ON LAND CLAIMS.

Mr. GALES—Suffer me, through the medium of your paper, to offer for the consideration of your readers, a few observations relative to a speculation, which has not been investigated by the public, though studied much by a few, whose thirst for money-making, cannot easily be satiated. My allusion is to the speculation on Military Land Claims, a speculation which has been carried on with much secrecy and success for a considerable time past, and stands almost without a precedent in the annals of our country. That my ideas may be more easily comprehended, let us take a retrospective view, and examine the philanthropic motives which actuated our Legislature when they guaranteed those claims to the Revolutionary veterans who fought & bled in the American cause; and who, finally, burst the bands of tyranny which allied us to the mother country. The men who formed this body, were willing to acknowledge the obligations which they were under to those grey-headed fathers, for past services, and wished to extend to them the hand of gratuity, as the last tribute of respect, for the many privations which they had undergone. They were convinced that many of those who took a part in the contest were committed to the narrow confines of the grave, and insensible as to any respect or advantage that could be shown them; but notwithstanding, they were willing that the heir should inherit the reward granted for his father's toil. Under this consideration, it cannot be supposed that those claims were ever intended to afford a source of speculation, but that they should be solely the prerogative of the claimants, or those who were united to them by the ties of blood. This was no doubt the original intention, and the perversion of it is undoubtedly a complete dereliction of the benefit it was intended to produce.

If we now examine the manner in which this business has been conducted, and make an estimate of the advantage which has accrued to the persons to whom these claims were granted, we shall no doubt find that it is comparatively small—and that the speculator has enriched himself by securing the greatest proportion of the bounty. But I might be asked, shall not a claimant be permitted to sell his claim, and shall not a person be at liberty to effect a purchase? To this I answer in the affirmative, provided the purchaser be willing to give an equivalent, and not get that which is valuable, for what is comparatively nothing. We are apprised of the situation of many of these claimants.—There are some laboring under the infirmity of age, grasping a crutch in one hand and a cane in the other; and those who are young, many of them are illiterate & obscure in consequence of their extreme poverty. These are the kind of men who are naturally inclined to be credulous, and liable to be taken in by those whose interest it is to deceive them. The claimant is hunted for by the speculator, who comes in the garb of dissimulation, and depreciates as much as possible the value of the claim, stating that it is scarcely within the limits of possibility that it will ever be of any avail; enumerates many difficulties that are to be removed, and expenses to be incurred, if perchance the right should ever be confirmed. He does not come in the generous language of friendship, and state the probable value of the claim, and make an offer of any thing like an equivalent for it, but gets it for a mere trifle, and represents that in the light of a donation. This is the manner in which the claims that are good are obtained from the claimants; and I have no doubt that there have been many collected, and testimony procured by fraudulent means, which ought never to have been allowed.—I am clearly of opinion that if the manner in which this business has been conducted were examined, there would be found to exist much imposition.—The course which has been pursued, so far as it relates to the collecting of testimony for the purpose of substantiating these claims, has led, no doubt, to the violation of the most sacred obligations. I submit this opinion on the broad basis of justice and equity, and

hold it to be true, and beyond the power of contradiction; and where the sanctity of the law is disregarded, and the administration of an oath is only considered formal, the government must be in a precarious situation, and such practices must have a tendency to demoralise society. Perjury and forgery have become familiar acts in this business; and if it were the poor abandoned wretches alone who bartered their oaths and committed the transgression, their offence might receive some degree of palliation, from their entire dependence, and being cast off from society; but I cannot divine how acts like these can be reconciled by those men who wish to be considered respectable, who derive a benefit from these violations.—They must expect their names to be branded with infamy while on earth, and after death their memories to pass through the furnace of reproach.

The Old Soldier's Friend.

SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

To the state of Pennsylvania may be awarded the distinguished honour of having afforded to her sister states the first and best examples of the employment of benevolence and economy in relieving the poor, and correcting the vicious classes of society. The excellence of her institutions consists simply in the introduction of one principle—that is, industrious labor—exact of all, and suited to the capacity and ability of all, who become a public charge, either from poverty or crime. Many of the advantages of this system, and the various modes in which it can be applied, are obvious on the slightest reflection: it has stood the test of long experience, and has been copied more or less, in nearly all the states of the Union. It has, indeed, found its way across the Atlantic, & England is now making the experiment, having erected a Penitentiary on a large scale in or near London. One of the branches of this philanthropic system, which has been in operation many years in Pennsylvania, has appeared to us to exemplify, in an eminent degree, the wisdom and humanity of its authors. We allude to the establishment of Farms in the several counties of the State, for the residence, employment, and maintenance of their Poor. These establishments, while they relieve society of a great portion of the burthen of providing for its poor, are real asylums for the helpless and destitute, as experience shews, they completely put an end to mendicity and vagrancy, heretofore the reproach and the pest of all civilized countries. These farms are cultivated wholly by the paupers and vagrants who reside on them, and, where long enough established for industry to develop its effects, they are amongst the most productive and most beautiful in the highly improved State of Pennsylvania.—It would be very unnecessary to employ arguments to demonstrate the superior economy or humanity of employing these wretched beings in the wholesome occupations of agriculture, and, where expedient and practicable, of manufactures, over the old plan of crowding them into poor-houses, supporting them in idleness, and, in fact, increasing rather than diminishing the sum of squalid and disgusting wretchedness. Nor is it our intention to say much on the subject.

The remarks we have made, proceeded from an article which we met with in a Philadelphia paper, relative to the poor establishment in Chester county. The facts which it furnishes are not the most striking we have seen—not so much so, we believe, as those afforded by the experiment made with the system in our own city—but, as they have presented themselves to our view, they are worth copying.

The article alluded to states, that in Chester county, in the year 1797, when the old system was in operation, 119 paupers cost \$6823 to keep them, or \$52 18 each.

In 1820, the number of paupers provided for was 320, the cost of whose support, by the new plan, was \$8120, or \$25 38 each. Under the old plan, that number would have cost \$16,697. To this we may add the fact, that in Salem, Mass. by employing their paupers in agriculture and manufactures, they support 300 during the last year for \$3,000 or \$20 for each pauper,

These facts go to demonstrate only the economy of the new system. Its other advantages are, in our opinion, too plain to require the aid of argument or illustration.—Nat. Int.

COTTON SEED

Some Broad Cast would furnish a good substitute for Clover, to improve old fields in the Southern States.

FROM THE SOUTHERN PATRIOT.

"Inclosing for the sake of rearing vegetables to enrich the earth, is the mode by which the greatest quantity of atmospheric manure can be infused into it with the least labor."—Taylor's Arator.

Charleston, June 5th, 1821.

Mr. EDITOR, Whatever difference of opinion exists among agricultural writers, as respects the food of plants, it is agreed by all farmers, that covering the surface of the earth from the injurious effects of the summer months, with some vegetable matter, and restoring to the same this substance previous to its cultivation, is one of the most beneficial modes of renewing its fertility. The author of Arator has so fully illustrated this branch of practical agriculture, that I am aware any observations I could offer would be deemed superfluous. In the Southern States, however, I much doubt if any of the kinds of clover can be advantageously employed in the mode so much extolled in the Northern States; and, from recent information, it appears, that strong fears are felt, this may fail even there, from some deficiency in the clover, from causes not fully understood, which have induced their farmers to turn their attention to this subject. A writer from North-Carolina, in the American Farmer, has recommended our common Cow Pea, to be sowed broad cast, and in the fall, after frost, to be ploughed in deep. This plan, in part, has been often practised with success, upon lands intended for what in our state; and if I am correctly informed, was used with considerable advantage, to ensure a good crop of oats, by one of our members of Congress, (Wm. Lowndes, Esq.) upon his farm near Charleston, some years ago. I have some objection to the use of the Pea, not however, from any idea of its not answering, but from the disposition we planters have of taking from the earth every thing it yields us in the shape of grain—and the writer alluded to, fully bears me out in this conclusion. He recommends a certain portion of the peas to be gathered, and I fear if the land produced a good crop of Peas, they would all be picked off, and some of the stock upon the plantation would consume the best part of the vines. I must further conclude, that the vegetable employed should not be suffered to produce its fruit, or remain till frost, as either of these states would lessen its value when restored to the earth, unless the whole be ploughed in, which I much doubt would often be the case if the Pea crop was a good one. From the result of a few trials with Cotton Seed, I am induced to recommend this plant as a mode of restoring fertility to our lands when in fallow, to be used in the following manner. From the first to the middle of July, break up the field with a shovel plough, and then sow the same broad cast with cotton seed, which has been prepared in the same way as if for planting, at the rate of five bushels of seed per acre—after this, harrow in the seed, or if time permits, I much prefer ploughing in the seed with a small plough. If the land be intended for winter grain, about the middle of September turn in the cotton deep, with a shovel plough, and the first week in October, track off the land with a plough at from 18 inches to 2 feet, for the gram, so that the crop may have the great benefit of the hoe and plough during its growth. I have found October the best month for planting our winter grain, except barley, unless this be intended for a pasture. If the land be intended for cotton or corn, let one furrow be run at the distance the beds are intended to be with a sharp and long tracking plough, and then have the field well listed, to remain in that state till the planting season. This listing will be much expedient, if several furrows are run with a shovel plough, between each of those intended as the foundation of the beds. The many advantages which are connected with the cultivation of old lands, fully justify the farmer in making every exertion to restore and keep up their fertility. The situation of the fields in the harvest of the crop—the diminished quantity of labor in their preparation, and in the culture of the crop, together with a greater certainty of a crop over new lands, which require so much labor to prepare them, are well worth the serious consideration of the planter—and hence we so often find our old fields continued in cultivation, till totally exhausted. The usual opinion among planters has been, that it is easier to clear a new field than manure an old one. If this were even correct, in many of our first settled districts, all the best lands have been cleared, and the old fields must be abandoned, or their fertility restored.

