

NORTH CAROLINA STATE
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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For the Arator.

A DEEP SOIL.

Mr. Editor:—All acknowledge the value of a deep soil; and when we have it not, it is our business to make it so, as well as to cultivate to the full depth of that which nature has provided for us.

Those which we call our wornout lands, may be reclaimed and fertilized by breaking deep, and using the pea and clover fallow. Many lands of this description have been brought out by this method, both in our country and in Europe. By it the mineral elements necessary for plants, are brought up and mingled in the surface, and the decaying green plants furnish vegetable mould, which, by time and patience and perseverance, we have the satisfaction to see converted into vegetable mould with a due mixture of the mineral—rich and productive above what it was in its original state. In allusion to this,

a late writer, says: "We hear in America, much of the exhausted soil of Europe. I have seen none of it. So far from being exhausted, I think the soil of Europe is now better than ever." And here let it be noted that it was improved in the very way above pointed out.

Speaking of this matter, the American Farmer, truly remarks:

"There is no reason to doubt the fact, but how can this be? The writer attributes it to their excellent system of manuring. But what sort of manuring? Remember that the most perfect system of manuring can scarcely return the mineral or inorganic matter that is consumed upon the farm. But every pound of grain and of food consumed away from the farm, takes off some portion of these mineral elements, which are irretrievably and forever lost to the soil. Now estimate the countless millions who have been consuming these elements, in cities, in manufacturing towns, in travelling by sea and by land and that for centuries, and how small will appear the amount restored to the soil, compared with what has been forever wasted. It is almost as nothing. Even the bones they use are mainly the

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