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# The Oxford Mercury

## AND DISTRICT TELEGRAPH.

BY JOHN CAMERON.

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**THE MERCURY**  
 Will be issued every Friday at THREE DOLLARS per Annum, payable in advance.  
 Persons forwarding five subscribers, with the amount for said numbers, shall receive a copy of our paper gratis.  
 ADVERTISEMENTS—One dollar for every 14 lines, and 25 cents for each succeeding insertion.  
 Court orders and Judicial advertisements will be charged 25 per cent higher.  
 A liberal deduction will be made in favour of advertisers by the year.  
 All letters to the Editor must come free of Postage to insure attention.

After mature deliberation, we have concluded in raising the Mercury, to do so upon the cash principle. It can make no possible difference to the subscribers in general, and when they take into consideration the infinity of trouble attending the collection of a number of such small debts, we trust that they will come to the same conclusion with ourselves & be satisfied with our course.

**AGENTS FOR THE MERCURY.**  
 R. J. MITCHELL, Oxford, N. C.  
 Maj. C. H. WILEY,  
 JOHN H. WEBB, Hillsborough, N. C.  
 GEORGE W. JONES, Red Mountain, N. C.  
 JOHN W. SYME, East, Petersburg, Va.  
 EDWIN G. READE, Person Co., N. C.  
 MICHAEL W. FERRELL, Halifax, N. C.

Being like every other man of taste a dear lover, of that "sine qua non," at every southern man's dinner table a fine juicy ham, we invite the attention of our readers to the following recipe for curing them, which it strikes our fancy must be a good one.—Try it some of you and then we will be certain.

**PREPARATION OF HAMS IN KENTUCKY.**  
 Messrs Gaylor and Tucker—There have been published many modes of curing bacon; and in the cases in which these have been the result of experience, they may all be successful, and entitled to the confidence of the public. Some, perhaps, are more simple, less laborious, and more uniformly safe than others. The following mode has stood the test of thirty-five years' experience without a single failure—of twenty-seven years in Spottsylvania county, Virginia, and of eight in Kentucky, where I now reside. I can, therefore recommend it as a safe and certain mode of making sound, sweet bacon. The salt used in Virginia was Liverpool blown salt; in Kentucky the Kanawha and Goose creek. The ashes from hickory or the sugar maple.

I will now begin at the beginning, and describe the whole process minutely, promising, however, that to have good bacon, we must have good pork, neatly dressed or cleaned. It is important that the hogs should be killed in proper weather, by which I mean that the weather should be such that the hogs, hung up after they are cleaned, should not be only cold to the touch, but feel stiff, not frozen, after hanging up till the animal heat is out. I always kill on one day, and cut out and salt up the next. If the weather is quite cold after they are killed, I put the hogs in the cellar that they may not freeze; if the weather is moderately cool, I let them hang up in the air all night. The cutting out is the next operation. This need not be described further than to say that the back bone or chine should be taken out, as also the spare ribs from the shoulders, and the mouse pieces and short ribs or griskins from the middlings. No acute angles should be left to shoulders or hams. In salting up in Virginia, I put all the meat, except the heads, jowls, chins, and smaller pieces, into powdering tubs (water tight half hogheads) in Kentucky I have used large troughs, ten feet long, and three or four feet wide at the top, made of the Liriodendron tulipifera or poplar tree. These are much the most convenient for packing the meat in, and are easily caulked if they should crack so as to leak. The salting tray or box in which the meat is to be salted, piece by piece, and from which each piece, as it is salted, is to be transferred to the powdering tub or trough, must be placed just so near the trough, that the man standing between can transfer the piece from one to the other easily, and without wasting the salt as they are lifted from the salting box into the trough. The salter stands on the off side of the salting box. Salt the hams first, the shoulders next, and the middlings last, which may be piled up two feet above the top of the trough or tub. The joints will thus in a short time be immersed in brine.

