



FROM THE WESTERN CAROLINEAN.

Narrative of the State of Religion, within the bounds of the Synod of North-Carolina.

In a free conversation on the subject of moral and benevolent societies, and on the state of religion generally, the Synod of North-Carolina are happy to receive from the different churches such interesting and heart-cheering intelligence.

It is with pleasure that we learn that almost universal attention is paid to the religious instruction of the rising generation. Sabbath schools seem every where to prevail.

The monthly concert for prayer has been generally established, and is well attended. It is pleasing to discover so general a disposition to encourage this meeting.

On some congregations, Bible, Tract, Missionary, Moral and Peace Societies have been instituted, and attended with success.

We are happy to learn, from the report of our congregations, that the people of color have not been neglected. An attention to their religious interests is evidently increasing throughout our bounds.

Thus, while other parts of christendom, in this age of christian philanthropy, are engaged in promoting the cause of the Saviour by means of pious and benevolent institutions, the churches within our bounds have not been deficient.

But while we are thankful for the establishment and success of such institutions, we would peculiarly bless God for the outpouring of the spirit which he has visited many of our churches.

In the congregations of Eno and Little River, still greater solemnity is visible; fourteen have lately joined the church, and the number of souls in both congregations that are still inquiring, is about one hundred.

In the congregations of Third Creek, Back Creek and Unity, have been specially visited with the influences of divine grace; fifty have lately publicly professed religion; twenty more are hopefully pious, and about thirty are still anxiously seeking.

rising up to become useful members of the church, when the heads of their fathers are laid in the dust. (There is one circumstance connected with this revival which is worthy of attention: It is remarkable that most of those who, at the commencement, opposed and ridiculed the work, were themselves deeply humbled under a sense of their sins, and brought low at the footstool of mercy.

These revivals were carried on without noise or tumult during public worship. Every thing like enthusiasm was discouraged.

In reviewing such scenes, our hearts swell with the warmest gratitude to God for the interest and tender care which he manifests for his Zion. We feel grateful that he has not withdrawn his presence from us, but that he has visited some of our churches with the copious showers of divine grace, and others with the gentle droppings of his blessed spirit.

In consequence of the cheering intelligence contained in the above report, the Synod adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Synod appoint the first Monday in December next, as a day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING to ALMIGHTY GOD, for the special blessings with which he has favored several congregations under our care, in reviving religion, and in giving us in general the blessings of health, and in favoring us with fruitful seasons.

And the Synod also recommend, that the churches under our care, on the day above named, offer up their prayers to Almighty God, for a general revival of religion within our bounds, and throughout the world.

FROM THE GEORGIA JOURNAL.

ADDRESS,

Delivered before the Putnam Agricultural Society, at their meeting on the third Monday in August, by the Hon. C. B. STRONG, President.

Whilst others are indulging in politics, and engaged in all the rancour of party animosity, ours is the pleasing task to assemble for the peaceful and useful purpose of promoting and improving the chief of arts. An art which combines theory with useful practice, in the success and advancement of which, every order and class of our communities is intrinsically interested, and to which our beloved country is fundamentally indebted for its power and importance in the community of nations—the art of Agriculture.

In my previous occasions, I have endeavored to develop our views and ob-

jects. I have urged the necessity of deep horizontal ploughing, and the propriety of using our best efforts to collect and preserve manure, the proper time and mode of distributing it, and the utility and practicability of establishing meadows, as well as cultivating many of the artificial perennial grasses—have pointed out those which have, and are likely to succeed best in fertilizing our fields and proving most beneficial to our stock—have recommended a due attention and preservation of the best seed of every plant we cultivate, and the improvement of all the useful kinds of animals, by procuring the best breeds, and properly attending to judicious crosses.

But before I advance further, permit me to remark, that whatever subject is advanced that has the appearance of novelty, however ancient it may actually be in theory and practice, and how rational soever the principles upon which it rests; yet it is with extreme difficulty that the prejudices in favor of the hoary practice can be removed.

But I thank our all-bountiful Creator, that our lines have fallen in pleasant places, and that we indeed have a goodly heritage.—Under the mildest and most rational form of government under the sun, and in one of the most fertile sections of our beloved country, the human mind is rapidly shaking off the rust of antiquity, and advancing to the limits of human perfection.

