



# 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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## NORTH-CAROLINA ARATOR.

By THOS. J. LEMAY, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

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From the Southern Cultivator.

### WHEAT CULTURE IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

We rejoice to know that the cultivation of Wheat in the Southern States meets with such encouragement as is likely to make it a valuable staple in a new system of rotation of crops. It should be considered in connection with planting, with the natural and the cumulative wants of the soil, as well as the almost universal desire for Wheat bread. As an article of human food, in no part of the world have mankind voluntarily lessened their daily consumption of Wheat, because they preferred bread made of the meal of maize, rice, rye, barley, oats, or any other cereal. On the contrary, thousands of families in all the States, to say nothing of the daily bread of the masses in Europe, annually consume less meal and more Wheat flour, as their means enable them to consult their taste. On good wheat land, one can raise a bushel of wheat quite as cheaply, as one of corn; but such land is not common, and of course 100 pounds of flour costs more labor than a like quantity of meal, to most producers. If they had all the experience and skill in growing wheat which they possess in the cultivation of corn,

such an increase of knowledge would enable them to reduce the first cost of a bushel of wheat nearly one-half. This valuable knowledge will be acquired, sooner or later, for the increasing millions are sure to perpetuate an increasing market for this grain.

In Dr. Schmitz's translation of Nieburr's "Lectures on Ancient History," may be found the following remarks: (Vol. 1, p. 16) "Man was first created at Babylon; corn [wheat] there grew wild; and the new race of beings there found the first necessary food, especially wheat. This tradition is the more remarkable because several naturalists have made the observation that corn [wheat] does not grow wild in any part of the world. I do not know whether by a process of improvement our garden fruits can be derived from wild fruit; it is well known, however, that the noble Vine Grapes grow wild in Colchis. Whence, then, does Corn come? My opinion is that God made direct provision for man; something was given to all, real Wheat to the Asiatics, and Maize to the Americans."

We cite the above, not so much to record in these pages the "opinion" of so ripe a scholar and so careful an observer as Nieburr, in reference to "the direct provision made for man" by his Creator, as to indicate the fact that the warm valley of the Euphrates, if not that of the Nile, is the earliest known habitat of the plant under consideration. The fact that Egypt has been able to feed indefinite millions at home on wheat, and export a large surplus for three thousand years, proves that our southern climate should be at least as friendly to the cultivation and growth of this grain as any north of us, so far

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