

Col. Garrison. Geo. Little

NORTH CAROLINA STATE  
D. H. LIE  
UNIVERSITY

# THE ARATOR.



*Agriculture is the great art, which every Government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practice, and every inquirer into nature to improve.—JOHNSON.*

**DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ITS KINDRED ARTS.**

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By THOS. J. LEMAY, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR:

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We recommend the following to the attention and careful perusal of our readers. It is characterized by a degree of plain, practical good sense, which is, unfortunately, generally too scarce an article in the writings of those who discuss the science of agriculture.

### CHEMISTRY APPLIED TO AGRICULTURE —DR. ANDERSON.

BY A FARMER.

THE peculiarity of Dr. Anderson's style of treating questions connected with agriculture is, that he is the first and only one, of the numerous writers which have passed under our notice, who admits that he has anything to learn from practical men. This peculiarity is the more striking as it is the very antipodes of the opinions expressed by more than one of his predecessors. As remarked in a previous paper, the writers on agricultural chemistry were prepared with an answer to every question proposed to them; they knew the value of a manure, or of a hitherto untried article of food, whether for man or beast; they knew, by the aid of analysis, what a soil required to make it

fertile for sugar-cane or cabbage, potatoes or palm trees—no matter whether the soil examined might be from Demerara or Greenland. As the very reverse to such ignorant presumption—for we call it nothing else—Dr. Anderson, in his lecture delivered at Glasgow, acknowledges that he has "questions constantly presented to him, on which he possesses no information at all." In the present days of quacks and quackery in matters bearing on agricultural chemistry, when the agricultural world is in a state of nervous anxiety for information, bold indeed must that man be who makes such an acknowledgment. It is a more cutting reproof to those who thought they had a "solution in their laboratory to every question proposed to them" than we dared to administer. Nor does Dr. Anderson think we shall ever arrive at an answer to these "questions" by the maiden efforts of science. No; "we must depend for their solution on the mutual aid of science and practice; the two must go together."

A correspondent of the *Times* criticises this address very severely, and complains that it contains nothing new. We uphold, on the contrary, that it is entirely new, but more especially in modesty. By the way, we are at a loss to know why the *Times* should have been selected as the medium for criticising Dr. Anderson's lecture, instead of any of the numerous papers and magazines exclusively devoted to agricultural subjects.

Whether such an avowal be complimentary to Dr. Anderson or not, we confess to have derived

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