

THE RALEIGH STAR.

RALEIGH, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1850.

AGRICULTURAL.

CULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

Following interesting letter is from the Col. Isaac Choost, one of those enterprising public spirited men whose residence is in the South, North Carolina has had no reason to deplore:—

From the Alabama Beacon. GREENSBORO, Dec. 19, 1849.

Sir: The lively interest which you have manifested for the agricultural state of Alabama, must be my reason for this communication.

The history of England, for the last two centuries, is a practical illustration of what can be accomplished. In 1685, says Macaulay, the area of her arable and pasture lands, did not amount to more than half the kingdom. Those routes which now run through an endless succession of orchards, hay-fields and bean fields, then ran through nothing but fen, moor, and warren. Scarce a hedgerow was to be seen, and numerous tracts now rich with cultivation, were as bare as Salisbury Plain. At Epsom, hardly out of sight of the smoke of the Capitol, was a region of five and twenty miles in circumference, which contained only three houses and scarcely an enclosed field. In the reign of Charles II., the amount of the various grain crops did not equal one third, and of the wheat crop not one sixth, of the present amount. For the want of winter food for cattle, fresh meat was never eaten even by the higher classes, in the reign of Henry VII., except between Midsummer and Michaelmas. In the course of two centuries some improvement had been made. Under Charles II., between the middle and latter part of the seventeenth century, it was not till the beginning of November, that families laid in their stock of salt provisions, then called Martinmas beef. The sheep, the ox, and the horse, were poor, compared with the present breeds.

What a contrast is here exhibited between England of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries! Compare the meager picture of a former age, with her present condition—with her luxuriant wheat, oat, barley, turnip, hop and bean fields, her verdant meadows, her garden-like cultivation, her immensely increased supply of human food, comfort and wealth, bearing in mind at the same time the unwavering faith of her intelligent agriculturists, still greater future progress, and who will fix a limit to improvements in this noble art? It should not be forgotten that her greatest progress has been in the last thirty years, by the aids and stimulus derived from chemical knowledge. And shall we not imitate such a worthy example? What is there in our history or condition to deter or deride us? Nothing.

On the contrary, there are many inducements to urge us onward. Not only the rich prize in view, but our government and political institutions are improved editions of the English; we have besides the same Anglo-Saxon blood, the same indomitable courage, the same spirit of perseverance, and we inhabit a land, which if it does not like Goshen of old, flow with milk and honey, stretches from almost perpetual verdure on the South, to transparent cold on the North, with every variety of climate and soil, and abounding in mineral wealth.

I am aware that an opinion has prevailed, that the institution of slavery is inimical to rural improvement. This is believed to be a fallacy. In all the operations of husbandry, labor is the great agent, the principal lever. It cannot be, that slave labor such as ours, which is absolutely at our command, is less available for any purpose, than voluntary labor, which is often capricious and regardless of the obligations and restraints imposed by itself.

The fault then must be with the proprietor of slave labor. There must be on his part a want of that intelligence, or energy or industry, or diligent attention, which are requisite for successful husbandry. A forgetfulness of that law of our being, by which:—

“Jehovah good and great, with hard decrees, Forbids our plenty to be bought with ease, And wills that mortal man, engaged to toil, Should exercise with pains the grudging soil.”

If this be true, if to these causes can be truly assigned our past failures, we have only to amend our habits. Whenever we shall lay aside our indolence and self-indulgence, and substitute a close and unremitting personal supervision and activity in the management of the plantation and farm, we shall find, that a want of confidence in our peculiar labor is wholly unwarrantable. The evil and the remedy are both with the proprietors of this labor.

And we may be assured, that if we use the proper and available means, a bright future, a cheering destiny, awaits us; otherwise, we must look to a gradual though certain declension, in all that is requisite to make us a happy, respectable, and flourishing commonwealth.

In conclusion, let it be remarked, that the Federal Government has magnificently endowed our University for the noble purpose of educating our youth in the several branches of polite learning, and not less those branches of useful learning, which will secure the greatest good to the greatest number of the citizens. The State Legislature is the legitimate guardian of this sacred fund—and so important is able, scientific instruction in agriculture, to the common welfare, that a neglect of it would be justly censurable, as a breach of this high trust on the part of our rulers. It is confidently hoped, however, that our Legislature will do its duty in the premises—nor can it be doubted, that every individual member of it, who shall aid in consummating this important measure will, besides meeting the approval of his constituents, always esteem it one of the most gratifying and useful acts of his public life.

