Farmers' Gazette,

AND CHERAW ADVERTISER.

VOLUME VIII. CHERAW, SOUTH-CAROLINA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY, 21, 1843. NUMBER 15.

By M. MACLEAN.

TERMS:—Published weekly at *three dollars* a year; with an addition, when not paid within three months, of twenty per cent per annum.

Two new subscribers may take the paper at five dollars in advance; and ten at twenty.

Four subscribers, not receiving their papers in town, may pay a year's subscription with ten dollars, in advance.

A year's subscription always due in advance.

Papers not discontinued to *solvent* subscribers in arrears.

Advertisements not exceeding 16 lines inserted for one dollar the first time, and fifty cents each subsequent time. For insertions at intervals of two weeks 75 cents after the first, and a dollar if the intervals are longer. Payment due in advance for advertisements. When the number of insertions is not marked on the copy, the advertisement will be inserted, and charged till ordered out.

☞ The postage must be paid on letters to the editor on the business of the office.

AGRICULTURAL.

CORN CULTIVATED FOR THE STALK AND LEAF, AND NOT FOR THE GRAIN.

From the Southern Agriculturist.

SAVANNAH, March 14th, 1839.

Mr. Editor,—The high price of labor is producing an important change in our system of agriculture. From our cotton plantations, the old treadle gin is disappearing, and an improved roller horse gin is supplying its place. Upon rice plantations, the thrashing machine, impelled by steam or animal power, is gradually expelling that remnant of barbarism, the flail stock. Although the high price of labor is a matter of regret, its tendency is to make us better agriculturists. It calls for a greater sagacity, as well as a more rigid economy, in the management of business. It makes us more saving of labor, and more careful of the health of the laborer. It leads to the adoption of labor-saving machines, and to the gradual substitution of animal power for human power.

The maintenance of the animals introduced by this change of system, is a practical question of great importance, and upon this point I propose to submit a few observations.

It is believed that the average crop of corn and oats in Georgia and South Carolina, does not exceed twelve bushels per acre. Upon this, and the fodder gathered from the corn, we place our dependence for the sustenance of the animals employed in our agriculture. To produce a sufficiency, we are compelled to enlarge our plantings of these exhausting crops, and we devote to these purposes land already impoverished and requiring rest.—Among the ultimate consequences of such a system, are abandoned plantations and emigration. To mitigate this evil, and to assist in the maintenance of our animals, I propose a fodder patch, that is, the cultivation of Indian corn expressly for the stalk, and not for the ear or blade.—I propose this stalk fodder, not as a substitute for grain, but as a valuable auxiliary—rendering, in fact, the grain given more efficacious, and enabling the animals to do with less. For the last six years, I have devoted to this purpose a small lot of land, and I estimate the product so highly, that nothing would induce me to abandon the culture. At the usual corn planting season, this lot is trenched four feet apart, with a bull-tongue plough, and in these trenches we sow the common Indian corn, at the rate of two bushels and upwards to the acre. During its growth, this corn receives two or three ploughings, and this is all the culture it gets—it is neither hand-picked or hoed. At every ploughing, the earth is thrown fearlessly towards the corn, which would be buried and destroyed, were it not that the mass of plants, growing in the trenches, enables it to resist the pressure of the earth thrown against it. By this treatment, every particle of grass growing at the root of the corn is completely destroyed.

When the fodder corn begins to tassel, we begin to use it, and not before. The reason is manifest. It is a well known law of vegetable life that when plants are in bloom, then their mucilaginous, saccharine, and nutritive properties, are most fully developed. This is proven by the fact that if herbs be gathered for distillation, or grass be mown for hay, before the appearance of the blossom in both instances, they yield no valuable products. To this law Indian corn constitutes no exception, and hence our reason for waiting until it tassels before we commence using it. If gathered before that time, my persuasion is that the stalk is of little or no value.

