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If the soil with humus, is soft and friable, is clean and not disposed to bake and crust, it is obvious that a crop may be laid by earlier than when opposite conditions prevail. Such soil will not need the late plowing, and root cutting and ventilation of plant is avoided. Again, if land is rich and moist, corn grows rapidly and does its work in a shorter time than on poor dry soil. If laid by therefore in the "bunch" it will mature its ear before there is much need of another working. You hear a farmer say, "I had to lay by that corn with two workings, it grew so fast I could not plow it again." On poor soil, destitute of humus and liable to get hard and bake, the conditions are entirely different. The corn does its work slowly. Its roots do not find food at every turn. The effect of plowing does not last long; another is soon needed; it cannot be laid by early to advantage.

If the soil could be plowed only an inch deep—strictly speaking—and this could be done without breaking down leaves and stalks, and it would be well to continue plowing corn up to the time the grain is in the dough stage. But the conditions we have laid down are almost practically impossible. It is hard to gauge plows to run just that depth, and if one succeeds in doing it, as soon as his back is turned, deeper the plow goes down into the ground. A shallow-running plow is harder to hold steady—the negro wants to be relieved from the labor of holding it to its place—and he likes to see a plow throw a plenty of dirt—that is his best ideal of good plowing.

We conclude, therefore, it is safer to lay by corn rather early—on rich land, when in "bunch"—on poor land, not later than when tasseling. If the roots are cut when the corn gets old, new roots are not formed, readily; growth in every direction is about ceasing. Direct experiments on the effects of root-cutting have shown that it is very injurious to corn after it tassels.—W. L. J., in *Atlanta Constitution*.

THE JOURNAL.

A. S. HUNN, Editor.
W. H. HARPER, Business Manager.

NEW BERNE, N. C., JULY 2, 1887.

Entered at the Post office at New Berne, N. C. as second-class matter.

Comptroller Trenholm is among the Prophets. He foretells of an unusual era of prosperity. So be it.—*Wil. Star*.

Two years ago Mr. Trenholm predicted and published to the world that unless the government ceased coining standard dollars that all the gold in the country would be sent abroad and ruin would be brought upon the country. The government did not cease the coining of the dollars.

Poor old JAKE SHARP has been convicted. The jury were out but thirteen minutes. He is confined in jail and will be sentenced on the 13th of July. In the meantime a new trial will be moved for and every effort made to stay the punishment which justly follows crime. He will be seventy years old next month and will have passed the allotted three score and ten. He played a high hand in bribing "boodle" aldermen but justice has at last overtaken him.

THE Teachers' Assembly has adjourned the session for 1887 after two weeks' work at Morehead City, where a larger number congregated than at any previous session. The work has been both profitable and pleasant to the teachers. They will enter upon their work the coming fall with more experience, with a knowledge of their past errors and a determination to elevate the profession and properly instruct the youth of the State. North Carolina is fully aroused on the question of education. There is an awakening in the country districts—a thing that the JOURNAL has long wished for—which is decidedly encouraging. With this boom in educational matters ought to come the industrial school which has been so much talked of. When it is put into successful operation its influence will begin to spread and soon be felt in every section of the State.

FARMS AND FARMERS.

Short Talks With Farmers on Farm Topics.

WHEN SHOULD CROPS BE LAID BY?
The above question confronts the farmer at present, and a number of inquiries about it have reached us recently. No inflexible rule can be laid down. Here, as in most farming matters, one must take all surrounding circumstances into consideration and exercise sound discretion and judgment. First, as to corn: By the time the plant is in full silk and tassel it has attained to its full growth. All that remains for it to do is to form its ear. This is done chiefly with material already elaborated and distributed through its stalk and leaves; partly, but in smaller degree, from new material from without. Up to the time then the grain begins to harden, the plant is gathering material from soil and air. Its relations to these should not, therefore, be disturbed. Its leaves should not be stripped and its roots should not be cut. Judicious plowing enables it to get materials from the soil more readily; injudicious plowing will greatly interfere with its work in this respect. Moreover, its leaves are then quite liable to be broken off, as well as whole stalks. It becomes a choice, then, between two evils; mutilating the plant above ground and cutting its roots on the one hand, and having the surface

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Why not try Buckwheat.
There are many readers of *The Southern Cultivator* who are not aware that our common buckwheat plant, known as buckwheat, had an Asiatic origin. It is a native of the Volga valley, and was introduced into Spain by the Moors. From Spain it was introduced into Germany and from thence into the other European countries, reaching the colony of New York through the early Dutch settlers. In Germany it is known as *buck-wegen* ("beech wheat") from the fancied resemblance of its seeds to the common beech nut. The English name "buckwheat" is therefore manifestly a mere corruption of the German *buck-wegen*.

In the United States, it thrives best in the border Southern or Middle States; and as it requires continued dry weather is never sown earlier than about the first week in June. The usual method of sowing, in Virginia and Kentucky, is in drills between the rows of corn at the last plowing. It blooms about the last of September, and matures before the early November passes. It yields very abundantly and requires comparatively little attention and no fertilizing. I have known a yield of forty bushels to the acre, weighing nearly fifty pounds to the bushel. And notwithstanding the resemblance of the seed to grain in its qualities and uses, common wheat and other cured crops will generally succeed well after buckwheat, provided care be taken to keep the soil clear of impurities.

It is an economical crop, and there seems no good reason why it might not be cultivated successfully in the northern portions of the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama. The seed, a grain, makes excellent porridge, and when ground the flour makes superior cakes. It is very nutritious, containing from nine to ten per cent of gluten and considerably more than fifty per cent of starch, besides a considerable percentage of sugar. It is better food for horses than is either oats or corn, and its production costs considerably less than either. The stalks and leaves are excellent food for milch cows. I do not remember to have ever seen it growing in Georgia, and have often wondered why our Georgia farmers have never made the experiment. Perhaps some of them have; if so, I should be pleased to learn through the columns of *The Cultivator*, the result of their experiment.—*Southern Cultivator*.

Mrs.—"You have no idea how my husband snores at night!" Mrs. B.—"So does mine; but I've got a remedy. As soon as he begins with his snoring, I tie a mouth harmonicon under his nose, and it makes most lovely music."

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WOMEN FLORISTS.—In the commercial floral business, the successes of women have been many. From personal observation and dealings, the writer has no hesitation in saying that when a male florist is brought into close competition with a female one, the latter will, in nine cases out of ten, bear off the palm. Among flowers she is in her element; her love for the beautiful and artistic will enable her to arrange the plants and flowers in unique and attractive designs, which are entirely beyond the ingenuity of the average male florist; buyers of plants and flowers are not slow to recognize the superior results, and to choose accordingly.—*American Magazine*.

Brace Up.
You are feeling depressed, your appetite is poor, you are bothered with headache, you are fidgety, nervous, and generally out of sorts, and want to brace up. Brace up, but not with stimulants, spring medicines, or bitters, which have for their basis very cheap, bad whiskey, and which stimulate you for an hour, and then leave you in worse condition than before. What you want is an alternative that will purify your blood, start healthy action of liver and kidneys, restore your vitality, and give renewed health and strength. Such a medicine you will find in Electric Bitters, and only 50 cents a bottle at R. N. Duffy's drug store.

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