Respectfully and truly yours,
I. CROOM.

MARTIAL.

A worthy alderman, captain of a volunteer corps, at a field day before Lord Cornwallis, was ordering his company to fall back, in order to dress with the line, and gave the word—“Advance three paces backward! march!”

What New York does for Agriculture.

At the recent annual meeting of the Maryland Society, a resolution was passed for memorializing the Legislature of the State in favor of an appropriation in aid of agricultural associations. Mr. John A. King, President of the New York Society, being present, was called on to state the policy of New York, which he did as follows:

“Mr. King arose and said:—
“Mr. President,—Before I reply to the inquiry which has just been addressed to me, I would beg leave to return my thanks, and those of Mr. Johnson, the Secretary of the New York State Agricultural Society, for the honor which has this evening been conferred on us, by our election as honorary members of this Society—a tribute of respect to the State we represent, and an act of personal favor, for which we beg to make our best acknowledgments. I would also desire to express the great pleasure we have experienced at the exhibition of the thorough bred stock upon this occasion, equal, so far as the number and variety extended, to that exhibited recently on our Show Grounds at Syracuse. In reply to the inquiry respecting the law and practice which governs the proceedings of the New York State Agricultural Society, I would briefly state some of the principal facts connected therewith. As early as 1819, an appropriation of five thousand dollars was made for several years in support of Agriculture and Domestic Manufactures. Many of the counties organized Societies under this law. But upon the withdrawal of this appropriation, the County Societies began to languish, and finally a few only continued to support a yearly Show and Exhibition. Things remained in this state until 1841, when the Legislature having previously made ample provision for the internal improvements of the State, and having been called upon before, and then, by a clear expression of public opinion, to extend its fostering aid also, to Agriculture and Domestic Manufactures, passed a law appropriating the sum of eight thousand dollars a year for five years, for that purpose—which sum is now annually voted, as one of the items of the yearly expenditure.

“By the provisions of the law of 1841, this sum of eight thousand dollars is apportioned among the several counties according to population, and provided a sum equal to that awarded is raised by the county.—The State Society receives out of this sum, as its appropriate share, seven hundred dollars annually; and with it, the subscription of its members, and the receipts at their annual Show and Exhibition, is enabled to give an amount now exceeding five thousand dollars a year in premiums.

In addition to this appropriation, the State publishes, at an expense of eight thousand dollars annually, a volume of transactions under the direction and superintendence of the Executive Committee of the State Society, comprising the proceedings of the Society for the current year, with the premiums awarded, and such essays as may be accepted, the condensed reports of the County Societies, and a detailed statement, verified by the presiding officer, of the expenditure of all moneys which have been received; to which, and for what purpose paid. The use of the Geological Rooms at Albany, affords ample accommodation for the Secretary of the Society, and for the monthly meetings of the Executive Committee. For several years past a large expenditure has been annually incurred in prosecuting, under the authority of the Legislature, a Geological and Agricultural Survey of the State, and in the publication of a costly work, with plates and maps; the result of the combined efforts and researches of intelligent men, on these subjects. The volumes of Transactions are distributed among the farmers of the State without cost; and the volumes relating to the Geological Survey are sent to the Treasurers of the several counties, to be sold at cost to those who may desire to purchase. The consequence of this enlarged and steady encouragement on the part of the State towards its great leading interest has been, that the enterprise and intelligence of its farmers have been stimulated and set in motion, and by their efforts and results have well and promptly responded to the liberality and forecast of the State. And the steady improvement in its agriculture, and in the branches which depend upon and are connected with it, has been made manifest year by year, at the State Fair, which is annually held at some one of the great towns in the central part of the State; and it is now a source of gratification to all who take an interest in the cultivation of the soil, that the cause of agriculture, which had not until within a few years attracted or received much, either of the public attention or of legislative examination and support, has at length, taken its appropriate place among the great interests of the State. If the course and legislation of New York have in these respects been of service and advantage to the great cause of agriculture in other States, not only will she have done her duty at home, but she will of the same time have furnished a practical and useful example to her sister States, who may have the desire and ability to aid in promoting the most ancient, honorable and independent occupation that man can pursue.”

