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# 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.

### GRASSES FOR THE SOUTH.

#### GUINEA GRASS—MEANS GRASS.

BY REV. JOHN BACHMAN, D. D., OF CHARLESTON.

EDITORS SOUTHERN CULTIVATOR: In my yesterday's visit to the Agricultural Fair at Atlanta, the pleasure I derived from meeting with many old friends, and others known to me by characters, and whom I was desirous of meeting, was somewhat marred on being reminded of my own negligence, in not having replied to several correspondents, who, for two years past, have written to me for my opinion of the grass recently introduced into the Southern States, under the name of Guinea Grass. I have several excuses which my partial friends, among the rest Col. Sumner, who had written very pressingly on the subject, would, I am sure, readily accept; but I think it the best and shortest mode to plead guilty to the charge of negligence, to promise amendment, and to give an evidence of it in this communication, which I am sure you will publish, if for no other purpose than that of enabling me to make an apology to those

who were entitled to better treatment at my hands.

To return to the grass, I will endeavor in somewhat of a professional habit, to show:

1st. What it is not.

2nd. What it is.

3rd. Offer a few reflections on this singular and providential production.

1. It is not the Guinea Grass. Of this I can speak very positively. The Guinea Grass (*Holcus Polygamum*) bears a general outward resemblance to this variety—it is not unlike it in the shape of the leaves and in the rapidity of its growth, but in all other essential particulars it differs very widely. I cultivated a square in my garden in Charleston, of the true Guinea Grass for more than 25 years. I procured the seeds from my neighbor, the late Mr. Poinsett, having, at that time, no other object in view than that of obtaining for my herbarium specimens of a grass that had contributed so largely to the then prosperity of Jamaica and other West India Islands. So luxuriant, however, was its growth, that I was induced to cultivate it as green food for my cows and horses. The great difficulty was in preserving seeds, which dropped as soon as they ripened, and the roots were invariably killed by the first frost of winter. At length, I adopted the plan of taking up a boxful of roots and removing them to the green-house during the winter, to be subdivided and transplanted in spring. Such, however, was the character of the delicate fibrous roots that, like those of the lemon grass, (*Andropogon schaeenanthus*) similarly constituted, a great majority of the plants perished by the removal. My next and only

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