



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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REPLY TO LITTLE FARMER.

FOR THE ARATOR.

Hills of Tallahatchie Co., Miss., Jan. 15, 1857.

Mr. Editor: I wish to enter my protest against the anti-emigrant sentiments of "Little Farmer," of "Potato Diggins," given in the December No. 1856. Your motto I admire, but he has certainly gone beyond the meaning of the text. Suffer me, therefore, to follow him a short distance, and I will leave him by telling my mode of keeping potatoes, which has proven good for four years.

I would not have him love old North Carolina less, but his country more.—Can our "Little Farmer" figure and cypher and give us the dimensions of paternal love, or tell us where is our native land? Is it in our mother's lap, our father's yard, or around the stars and stripes which wave triumphantly over the broad expanse of this great Republic?

He tells us what Messrs. A, B, C & D have done at improvement, and without figuring and cyphering, throws himself upon declaration, and says it cost him but very little. Now, I would not be disposed to question him, if he had closed here. But with youthful love, and imagination warm, he lets fall the cyphering spine, and grasps the good old State, with hug so tight that she swoons. Come, my friend, loosen your hold a little. Nature, who is affectionate, kind and gentle, but yet powerful in the affairs of men, will sprinkle her with dew and cover her with flowers sweet. Come, I pray thee, just before you set the figures so plainly for the cost of a removal to Arkansas, and cypher up the cost of covering a large old field with dirt, leaves and all sorts of trash from the woods. Set in figures the amount of that "a little extra industry and attention." Tell us, also, how many acres Mr. A's pig pens have improved permanently. I am extremely fond of pork and turnips, and as I have just had a mess and am in quite a good humor, we will say, that, for a little farmer, you exhibit much knowledge of the vast number of farms south of Mason and Dixon's line. How long do you

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