Measure into your salting tray, four measures of salt, (a peck measure) have found most convenient,) and one measure of clean dry sifted ashes; mix and incorporate them well. The salter takes a ham into the tray, rubs the skin side with this composition and the raw hock end, turns it over and packs the composition of salt and ashes on the fleshy side till it is at least three quarters of an inch deep all over it, and as much on the interior lower part of the ham, which is covered with the skin, as will lay on it. The man who stands ready to transfer the pieces as they are salted, takes up the piece and deposits it carefully without displacing the composition, with the skin side down, in the bottom of trough. Each succeeding ham is thus deposited side by side, so as to leave the least

possible space unoccupied. When the bottom is all covered, see that every visible part of this layer of meat is covered with the composition of salt and ashes. Then begin another layer, every piece being covered on the upper, or fleshy side three quarters of an inch thick with the composition. When your trough is filled even full in this way with the joints, salt the middlings with salt only without the ashes, and pile them upon the joints so that the liquified salt may pass from them into the trough. Heads, jowls, back-bones, &c. receive salt only, and should not be put in the trough with the large pieces. Much slighter salting will preserve them if they are salted upon loose boards, so that the bloody brine from them can pass off. The joints and middlings are to remain in and above the trough without being rehandled, resalted or disturbed in any way till they are to be hung up to be smoked. If the hogs weighed not more than 150 pounds, the joints need not remain longer than five weeks in the pickle; if they weighed 200, or upwards, six or seven weeks is not too long. It is better that they should stay in too long rather than too short a time. In three weeks, jowls, &c. may be hung up. Taking out of pickle and preparation for hanging up to smoke is thus performed: Scrape off the undissolved salt, and if you had put on as much as directed, there will be a considerable quantity on all the pieces not immersed in the brine. This salt and the brine is all saved; the brine boiled down and the dry composition given to stock, especially to hogs. Wash every piece in lukewarm water, and with a rough towel clean off salt and ashes. Put the strings in to hang up. In Virginia I used for strings white oak splits, in Kentucky hempen strings. Set the pieces up edgewise that they may drain and dry. Every piece is then to be dipped into the meat paint, and hung up to smoke. The meat paint is made of warm, not hot, water and very fine ashes, stirred together till they are of the consistence of thick paint. When the pieces are dipped in this, they receive a coating which protects them from the fly, prevents dripping, and tends to lesson all external injurious influences. Hang up while the pieces are yet moist with the paint, and smoke them well. In this way I have cured from six to eight thousand pounds of bacon every year, for twenty-seven years in Virginia, and eight in Kentucky.

I use at least three bushels of salt to 1,200 pounds of meat. This may be thought extravagant but it insures success, and none of it is lost. For what is left is all fed to the stock, and being mixed with ashes, I believe has a tendency to promote their health more than salt alone.  
 Should you desire it, I will, at some future time, give you our mode of trying up lard, which is not exactly that in common use.  
 Very truly, your obedient serv't  
 JOHN LEWIS.  
 Llangollen, Ky, March 15, 1841.  
*Cultivator*

**DISEASED POTATOES.**  
 The New York Courier and Enquirer says: It appears by the interior papers, that a strange mortality has broken out among the potatoes, and they are going off in thousands of bushels, in all quarters. The Utica Gazette says the disease in that neighborhood first manifests itself by a black spot on the surface of the potato, which rapidly spreads till the whole root becomes soft and worthless. Many farmers have lost their entire crops, the disease in many cases destroying the roots while in the ground, and large quantities have also been destroyed after having been dug and buried in heaps or stored in cellars. Potatoes affected with this disease appears to be very poisonous, large numbers of dogs having died after eating them. Is not this subject worthy the attention of naturalists?