We wait, then, until it tassels before we begin to use it. The ploughman, with a short scythe or sickle, cuts it up at the root, takes it by large armfuls to the cutting box, and when cut it, is mixed with chopped oats, and given to our working animals. I feel satisfied, when a sufficiency of this chopped corn stalk is mixed with their oats, that plough horses and mules will do with one-third, perhaps one-half less grain. Besides, while using it, no other forage is required, and this is no trifling convenience. When planted at the usual season, the fodder corn begins to tassel about the 20th June. It comes in at a time when there is frequently a pressing necessity for fodder—when the ploughs are in full action—when animals require food of the most nutritive kind, and when frequently the blade crop of the preceding year is totally exhausted.

We continue to use this fodder corn as long as it lasts, and it has this great recommendation, that the longer it stands, until actually killed by frost, the more palatable it appears to become to animals. After the tassel has dried up, when every blade hangs down, and has become colorless, when in fact from external appearance, we would pronounce the plant actually dead, the stalk will be found to be perfectly green. I have satisfied myself of this fact, by repeated observation. I have gone into this fodder patch for several years in succession, as late as the middle of October, and have invariably found the stalk of the corn green and more rich in its nutritive properties, than at any preceding period. The juices of the plant, after being elaborated in the leaves, appear to be concentrated in the stalk, and it contains at that time so much saccharine matter, that it approximates its taste to the upper joints of the sugar cane itself. That this protracted vitality of the stalk is owing to the fact, that the plant is never deprived of the blade, I have not a shadow of doubt. At the very time in October when I found the stalk of this fodder corn green, crisp, and juicy, the stalks of the crop corn from which the fodder had been gathered at the usual season, were dried up and dead. I infer from these facts, that the early gathering of fodder is a pernicious practice—because, by impairing the vitality of the stalk of the corn plant, when in the very act of perfecting the ear, it necessarily interferes with the complete maturity of the grain. I advance this as no novelty, but only to reiterate an important agricultural truth. It has been demonstrated by repeated experiments among the farmers of the middle and northern states, that "topping corn" seriously diminishes the amount of the crop. By parity of reason, the abstraction of the fodder before the maturity of the grain, must be attended with consequences proportionably injurious. It is the general impression of planters, that the ear of the Indian corn is completely matured at the time of gathering the fodder, and hence that no injury results from taking away the blade. I greatly doubt the correctness of this impression; Indian corn being an annual, the whole energies of the plant are directed to the perfection of the ear, all the other parts of the plant are but the ways and means provided for the accomplishment of this end. Now, it seems to me reasonable, and probable, that as long as the leaves and stalks remain green, they continue to impart something of value to the ear. The strong sympathies which are known to subsist between the ear, the stalk and the blade, go to confirm this opinion. If the green ear is destroyed by a squirrel, the leaves of that plant soon become discolored, and it prematurely dies. If the blades be stripped when the corn is in mutton, the stalk perishes, and the ear is shrivelled and light. You can mutilate no one part of the plant, without inflicting serious injury on the other two.

Could we abandon the gathering of fodder, we should in many respects be greatly the gainers. The plant would escape mutilation, and consequently the ear would be completely perfected; the grain would be plump and heavy; would measure further, and fatten more. Besides, there would be the gain of time. There is no work done on plantations, which makes so poor a return for the labor expended. I have heard practical men say that a smart man will, with a scythe, cut a greater weight of hay in a day, than any five hands can gather in blades. As far as my experience goes, this falls short of, rather than exceeds the truth.

But the question is asked, What shall we use in lieu of blades? My answer is, we have more land capable of yielding hay than we imagine. Upon every plantation there are low grounds, shallow ponds, and patches of swamp, devoted commonly to rushes, brambles and gum sprouts, which, if drained and ploughed, yield handsome crops of hay. Our ordinary highlands produce tolerable crops of grass, if cow-penned and ploughed. Another resource is that of cutting the grass which springs up on our stubble lands, from which crops of small grain have been taken. Another source of supply would be this fodder corn I am recommending. Two or three acres of good land appropriated to this purpose, would furnish a large supply of forage. The corn might be cut and stacked in the fields, as is the practice of the farmers of the middle and northern states, and this might be done at any time in September or October, as would best suit the convenience of the planter.

Fodder diligently gathered from these sources, would at least enable us to dispense with a part of the blade crop. The stripping might be postponed until the blades below the ear were dead. By that time, the grain would be so far matured, that it would suffer far less than happens when every blade is green at the time of gathering.