When we consider the time necessary to prepare, in a proper manner, our new lands for cultivation, if the enclosing sys-

tem was resorted to, and in the fall before frost, some vegetable substance was restored to the earth, our lands would continue to yield well for a longer period, and our corn fields would be much benefited by listing, in the stalks, grass, &c. to rot during the winter, instead of remaining till spring, which is the usual practice.—Much benefit might be expected to follow, from strewing over the fields the trash and decayed vegetable matter from our wood lands; and instead of clearing new lands, let the same time be employed in conveying the top soil from our woods to our old fields, as has been alluded to by Dr. Black, of Delaware, in the American Farmer. Upon our sea shores the salt marsh and mud is successfully used by our planters. In urging the advantages of the use of clover to aid the enclosing system, it is observed that "the tap root of the clover also advances the intention of the inclosing system in several respects, by piercing the earth to a considerable depth, apertures or pores are created for imbibing and sinking deeper a greater quantity of atmospheric manure, so well defended by the shade of the top, and the friability thus communicated to the soil, affords a most happy facility to the plough, for turning in its vast bed of vegetable matter." The cotton plant, while young and tender, and sowed as I have recommended, appears to have every claim to these great facilities for improving the soil; and I cannot conceive why a mass of young cotton, from 8 to 9 inches high, should not, when well buried in the earth, produce the same beneficial effects to the soil as the clover, which is so much approved of in England and our sister states. With reference to the idea of conveying the trash and topsoil from our wood lands, being preferable to clearing new lands, I hope it will not be deemed too theoretical, since I presume the greatest objection to the plan must be its difficulty, and I must think that the same time and labor devoted to this business, that it requires to clear and prepare new lands, would insure better crops and a preservation of much timber, which is now a scarce article upon many of our old settled plantations.

A COTTON PLANTER.

THE JEW.

From the Christian Herald.

Travelling lately through the Western part of Virginia, I was much interested in hearing an old and highly respectable clergyman give a short account of a Jew, with whom he had lately become acquainted. He was preaching to a large and attentive audience, when his attention was arrested by seeing a man enter, having every mark of a Jew on the lineaments of his countenance. He was well dressed, his countenance noble, though it was evident his heart had lately been the habitation of sorrow. He took his seat and was all attention, while an unconscious tear was often seen to wet his manly cheek. After service the clergyman fixed his eyes steadily upon him, and the stranger reciprocated the stare. The good minister goes up to him; "Sir, am I correct, am I not addressing one of the children of Abraham?" "You are." "But how is it that I meet a Jew in a Christian assembly?"—"The substance of his narrative was as follows:

He was a very respectable man, of a superior education, who had lately come from London; and with his books, his riches, and a lovely daughter of seventeen had found a charming retreat on the fertile banks of the Ohio. He had buried the companion of his bosom before he left Europe, and he now knew no pleasure but the company of his endeared child.—She was indeed worthy of a parent's love. She was surrounded by beauty as a mantle; but her cultivated mind, and her amiable disposition, threw around her a charm superior to any of the tinsel decorations of the body. No pains had been spared on her education. She could read and speak with fluency several different languages, and her manners charmed every beholder. No wonder, then, that a doating father, whose head had now become sprinkled with grey, should place his whole affection on this only child of his love, especially as he knew no source of happiness beyond this world. Being a strict Jew, he educated her in the strictest principles of his religion, and he thought he had presented it with an ornament.