"I DON'T CARE."—Yes you do care; you are only in a pet now, and when you are sobered down and have had time for reflection, you will care. Certainly the world don't care about you, and the world would wag on as it is wont, were you annihilated at this moment; but unless you care for the world you are ruined at once. It is of no avail to get in a pet, and use harsh language and denounce every body around you. It is not a wise spirit that is harbored in your heart; it is the spirit of evil. Where you live you will have much to perplex and torment you, but it is unwise to spit fire, bite your thumbs, or shake your fists at all who come in your reach. Bear up, and preserve with stout heart and kind look. Such a spirit will be worth possessing. It will yield you pure enjoyment, at all times, and draw around you friends who will contribute to your welfare and happiness.

### MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE U. S.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. S.:  
 If any People ever had cause to render up thanks to the Supreme Being for parental care and protection extended to them in all the trials and difficulties to which they have been from time to time exposed, we certainly are that People. From the first settlement of our forefathers on this continent—through the dangers attendant upon the occupation of a savage wilderness—through a long period of Colonial dependence—through the war of the Revolution—in the wisdom which led to the adoption of the existing Republican forms of Government—in the hazards incident to a war subsequently waged with one of the most powerful nations of the earth—in the increase of our population—in the spread of the arts and sciences, and in the strength and durability conferred on political institutions emanating from the People and sustained by their will—the superintendence of an overruling Providence has been plainly visible.—As preparatory, therefore, to entering once more upon the high duties of legislation, it becomes us humbly to acknowledge our dependence upon Him as our guide and protector, and to implore a continuance of His parental watchfulness over our beloved country. We have new cause for the expression of our gratitude in the preservation of the health of our fellow-citizens, with some partial and local exceptions, during the past season—for the abundance with which the earth has yielded up its fruits to the labors of the husbandman—for the renewed activity which has been imparted to commerce—for the revival of trade in all its departments—for the increased rewards attendant on the exercise of the mechanic arts—for the continued growth of our population and the rapidly reviving prosperity of the whole country. I shall be permitted to exchange congratulations with you, gentlemen of the two Houses of Congress, on these auspicious circumstances, and to assure you, in advance, of my ready disposition to concur with you in the adoption of all such measures as shall be calculated to increase the happiness of our constituents, and to advance the glory of our common country.

Since the last adjournment of Congress, the Executive has relaxed no effort to render indestructible the relations of amity which so happily exist between the United States and other countries. The treaty lately concluded with Great Britain has tended greatly to increase the good understanding which a reciprocity of interest is calculated to encourage, and it is most ardently to be hoped that nothing may transpire to interrupt the relations of amity which it is so obviously the policy of both nations to cultivate.

A question of much importance still remains to be adjusted between them. The territorial limits of the two countries in relation to what is commonly known as the Oregon territory, still remain in dispute. The United States would be at all times indisposed to aggrandize themselves at the expense of any other nation; but while they would be restrained by principles of honor, which should govern the conduct of nations as well as that of individuals, from setting up a demand for territory which does not belong to them, they would as unwillingly consent to a surrender of their rights. After the most rigid, and as far as practicable, unbiased examination of the subject, the U. States have always contended that their rights appertain to the entire region of country lying on the Pacific, and embraced within the 42d and 54th degrees and 40 minutes of North latitude. This claim being controverted by Great Britain, those who have preceded the present Executive, actuated, do doubt, by an earnest desire to adjust the matter upon terms mutually satisfactory to both countries, have caused to be submitted to the British Government, propositions for settlement and final adjustment, which, however, have not proved heretofore acceptable. Our Minister at London has, under instructions, again brought the subject to the consideration of that Government; and while nothing will be done to compromise the rights or honor of the United States, every proper expedient will be resorted to in order to bring the negotiation now in the progress of resumption to a speedy and happy termination. In the mean time it is proper to remark, that many of our citizens are either already established in the territory, or are on their way thither for the purpose of forming permanent settlements, while others are preparing to follow—and in view of these facts, I must repeat the recommendation contained in previous messages, for the establishment of military posts, at such places, on the line of travel, as will furnish security and protection to our

hardy adventurers against hostile tribes of Indians inhabiting those extensive regions. Our laws should also follow them, so modified as the circumstances of the case seem to require. Under the influence of our free system of government, new republics are destined to spring up, at no distant day, on the shores of the Pacific, similar in policy and in feeling to those existing on this side of the Rocky Mountains, and giving a wider and more extensive spread to the principles of civil and religious liberty.