I have never yet ascertained the weight of an acre of fodder corn, but have no hesitation in saying that it is very great. One acre of good land will furnish an abundance of forage for four horses for three months. Mules appear to be especially fond of it, and cows running upon ordinary pastures, will, if fed with these chopped corn stalks, double the butter in a few days.

It is well known that the average crop of corn of the middle and northern states, exceeds our own, and that this arises not so much from superiority of soil, as from the number of stalks they are able to crowd upon an acre. With them, the corn plant does not attain a height of more than seven or eight feet, while with us it is not uncommon to see stalks fourteen feet in height. As a consequence, they are able to leave four stalks in a hill, when we leave only one, and hence their crops are larger than ours. In this climate, then, the tendency of Indian corn is to grow to stalk, rather than to ear, and by adopting the plan I propose for cultivating it expressly for the ear or blade, you take advantage of that propensity, and correct what may be termed an incumberance to valuable practical uses. If this immense growth of stalk militates against the production of grain, it is no small mitigation of the evil, if we can employ the stalk measurably as a substitute for grain.

VARIETIES OF OF WHEAT.

From the Genesee Farmer.

At the first meeting of the English Agricultural Society, the first prize of twenty sovereigns, (or about 97 dollars,) was awarded to Col. Le Couteur for his account of the most approved varieties of wheat cultivated in England. Col. Le Couteur has doubtless paid more attention to wheat and made more accurate experiments in its cultivation, than any other person living, and his opinions are therefore entitled to great weight. We condense from the remarks of Lord Spencer, the President of the Society, a sketch of the favorite kinds, with some other particulars.

The first kind, or the one deemed the most valuable, was the Hoary White or Velveteen, from the chaff having a downy or velvet feel. This wheat after being repeatedly washed in brine that would float an egg or a potato was again washed in lime. The land was argillaceous, and had been well manured with dung, and prepared with the ashes of sea-weed and lime, in places that seemed to require such a dressing. The seed was sown on the 29th of January, two bushels per acre, and was harvested the 16th of August. The average produce was 48 bushels of 62 lbs. each. This produced of fine flour 2,402 lbs., pollard 126 lbs. and of bran 416 lbs. The estimated clear profit of an acre of this wheat was £15 6*s*. 9*d*.

The next variety in quality and value was the Jersey Dantzic, but known in different places by various names. This wheat has a smooth chaff, and is not liable to smut. It ripens a week earlier than the velveteen; but in a wet warm season is considered subject to rust. The produce of an acre of this wheat was 43 1-2 bushels, with 430 lbs. of chaff, and 4,681 lbs. of straw. Eighteen pounds of the flour made a loaf of 25 3-4 lbs. weight, thus proving its value for making bread, as absorbing and combining with nearly one-half its weight of water. The average profit per acre of this wheat is estimated at £12 14*s*. 6*d*.

The third variety was the Whittington, which was sown in drills three inches apart, on land that had borne potatoes the previous year, subsequently to which it had been dressed with lime and sea-weed ashes. The wheat was 29 days coming up, but the crop was abundant, the straw being generally six feet, and some of it seven feet in height. It ripens some ten days later than the Dantzic wheat, but does not degenerate. The average produce per acre was 33 bushels, with 483 lbs. of chaff, and 7,786 lbs. of straw; the latter being greater in amount than in any other species but one. There were obtained from one acre 1,454 pounds of flour, 477 lbs. of bran, and 47 pounds of pollard. "The bread made from it is dark, but it keeps well for several days." The profits of this wheat per acre are estimated at £12 11*s*.

The fourth variety noticed was the Talavera Bellevue, sown on the 3d of February on a light rich loamy soil, 3 bushels per acre, in drills. The seed being very large an extra quantity is required. It is hardy, appearing above the ground in 25 days; and is no more subject to disease than the generality of white wheats. On account of the weight of the ear this wheat is liable to lodge, or be driven down by the wind. The produce was 52 bushels per acre, or 3,172 lbs. of grain, 282 lbs. of chaff, and 5,480 lbs. of straw. There were 2,485 lbs. flour, 38 lbs. of pollard, and 588 lbs. of bran. This wheat makes a fine white bread. The profits per acre was estimated at £16 1*s*.