It was not long ago since his daughter was taken sick. The rose faded from her cheek, her eye lost its fire, her strength decayed, and it was soon apparent that the worm of disease was rooting in the core of her vitals. The father hung over the bed of his daughter with a heart ready to burst with anguish. He often attempted to converse with her, but seldom spoke but by the language of tears. He spared no trouble nor expense in procuring medical assistance, but no human skill could extract the arrow of death now fixed in her heart. The father was walking in a small grove near his house, wetting his steps with his tears, when he was sent for by his dying daughter. With a heavy heart he entered the door of the chamber, which he feared would soon be the entrance of death. He was now to

take a last fare well of his child, but his religion gave but a feeble hope of meeting her hereafter.

The child grasped the hand of her parent with a death-cold hand. "My father do you love me?" "My child, you know I love you—that you are more dear to me than all the world beside?" "But father, do you love me?" "Why, my child, will you give me pain or exquisite? have I never given you any proofs of my love?" "But, my dearest father, do you love me?" The father could not answer; the child then added, "I know, my dear father you have ever loved me—you have been the kindest of parents, and I tenderly love you—Will you grant me one request, O, my father, it is the dying request of your daughter—will you grant it?" "My dearest child, ask what you will, though it take every cent of my property, whatever it may be, it shall be granted. I will grant it." "My dear father, I beg you never again to speak against Jesus of Nazareth!" The father was dumb with astonishment. "I know (continued the dying girl) I know but little about this Jesus, for I was never taught. But I know that he is a Saviour, for he has manifested himself to me since I have been sick, even for the salvation of my soul. I believe he will save me, although I have never before loved him. I feel that I am going to him—that I shall ever be with him. And now my father do not deny me; I beg that you will never again speak against this Jesus of Nazareth!"—I entreat you to obtain a testament that tells of him; and I pray you may know him; and when I am no more, you may bestow on him the love that was formerly mine."

The exertion here overcome the weakness of her feeble body. She stopped; and the father's heart was too full even for tears. He left the room in great horror of mind, and ere he could gain sufficient fortitude, the spirit of his accomplished daughter had taken its flight, as I trust, to that Saviour whom she loved and honored without seeing or knowing. The first thing the parent did after committing to the earth his last earthly joy, was to procure a New Testament. This he read; and taught by the spirit from above, is now numbered among the meek and humble followers of the lamb!

A RUNAWAY.

TAKEN up and committed to Jail in Raleigh, on the 31st August, a Negro Man who calls himself JOHN. He is of a black complexion, about five feet three inches high, about thirty years old; says he belongs to Samuel Casbey living at Richland District, S. C. near Columbia, and that he left the service of Mrs. Barras, two miles from Columbia, last May. The owner is requested to come forward, move property, pay charges, and take him away. JOHN DUNN, Jailor.

Sept. 6, 1821.

SHOCCO FEMALE ACADEMY.

DOCTOR THOMAS COTTRELL returns thanks to the Public, for that liberal share of patronage which he has hitherto received; witnessing an increase every successive Session. The Institution at the commencement of the ensuing year will be permanently established at the well known, highly respectable & healthy place, Shady Grove, about four miles from where it now is. The School is in a flourishing situation at this time; and from the general satisfaction which has been given by his Lady and Son, the governess and instructor of the Students; their unremitting attention, good government and success in the advancement of their pupils in the Literary and Ornamental branches of education, he flatters himself that he will continue to merit the attention and enjoy the interest of his friends.

There are some advantages attendant on this institution not common in the country—the opportunity of regularly attending public and divine service under the superintendance both of an itinerant and local ministry. Medical aid in the family without cost. Every important branch of female education is taught, except music. While times continue as they are, the price of Board and Tuition will be one hundred dollars per annum, or fifty dollars per Session—payable in advance. N. B. Boys not exceeding ten years of age, admitted. June 28. 36 1/2 miles.

THE County Court of Bertie have appointed Commissioners to contract for the building of two Fire Proof Houses on the public lot in the town of Windsor. The buildings are to be alike in all respects, each to be 39 feet long, 15 feet wide, and 16 feet high, and to be divided into three rooms. Two of the rooms are to be 15 feet by 13 feet, and the other to be 15 feet square. Each room is to have a fire-place, two windows, and a door opening on the street. The rooms to be neatly plastered and white-washed; the walls of the building are to be of brick, and the roof of tile or slate; the doors and window-shutters are to be covered with sheet-iron. A more minute description can be had by personal application to the undersigned, who will exhibit the designs. The work is to be completed before November, 1822. Proposals for the contract may be addressed by letter, post paid, to the undersigned until the second Monday of November next, when (if not before) the same will be made with the lowest bidder. Attention

WM. LEE GRAY, Windsor, N. C. Jan 24, 1822. 42-1