It is not then a subject of surprise that our farmers should see and acknowledge a close connexion between chemistry and agriculture, and the improvement of the latter depends upon a judicious, practical application of many of the principles of the former. This branch of natural philosophy is so eminently conducive to the promotion and improvement of agriculture, that it ought to be the duty of every farmer as well as his pleasure, to become more or less acquainted with it.

But I come to the more immediate and practical objects of communication.

The present season of the year invites a renewal of the subject of seed. Good seed, whether of corn, wheat, cotton, or any other plant of the vegetable kingdom which are useful to our species, are of primary importance.—Seed is the embryo contained in the fruit of vegetables. It is that part of a plant which comprises the rudiments of a new production of its kind. The organized particles are called the germ or bud, (as was remarked to you last year) and is the whole future plant in miniature.

It is obvious, from this description of seed, that the larger and more fully perfected the seeds are, which you select & sow or plant, the larger will be your embryo plants. If carefully selected, preserved and planted or sowed, the plant or vine will come up bold and vigorous, and stand a good chance to overcome all obstacles, and attain speedy and high perfection. Success in farming will be increased by due care in the selection of grain, seed and roots, from those which have attained the greatest degree of perfection, on the best and most healthy plants.

The time is fast approaching, when we shall have to select and put away cotton seed for our future crops. The rot has again made its appearance. After the most diligent enquiry and thorough consideration of all that has been published upon this mysterious disease in cotton, I am fully persuaded that proper choice of seed from the most healthy and vigorous plants, and largest and best matured

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bolts, will form the best preventive. Some persons are anxious to save the seed of the very first cotton that opens. I do not approve of that plan, because those bolts are usually premature and small. I would therefore discard the very first bolts that open, and seed from those only that arrive at the greatest perfection in point of size and soundness, from the last of August until frost. Careful hands should be employed for this express purpose, and the cotton which they gather should be sunned, kept separate, and when ginned, the seed should be carefully kept dry in some convenient place, where they should never be suffered to lie more than a foot in depth. A few planters within my knowledge have been in the habit of carefully selecting and preserving their seed, and the most minute and faithful observation, has convinced my mind beyond a doubt, that the crops are more productive and less subject to rot. The same rules should be observed in regard to the selection and preservation of every other description of useful seed.

The course of rotation proper to be adopted in this state where cotton is so extensively cultivated, must necessarily differ from that practised in the middle or eastern states. I must candidly acknowledge that I have not fully made up my mind upon this branch of agriculture. My present object is to draw the attention of the members of this society to the investigation of this important subject, that proper experiments may be made and their results reported.

I will however, just offer my present impressions upon this subject. New grounds should first be planted in Indian corn and peas, or sowed in turnips, corn and peas again the second year, then cotton for two years in succession, then corn; then sowed in wheat, then the ground should remain enclosed, ungrazed, and rest for one year. The first and second fall thereafter (about frost) it should be turned over with a deep mould board plough, and the two succeeding years planted again in cotton, then corn, then small grain, and again rest with similar or the same ploughings, and so on, constantly bearing in mind that close grazing injures the land more than judicious cultivation. When land is what is called half worn, it should be planted in corn, upon the levelling plan; then sowed in small grain, then rest for one year, and after proper fall or winter ploughings, it will bear a crop of cotton. Peas should never be intermixed with corn when wheat is intended as the succeeding crop; unless the farmer will spare time & labour to bury the vines and stalks in the centre furrow of the rows or lands; for otherwise they will be much in the way. If land is very much exhausted, the spots most worn at least should be manured, and it should not be cultivated more than one year in three until it is resuscitated. Cotton is a cleansing crop; pulverizes and prepares ground for any thing else, particularly for the growth of the perennial grasses which are great fertilizers.

But whatever crop is cultivated, or course of rotation pursued, the ground should, before it is planted, be prepared by a deep horizontal ploughing. For if the natural stratum of soil is not sufficiently deep, it should be made so by art, to give free course to the roots and retain moisture for their nourishment. The advantages of deep ploughing are manifold. In the first place the roots extend far when they meet no resistance, and the growth above the surface corresponds to that below. Roots cramped in shallow soil are dwarfish, and consequently so is the tree or plant above; the deeper the soil and the better the ground is pulverized, the better enabled will the growing crop be, to resist the attacks of an unkindly season. Deep soil affords not only space for the roots to range in, but holds a due proportion of water for nourishing the plant. If more rain falls than is usual, it soaks more freely; and if your ground is laid off horizontally, when it is saturated and the water furrows are filled, the whole row being upon a level, the surplus water will pass off at the ends of the rows without injury. Thus the soil and a sufficient store of water is retained without injury to the crop, and it is prepared for drought; whereas excess of moisture or drought are equally incident to shallow, ploughed land. Water will not readily