Some other kinds were noticed, as the Golden Drop, very productive; the Common Prolific, a coarse wheat; and Brown's Prolific, a good wheat on soils suitable to its growth; but all, in the opinion of Col. Le C., yielding in value to the four first varieties named. From the amount stated as the average of the crops, it would not seem to exceed that of many fields in the Genesee country; though the general average in England is far greater than in the United States. Of the four varieties preferred, the Whittington, from which so much has been expected in this country, stands the lowest in the scale of productiveness. From what we had heard of the quality of the berry of this wheat, as exhibited in the species imported by Mr. Thorburn, we were not prepared to find it a wheat that would make 'dark bread,' which it seems is the fact. The incidental remarks on the time of sowing these wheats, and the period elapsing before vegetation, will explain in part the mistake into which the purchasers of the Whittington wheat have fallen in this country, in supposing it to be a spring wheat in one sense of the term. The English farmers sow wheat from September to April; and the wheats sown during the winter, as they do not vegetate or come forward till March, are called spring wheats, in distinction from those sown in September or October, and vegetating immediately. The spring wheats, properly so called, are there usually sown in April. The average temperature of Great Britain is much lower than with us, consequently grain of all kinds ripen more slowly, and the harvest is proportionably later than with us in the United States.

There can be no doubt that new and valuable varieties of wheat can be produced by skilful cultivation; and though it is not probable that all the most esteemed varieties in Great Britain would succeed well in this country, or prove as valuable in our climate as in theirs, still we think well of the efforts made to introduce the most approved kinds, and do not question that our farmers will find their interest in so doing. In all attempts to cultivate English wheat in this country, however, the difference between our seasons and theirs must be borne in mind, or the sowing will take place at improper times, and certain disappointment be the result to the cultivator.

THE COB AND CORN CRUSHER.

Berks county, Nov. 1842.

At the late meeting of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, there was exhibited a machine for crushing or grinding the cob with the corn for cattle provender—a most valuable improvement, and well deserving the favorable notice of every one engaged in the pursuits of husbandry. It has by some been questioned, whether the cob alone contains sufficient nutriment to render it worth the labor and expense of grinding; but with me there is no doubt about it, and it is only a matter of surprise that every one should not long ago have been convinced of the fact by experiment, which might easily be made by boiling crushed cobs in water for some hours, when, on straining off the water and setting it to cool, it will be found to form a jelly.

At the above mentioned meeting I had the pleasure of conversing with the intelligent inventor of the machine, Mr. Byerley; he is a tanner, and the cob crusher is made after the plan of his bark-mill.—On inquiry relating to the quantity of nutriment contained in the corn cob, he informed me, that near his bark-mill was a heap of cobs that had been thrown out as useless, when a poor woman of the neighborhood, whose only cow was almost the only means she had of supporting her family, came to ask for some cobs, and that he would pass them through the bark-mill as food for the cow; this he did, and his petitioner came regularly after, during the winter, to get her supply of crushed cobs. At the end of the season, he went to see the cow, and found her in the finest condition, her owner assuring him that she had been fed entirely on the crushed cobs, boiled in her iron pot, by which she had been enabled to support almost entirely herself and children by the sale of the finest milk and butter ever seen!

In an essay on Indian corn, by P. A. Browne, Esq., see p. 187, 2d vol. of Cabinet, it is said, "The cob may be ground to fatten cattle, and an oil may be extracted from it." It is also said, "Peter Miner, of Albemarle county, Virginia, made the following experiment: he had ten bushels of meal of the corn and cob ground together, weighing 367lbs., and ten bushels of *pure corn meal*, subjected to the process of distillation, and the result was, 18 gallons of spirit from the latter, and 13 gallons from the former. Now, if the corn cobs had been destitute of all value, the product of the former, estimating the quantity of pure corn meal at five bushels, which is the peneral rule, to allow one half in bulk to the cob, ought to have been nine gallons only; but thirteen gallons having been obtained, four of them must have been extracted from the cob." It is worthy of a passing remark, it is added in a note at the bottom of the page, "If they wish to cultivate Indian corn for fodder alone, or *for making sugar*, they can deprive it of the power of going to ear, and make it throw all the juices into the stalks and leaves."