I am happy to inform you that the cases which have arisen, from time to time, of the detention of American vessels by British cruisers on the coast of Africa, under pretence of being engaged in the slave trade, have been placed in a fair train of adjustment. In the case of the William and Francis, full satisfaction will be allowed. In the cases of the Tigris and Seaweed, the British Government admits that satisfaction is due. In the case of the Jones, the sum accruing from the sale of that vessel and cargo will be paid to the owners—while I cannot but flatter myself that full indemnification will be allowed for all damages sustained by the detention of the vessel—and in the case of the Douglass, her Majesty's Government has expressed its determination to make indemnification. Strong hopes are therefore entertained, that most, if not all of these cases will be speedily adjusted. No new cases have arisen since the ratification of the Treaty of Washington; and it is confidently anticipated, that the slave trade, under the operation of the eighth article of that treaty, will be altogether suppressed.

The occasional interruption experienced by our fellow-citizens engaged in the fisheries on the neighboring coast of Nova Scotia, has not failed to claim the attention of the Executive. Representations upon this subject have been made, but as yet no definitive answer to those representations has been received from the British Government.

Two other subjects of comparatively minor importance, but nevertheless of too much consequence to be neglected, remain still to be adjusted between the two countries. By the Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, of July, 1815, it is provided that no higher duties shall be levied in either country on articles imported from the other, than on the same articles imported from any other place. In 1836, rough rice, by an act of Parliament, was admitted from the coast of Africa into Great Britain on the payment of a duty of one penny a quarter, while the article from all other countries, including the United States, was subjected to the payment of a duty of 20 shillings a quarter. Our Minister at London has from time to time brought this subject to the consideration of the British Government; but so far without success. He is instructed to renew his representations upon it.

Some years since a claim was preferred against the British Government on the part of certain American merchants, for the return of export duties paid by them on shipments of woollen goods to the United States, after the duty on similar goods exported to other countries had been repealed, and consequently in contravention of the commercial convention between the two nations securing to us equality in such cases. The principle on which the claim rests has long since been virtually admitted by Great Britain, but obstacles to a settlement have from time to time been interposed, so that a large portion of the amount claimed has not yet been refunded. Our Minister is now engaged in the prosecution of the claim, and I cannot but persuade myself that the British Government will no longer delay its adjustment.

I am happy to be able to say that nothing has occurred to disturb in any degree the relations of amity which exist between the U. States and France, Austria and Russia, as well as with the other powers of Europe, since the adjournment of Congress. Spain has been agitated with internal convulsions for many years, from the effects of which it is to be hoped she is destined speedily to recover—when under a more liberal system of commercial policy on her part, our trade with her may again fill its old, and so far as her continental possessions are concerned, its almost forsaken channels, thereby adding to the mutual prosperity of the two countries.

The Germanic Association of Customs and Commerce, which since its establishment in 1833, has been steadily growing in power and importance, and consists at this time of more than twenty German States, and embraces a population of 27,000,000 of people united for all the purposes of commercial intercourse with each other and with foreign states, offers to the latter the most valuable exchanges on principles more liberal than are offered on the fiscal system of any other European power. From its origin, the importance of the German Union has never been lost sight of by the United States. The industry, morality and other valuable qualities of the German nation, have always been well known and appreciated. On this subject I invite the at-

