

# The CAROLINA Union FARMER



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## Are You Chained to the Soil?

*“Men prosper mentally, physically, morally and spiritually only when they are in close proximity to the soil.”*

That is one way Elbert Hubbard puts it, but he does not get it all in. A man may be too close to the soil—so close that he cannot prosper in any way. A man may be chained to a clod as hopelessly as though he were chained to a rock in prison. The clod is the type of poor, hopeless farming. Water and sunshine do not enter the clod, seeds cannot germinate in it, food and life cannot grow from it. It is a prison in which sublime forces of nature are locked up. There can be no prosperity while men are chained to a clod---no matter how close they come to the soil. They prosper as they learn how to use lime, tillage and other weapons to crush that clod and set the forces of nature free. For man becomes himself free as he gives freedom to other things. As the man learns how to crush his clod and turn it more and more into productive soil he prospers. While still close to the soil he rises above it in mental and moral power. For the man who remains flat on the soil, even though he forces that soil to the limit of its productiveness, is not the best or most useful farmer. That title should go to the man who keeps “close to the soil” and yet grows up and claims and earns his fair share in the market and a fair place in political thought.---Rural New Yorker.