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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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BY THOS. J. LEMAY, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

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For the Arator.

Mr. Editor: I have heard and read a great deal about sub-soil plowing almost every where except in North Carolina. Few, very few, it seems, have tried the important experiment here. It is mortifying to reflect upon the tardy movements of our people, who wrap themselves up in the mantle of ignorance, and exclude from their minds the rays of light which pour in from all quarters, by stupid and obstinate resistance to all book farming. We are thus more than a quarter of a century behind our haughty neighbor on the north. The improved implements and methods of cultivation which I saw in operation there thirty years ago, are just coming into general use among us. Why has the wave of improvement been so slow in its progress? Because it was broken and driven back by the rocky and barren shore of hoary error. How, then, can it be hoped that our

agriculturists of the present generation will adopt the subsoil culture? A few in North Carolina have tried it successfully; but it is feared an age will roll by before the example will be followed by many. Its great utility has been demonstrated in other States, and in the most satisfactory manner particularly on the farm of Prof. Mapes, in New Jersey, and that of Mr. Gifford, New York. The Committee, reporting on the Professor's, say:

“Large numbers of boulders occupied the surface soil, which have been removed; the better portion of the land has been underdrained, and the whole thoroughly sub-soil plowed to a great depth. This free admission of atmosphere into the subsoil, has caused a disintegration of the red kells, and now the whole surface to a great depth is in the finest tilth. From the depth of the disintegration and the influence of the under drains, securing circulation of atmosphere and deposit of moisture by condensation, no drouth is ever felt, [mark this!] all of which was fully set forth by the Committee who visited this farm last year, and who reported that the ‘fences seemed to be a boundary to the drouth.’”

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