ention of Congress to the report of the Secretary of State, from which it will be seen that while our cotton is admitted free of duty, and the duty on rice has been much reduced, which has already led to a greatly increased consumption, a strong disposition has been recently evinced by that great body to reduce, upon certain conditions, their present duty upon tobacco. This brings the first intimation of a concession on this interesting subject ever made by any European power, I cannot but regard it as well calculated to remove the only impediment which has so far existed to the most liberal commercial intercourse between us and them. In this view, our Minister at Berlin, who has heretofore industriously pursued the subject, has been instructed to enter upon the negotiation of a commercial treaty, which, while it will open new advantages to the agricultural interests of the U. S. and a more free and expanded field for commercial operations, will affect injuriously no existing interest of the Union. Should the negotiation be crowned with success, its results will be communicated to both Houses of Congress.

I communicate herewith certain despatches received from our Minister at Mexico, and also a correspondence which has recently occurred between the Envoy from that Republic and the Secretary of State. It must be regarded as not a little extraordinary that the Government of Mexico, in anticipation of a public discussion, which it has been pleased to infer from newspaper publications, as likely to take place in Congress, relating to the annexation of Texas to the United States, should have so far anticipated the result of such discussion as to have announced its determination to visit any such anticipated decision by a formal declaration of war against the United States. If designed to prevent Congress from introducing that question, as a fit subject for its calm deliberation and final judgment, the Executive has no reason to doubt that it will entirely fail of its object. The Representatives of a brave and patriotic people will suffer no apprehension of future consequences to embarrass them in the course of their proposed deliberations. Nor will the Executive Department of the Government fail, for any such cause, to discharge its whole duty to the country.

The war which has existed for so long a time between Mexico and Texas, has since the battle of San Jacinto, consisted for the most part of predatory incursions which, while they have been attended with much of suffering to individuals, and have kept the borders of the two countries in a state of constant alarm, have failed to approach to any definitive result. Mexico has fitted out no formidable armament by land or by sea for the subjugation of Texas. Eight years have now elapsed since Texas declared her independence of Mexico, and during that time she has been recognized as a sovereign power by several of the principal civilized states. Mexico, nevertheless, perseveres in her plans of reconquest, and refuses to recognize her independence. The predatory incursions to which I have alluded, have been attended, in one instance, with the breaking up of the courts of justice by the seizing upon the persons of the judges, jury and officers of the court, and dragging them along with unarméd, and therefore non-combatant citizens, into a cruel and oppressive bondage, thus leaving crime to go unpunished and immorality to pass unrebuked. A border warfare is evermore to be deprecated, and over such a war as has existed for so many years between these two States, humanity has had great cause to lament. Nor is such a condition of things to be deplored only because of the individual suffering attendant upon it. The effusion of human blood is a crime of the most heinous character, and its fruits for his subsistence. Whatever, therefore, shall make the first or any part of it a scene of desolation, affects injuriously his heritage, and may be regarded as a general calamity. Wars may sometimes be necessary; but all nations have a common interest in bringing them speedily to a close. The U. S. have an immediate interest in seeing an end put to the state of hostilities existing between Mexico and Texas. They are our neighbors, of the same continent, with whom we are not only desirous of cultivating the relations of amity, but of the most extended commercial intercourse, and to practice all the rights of a neighborhood hospitality. Our own interests are deeply involved in the matter, since, however, neutral may be our course of policy, we cannot hope to escape the effects of a spirit of jealousy on the part of both of the powers. Nor can this Government be indifferent to the fact that a warfare, such as is waged between those two nations, is calculated to weaken both powers, and finally to render them, and especially the weaker of the two, the subjects of interference on the part of stronger and more powerful nations who, intent only on advancing their own peculiar views, may sooner or later attempt to bring about a compliance with terms, as the condition of their inner position, like derogatory to the nation granting them and detrimental to the interests of the United States. We could not be expected quickly to permit any such interference to our disadvantage. Considering that Texas is separated from the United States by a mere geographical line, that her territory, in the