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penetrate a stiff, cloggy soil. Frequent deep ploughing in the winter will lighten such soil, especially if the substratum is sandy. Loose, porous soil will not retain sufficient moisture; clay is the best manure to such land, and when the substratum is clay, deep ploughing will intermix it with the soil, and form a proper texture. Ploughing keeps the soil loose for roots to take their natural range and open, admitting air, dew and rain. Dew, in particular, which falls in plenty in this climate, & has a fertilizing quality, when most wanted, is lost upon hard soil, being exhaled by the action of the sun; but it sinks deep in loose soil, and is sheltered from the sun's power, so it will be perceived that the advantages of deep ploughing are manifest. By practicing this improvement then, you will deepen your soil, and enhance the product of your crops.

I speak from experience, drawn from actual and repeated practice. Permit me, gentlemen, to detail the result of one experiment. I ploughed a thirty acre field which was nearly worn out, with Freeborn's patent plough, very deep, and then had the drills laid off horizontally, ridged and planted in corn. I intended that the rows should have been full six feet apart; but in this my instructions were not followed, and they approached within five feet of each other. The stalks of corn were left about eighteen inches in the drill. It was ploughed twice only, and slightly hoed the same number of times.

Notwithstanding the heavy rains which have fallen this season, the ground has remained light, and there are but three breaks or washes in the whole field, which deserve notice; and even there more soil has not passed away, than would have gone off along three rows, had it been laid off upon the usual transverse plan.

Had it been laid off accurately, I am persuaded there would not have been a single break; but that the whole surface and every thing thereon would have been retained; indeed, as it is, the very bloom and dust of the tassels and sediment of the earth, upon the greater portion of this uneven field has been retained.

The crop is abundant, and I am confident would have been proportionally more so, if the season had been moderately dry. The heavy showers which usually fall in this climate in June, July and August, are retained and penetrate to the roots, whereas, if it were laid off and planted in rows each way, a considerable portion of the rain would run off, affording but little benefit to the crop, and much injury by washing to the soil, but as it is, both rain and soil are retained.

Having tested this improved mode of culture, by actual and successful experiment, myself, and witnessed its beneficial effects upon the plantations of others, I do most earnestly recommend its practice to every member of this society and this community.

The process of laying off a field is not so difficult nor tedious as one would suppose, and, when accomplished, it is a permanent advantage; for if the succeeding year, you want to plant it again in corn or sow it in wheat, you have only to open your water or centre furrow, and reverse your belts or ridges by lapping them upon those furrows, and thus you save time and labor of checking and ridging; for when your field is once broken up, it is ridged ready for planting. All this should be effected in the fall, or early in the winter, with a large deep mould-board plough, and then, unless the soil is very stiff, it will remain through the spring and summer loose and ductile, and require but slight culture. The breadth of the rows should be from six to eight feet apart, according to the depth and fertility of the soil, and the corn left from eighteen inches to two feet apart, on the drill; and if you desire to change your crop, and plant cotton, you may then equally divide your rows, and that will give you a proper distance. If it is your wish to sow it in small grain, all you have to do, when it is thus broken up, is to sow the grain and harrow it, taking care to leave the ridges as high as possible, to prevent it from washing, so that time and labor are eventually saved, the soil manured and preserved, and the product increased. The levelling, horizontal mode of cropping goes hand in hand with the proper system of rotation. It is equally consistent with the enclosing plan, and absolutely necessary (on broken land) to the manuring system; because, by opening the water furrow, you form a groove in which the stalks, vines and other litter of the preceding crop, and manures collected from elsewhere, may be deposited, and by lapping the whole top or bed back upon that furrow, the manure is completely covered and protected from evaporation, or the washing of heavy rains. I conceive it therefore the foundation upon which, in a hilly country, agricultural improvement must be principally built.

Thus far, gentlemen, I have avoided theory that is not immediately connected with practice. We will, in some future communication, endeavor to show the use of chemistry to illustrate agricultural

See Mr. Jefferson's letter, published in Agriculture.