At the free black settlement in Africa, a police ordinance was lately issued, by which it is forbidden that “any person should publicly worship alligators, thunder, or other deities, or they will be subject to a penalty not exceeding ten shilling.”

A BLACK BULL.

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YOUTH'S DEPARTMENT.

LITTLE CHILDREN IN HEAVEN.

The blessed Saviour said, when upon earth, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.” From this we learn that little children are fit for heaven, and that they go to heaven when they die in childhood.—How many millions of little children have died since God placed man upon the earth! For nearly six thousand years, little children have been dying.—For several thousand years hundreds, and perhaps thousands of little children have died every day! From the number of deaths that take place, in the whole world, every year, there cannot be less than one million of deaths among the little children! In one hundred years, at the same rate, one hundred millions of little children die! What an immense number is this! Now, just think, how many hundreds and thousands of millions of little children there must now be in heaven! One would think that heaven is full of them. There are a great many more children in heaven than grown people. A great many more people die in infancy and childhood, than in more advanced years. All the little children that die, go to heaven; whereas a great many of the grown folks that die go to hell. So that there are vastly more children in heaven than grown people. What a company! How happy they are! They have left this world of sorrow, and pain, and poverty, and distress, and gone home to our Father's house in the skies. One beautiful evening, in the month of June, I stood upon the elevated gravel walk that surrounds the basin, or reservoir, on the summit of the hill at Fair Mount Water Works in Philadelphia. It was then a lovely, and charming spot.—The sides of the hill sloped down to the bank of the Schuylkill, and were carpeted with shrubbery and trees, and I stood the hill, rolling upon the grass, swinging to the shrubbery, or skipping and playing at the foot of the hill, were many hundreds of little children; all clad in white, and most of them with rich bunches of flowers in their tiny hands. Some were laughing, some were singing, and all were cheerful and happy; and I could not but think that it was a sort of paradise of heaven. I stood and gazed upon them with unspeakable pleasure. And although several years have rolled away since I stood upon that spot, and looked upon that lovely scene, the picture is still in my mind. The sun was sinking away in the west; the shadows lengthened over the plain; and the waters of the Schuylkill were lapping and flashing in the fading light of the summer evening; the city was spread out beneath me; hundreds of spires and domes were gilded with the parting sunlight, the bright faces, and curly hair of the little children were around me; and the scene was so like to heaven, that I was almost cheated into the momentary belief that I was away from earth.

Now, my dear children, if the good Lord should call any of you away before you commit sin against him, he will take you to himself in heaven. Fear not; for millions of infant souls compose the family above.

NOVEMBER.

KEEP YOUR TEMPER.

“I can never keep any thing,” cried Emma, almost stamping with vexation. “Somebody always takes my things away, and loses them.” (She had mislaid some of her sewing implements.)

“There is one thing,” remarked mamma, “that I think you might keep if you would try.”

“I should like to keep even one thing,” answered Emma.

“Well, then my dear,” resumed mamma, “keep your temper; if you will only do that, perhaps, you would find it easy to keep other things. I dare say, now, if you had employed your time in searching for the missing articles, you might have found them before this time; but you have not even looked for them.”

“You have only got into a passion—a bad way of spending time—and you have accused somebody, very unjustly too, of taking away your things and losing them. Keep your temper, my dear, when you have mislaid any article, keep cool, and search for it. You had better keep your temper, if you lose all the little property you possess; getting into a passion never brings any thing to light except a distorted face; and by losing your temper, you become guilty of two sins, when you get into a passion, and accuse somebody of being the cause; so my dear, I repeat, ‘Keep your temper.’”

Emma subdued her ill-humour, searched for the articles she had lost, and found them in her own work-bag.

“Why, mamma?” she exclaimed, “here they are; I might have been sewing all this time, if I had kept my temper.”

Penny Journal.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWO EXCEPTIONS.