I have witnessed many instances of the advantages resulting from grinding the cob with the corn, and have never known a person [who had tried it dissatisfied with the result; it is they only who know nothing about it who object to it: at any rate the ground cob must be as good as bran, and an addition of one or two thousand bushels of bran to the means of feeding stock during the winter would not be thought lightly of by any, one would suppose. It has been remarked, the cob is peculiarly adapted and conveniently situated for grinding and mixing with the corn, assimilating with it, and forming a meal peculiarly congenial to the health of animals; giving just the due proportion of coarse food to mix with the fine; a necessary consideration in the feeding of stock; and withal so cheaply supplied, that one is at a loss to conceive how the thing has so long been neglected. The objection to grinding the cob with the corn, while it is new, could be obviated by kiln-drying the ears the fore part of the season; but this would not be requisite more than a couple of months or so, after harvest, as by that time the ears will be sufficiently dry, so as to allow them to be ground, without danger that the meal would ferment in the bin. I remember a correspondent in a former number of the Cabinet observes, that Mr. Alexander Cooper, of Jersey, has long been in the custom of grinding the cob with the corn, and that his stock is remarkable for health and condition; and, from late inquiry, I find that he still continues the practice with perfect satisfaction. While on a late visit to one of the same family, at Camden, the last week, I observed the same mode of feeding carried out to a considerable extent, and with complete success; the meal having been ground so fine, that no one without close examination would have the idea that it was aught but meal from clean corn. It is a great loss to the country that every mill is not fitted for the purpose of grinding the cob with the corn when desirable—would our millers think seriously about it.

R. DENHAM.

Farmers' Cabinet,

From the Farmers' Register.

LIME.

I know not, Mr. Ruffin, that what I can say upon the subject of agriculture is worth the paper upon which I write this communication; but be that as it may, I write to tender you my thanks for the able manner you have conducted the Register, and to tender you my gratitude for the great ability you have displayed in pressing the use and showing the worth of lime. Poverty in land is nothing more than the absence of lime and vegetable matter; yet wet land, however rich, cannot be productive until it is perfectly drained. The exact quantity of lime to be given to every acre of land is by no means settled by my practice. I have used from 40 bushels up to 300, and if I could make choice, I would take 300; yet 40 made improvement. The quantity to be given depends upon the condition and constitution of land; yet poor or rich, it is easy to see that a beneficial change is made by it. As I create by lime and plaster great masses of vegetable matter, my manuring is very extensive, and might be doubled. Any part of my farm, to suit my convenience, is made meadow, but in cutting it we take care to avoid any part that may show our old acquaintance, poverty grass. Upon this grass grows crop after crop, until green or blue grass succeeds the poverty grass. I save of the second crop of clover all the seed I can, and give the earth, as soon as the frost begins to leave the land, not less than 2 gallons of seed per acre.

I failed in my wheat crops for two years; the last year I had a great crop which weighed 61 1-2lbs. to the bushel, miller's weight; but 62lbs. was fairly the weight. My failure induced me to change my mode of cultivation. I turned down every thing and harrowed repeatedly, and then seeded with two-horse cultivators, and this practice I shall continue until farther instructed by experience. I cannot press the use of lime in terms sufficiently strong to show my estimate of its value. He that drains his land and uses it freely will have no occasion to grieve or mourn for better results than he will obtain. You would have heard from me oftener, but for my aversion to preaching to a deaf congregation. Time will cure this, or remove the patient to the west. The day will come when the tide-water part of Virginia will be our pride and boast; let those who hear me mark the result. I had intended to close this by giving you a list of the crops of my predecessor for 10 years, and those of my own, but this would do no good, especially as I have put my farm in the market and wish to sell.

LIME.

Fairfax county, Dec. 14, 1842.

From the Trenton State Gazette of Feb. 2.