Gen. T., of New York, a gentleman of known wealth and liberality, was not long since called upon by a person to obtain his signature on a petition for the abolition of capital punishment. The person unfolded his papers and documents, and presented an enormous speech, stopping occasionally to deposit a mouthful of tobacco juice upon a nice parlor carpet. Gen. T. was in favor of diminishing capital punishments, but doubted the propriety or expediency of abolishing them in all cases. At the expression of his opinion, his visitor began to bridle up and prepare to lay down his arguments with greater force; and in order to give greater facility of his enunciation, he took from his mouth a huge quid of tobacco and threw it upon the white marble hearth, saying he wished the general would be so good as to inform him in what cases capital punishment could ever be justified or defended.

“Well,” said the general, “it strikes me that, if we are going to abolish capital punishment, there are two cases which should be made exceptions.”

“Two cases, are there?” said the petitioner.

“Well, sir, I should like to hear them stated, and the arguments for them.”

“The first,” said the general, “is that of clear, cold blooded, premeditated murder. I think the person who lies in waiting, or in ambush, with malice prepense, and takes the life of a fellow creature, ought to forfeit his life in reward. He deserves to be hung.”

“Well, I have abundance of argument to meet that objection,” said the visitor. “Now I should like to know what is your other case?”

“The other case,” said the general, “is that of the animal that walks on two legs, calls itself man, and carries a mouthful of disgusting filth into a clean house, and there pours it forth upon the carpet and scatters it over the hearth. Such a being is certainly not fit to live in decent society, and I do not know of any better or more ready mode of getting rid of him than to hang him. With those two exceptions, I think I should be willing to sign your petition for the abolition of capital punishment.”

The visitor gathered up his papers, thrust them into his pocket, and with a very blank look hastily withdrew. He has not called since to receive the general's signature.

CONFAB.

“Samba, what your opinion of de bankrupt law?”

“Tink him fust rede, Pompey. I imply for de application mimeself.”

“Just explain him principles.”

“Why you see he now; jest lend me dat half dollar you got for white-washin’.”

(Pompey hands him the money, and Samba deliberately pockets it.)

“Dere, den, now I owes de shoemaker three shillin’, and you half a dollar, besides de grocer's bill; now dis half a dollar is all de property I got; I divides him accordin’ to de debts.”

Samba—with amazement.—“Do you tink dis child green? I'm a bankrupt; you gets your share with de other creditors.”

LONG PRAYERS.

Speaking against long prayers, Elder Knapp says:—“When Peter was endeavoring to walk upon the water to meet his Master, and was about sinking, had his supplication been as long as the introduction to one of our modern prayers before he got half through, he would have been fifty feet under water!”

“The clear Whig majority in the State of New York, on Senators, according to the official canvass just published under the authority of the State officers, is four thousand six hundred and seven.”

ITALIAN IRISH.

Louis XIV. asked Count Mahony one day, if he understood Italian?

“Yes, please your majesty,” answered the Count, “if it was spoken in Irish.”

The whole number of vessels arrived at the port of New York, from foreign countries, during the year 1849, was 3327.—The number of passengers arrived there the past year is unprecedented, being 221,799. This is an excess over the number for the preceding year of 25,890, and nearly twice the immigration of any year before 1848.

RUSSIA.

The population of Russia (in Europe) according to the last census just made, amounts to 51,092,300 inhabitants. The density of this population presents great variety. In four provinces there are from 2000 to 2200 inhabitants the square mile in extent from 1500 to 1800; in sixteen from 1000 to 1400; in eleven from 530 to 800; in eight from 100 to 450; and in three about 100.

The following remarks in relation to the etiquette of a dinner party, appeared in a fashionable London journal.—“Married ladies precede the single. The lady of the house is the last to enter the dining-room. People who are engaged, walk in together. Ladies do not dine with gloves on, and are not asked to take wine by gentlemen. There must be a salt-celler for every two persons.”

“Telegraph wire is now insulated by a coating of gutta percha a sixteenth of an inch thick, allowing the laying of the wires underground.”

“WARES YURE HOSSI”

A New Orleans correspondent of the ‘Spirit’ furnishes the ‘Delta’ with the following amusing story. Its e’en-‘most put our nose out of joint.