The great ox was led through the streets yesterday by a procession of butchers in their white shirts. The ox was dressed in ribands of various colors, and had an orange on the tip of each horn, according to the well established custom. A band of music accompanied the procession, which went cheering through the streets, in triumphant style. The ox will be slaughtered to day. It weighs 4000, and cost the owners, Messrs. Myers and Danberry, a round sum.

POLITICAL.

DEMOCRATIC OR LOCO FOCO DEPARTMENT.

From the N. Y. Morning Post.

JOHN C. CALHOUN,

In his Personal, Moral, and Intellectual traits of character.

The characters of public men belong to to the People, not only for their service, but also for their love and admiration; nor can they ever justly comprehend the uses to which their public servants should be applied, or the positions worthy of them, but from a personal and intimate view of their whole moral as well as intellectual characteristics. Splendid speeches, or exhibitions of profound thought may give the appearance of wisdom; but after all, it is the wisdom of the heart, and not that of the head only, which finds out Truth. True statesmanship, in a Republic, consists in carrying out into public affairs, the highest principles of right and justice, and to practice, or even discern these principles, in the difficult affairs of government, implies not only the greatest intellectual endowments, but the most exalted moral attributes. Hence the importance to the people, in selecting their agents for the administration of their affairs, if possible, to know them personally—to see the man in his social and domestic relations, as well as in the discharge of his public duties,—and thus be enabled to judge of the patriotism of the Statesman by his fidelity to duties nearer to him, as a parent, neighbor, friend.—Our country, consisting of multitudes, is, comparatively speaking, an abstraction; but the objects around our hearths, and the beating bosoms in daily intercourse with us, will call out whatever virtues we possess; and it is difficult to believe that any exist for the former, which are not disclosed in the latter relations. For these reasons we have thought it would be grateful to our readers and expedient for ourselves—having long since announced our preference of John C. Calhoun, as the next President of the United States—from the most authentic sources to endeavor briefly to delineate the personal, moral, and intellectual characteristics of this distinguished statesman.

Because matter is not spirit, "the human face divine" can never fully represent the soul within; and instead of an open window, it is but too often a thick veil to the bright intelligence and noble nature which fills our being. Few faces, however, more faithfully reveal the characteristics of the man than that of the great Southern Senator. It is of the same cast, and strikingly resembles General Jackson's. The thin, hard, pale features—jutting forehead—compressed, resolute lips—deep, large eagle eyes, with his hair standing up (if curled it would deform him,)—all contribute to place before us a high, stern and beaming countenance. Yet its light is not the light of passion; but like the heartless rays of the diamond, seems to blaze with the intense energy of pure vehement intelligence.—His body would seem to indicate original weakness,—tall and spare, with high narrow shoulders, slightly stooping; but by habits of temperance and industry, he has made it an admirable slave to his will, and capable of immense labor, physical and intellectual. Miss Martineau called him "the cast iron man," we suppose from his stern and inflexible countenance, but steel wire is a far better simile for the tough endurance and elasticity of his frame.

We have thus briefly described the personal appearance of Mr. Calhoun, because, although for more than a quarter of a century one of the greatest men of the Union or the age, influencing public affairs at every turn, and repeatedly crowned with the highest honor the Republic can bestow, save one—he is probably less known personally to the people of the United States, than any of our distinguished statesmen. He has never breathed any atmosphere but that of the United States. He has never visited the North, we believe, since he was a law student at Litchfield, in Connecticut. He has never been in the West. The truth is, neither his love of home, nor his limited fortune, have allowed him to pursue any other paths than those of strict duty, and domestic happiness. From Washington, immediately at the close of every Congress, he hurries to his home, under the mountains of South Carolina, and there devotes himself to his farm and his family.

Mr. Calhoun has often been called a theorist, an abstractionist, probably only by those who are incapable of comprehending any truths, but those on the surface of things; but a more practical man, one who more clearly comprehends the adaptation of means to ends, will hardly be found. In early life, his property lay in the middle and more fertile region of South Carolina, where it was impossible for him to raise his family, on account of its sickliness; and the habits of the community rendered large expenditures in living, to one of his personal distinction, almost unavoidable. Intent on managing his own affairs, and rearing