Some years since, when the State of Missouri was considered Far West, there lived on the bank of the river of the same name of the State a substantial farmer, who, by years of toil had accumulated a tolerable pretty pile of castings; owing, as he said, principally to the fact that he didn't raise much water and inyuns, but rice smart of corn. This farmer, hearing that good land was much cheaper further south concluded to move there. Accordingly, he provided his oldest son with a good horse and a sufficiency of the needful to defray his traveling and contingent expenses and instructed him to purchase two hundred acres of good land, at the lowest possible price, and to return immediately home. The next day Jeems started for Arkansas, and after an absence of some six weeks returns come.

“Well, James,” said the old man, “How'd you find land in Arkansas?”

“Tolerable cheap, Dad.”

“You didn't by no means to hundred acres, did you, Jeems?”

“No Dad not over a hundred, I reckon.”

“How much money hev you got left?”

“Nary red, Dad, cleaned rite out.”

“Why, I had no idee travelin was spen sive in them parts, Jeems.”

“Wall jest you try it wunst, and yule find out, I reckon.”

“Wall never mind that, let's here 'bout the land; and—but, War's yure hoss?”

“Why, you see Dad, I was agoon along one day—”

“But, War's yure hoss?”

“Yu hold on, Dad, and I'll tell you all 'bout it. Yu see I was agoon along one day, an I met a feller as said he was goin my way too—”

“But War's yure hoss?”

“Dod darn mi hide, ef you dont shet up, Dad. I'll never git to de hoss. Wall, as we was both goin the same way, me and this feller joined company, and 'bout noon we hitched our critters an I set down aside uv a branch, and went to eating a snake, Arter we'd got thru, this feller sez to me, ‘Try w'rap up this ere red-eye stranger;—Wall I don't mind, sez I—’”

“But War's yure hoss?”

“Kummin to him bime by Dad! So me and this feller sot thar, sorter torkin and drinkin, and then he sez, ‘Stranger, let's play a fettle game of Seven up,’ atakin out uv his pocket a greasy, wunst cornered deck uv keeds. Don't keef ef I do, sez I. So we set up side of a stump, an I commenced to bet a quarter up, an I was ‘slayin him awfully!’—”

“But War's yure hoss?”

“Kummin to him, Dad! Bime by, luck changed, an he got to winnin, and pretty sune, I hadn't no tary nuther dollar.—Then, sez he, ‘Stranger, I'll gin you a chance to get even, an play you one more game.’—Wall we both plaid rite tite that game, I swar, an we was both six, and six, and—”

“War's yure hoss?”

“Kummin to him, Dad! We was six and six an 'twas his deal.—”

“Will you tell me War's yure hoss?”

“Yes, we was six and six, an he turned the jack!”

“War's yure hoss?”

“The stranger won him a turning the jack!”

LITTLE EN.

OFFICIAL GALLANTRY.—The legislative correspondent of the Savannah Republican, writing from the capital of Georgia, remarks:

It is sometimes quite amusing to observe the conflict between the gallantry of the Speaker and his disposition to preserve order. If there is an unusual rustling of ladies' dresses in the gallery, and quite a warbling of soft voices that pretty women are always proud of, down comes the Speaker's hammer, while he looks hard in a direction where the ladies are not, and cries “Too much noise in the gallery!” Mr. Oslin, the door-keeper, takes the hint, and walks up to a cluster of the “lords of creation,” who are perfectly mute, and tolerably near the fair ones, and calls out “GENTLEMEN! silence in the lobby!” On one occasion, Mr. Oslin marched up to a party where there was an unusual chattering, and cried out in an angry voice: “Gentlemen, the Speaker says you must cease talking, and let the ladies talk. The House is pleased to hear the ladies talk!” By this means silence is secured in an indirect and polite way, that gives offence to no one, and is readily forgiven, both by the mute and the noisy gentlemen.

A LUCKY ONE.

The Bangor Whig says: “Young Sullivan, of Carmel, Me. who has returned from California with some sixty odd thousand dollars, formerly lived in this city. He left his home two or three years since without the consent of his parents, who are Irish, and shipped on board a whale ship, which he left without notice on the Pacific coast on the discovery of the gold! He worked awhile in the mines, and then commenced the business of a boatman, in which calling he accumulated most of his treasure. He arrived here on Saturday, and his father happened here on the same day, and expressed a strong wish to see his son, not knowing that he was in the city. On Monday young Sullivan went out to Carmel to see his parents and relatives.”