

THE SUMTER BANNER.

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AGRICULTURAL.

From the South-Carolinian.
OUR STATE.

Its agricultural Capital—too much devoted to the purchase of Land and Negroes, and too little to Improvements.

We have said, there is in South Carolina, too large an amount of capital laid out at very unproductive interest. This is particularly true of our Agricultural capital. We invest too much in lands and negroes; and too little on the improvement of those lands. A half century ago, this impoverishing system existed all over the Union. Every where the capitalist looked to the investment of his money in land—bestored his labor upon them, without having a care to the improvements of agriculture; and was in consequence doomed to see the productiveness of his soil gradually diminishing. Within a few years back, a more judicious system of culture has obtained; science has come in to the aid of art, and the farmer has been taught that it is better to buy one acre, and expend a portion of his capital on its improvement, than to hold two acres under the old plan. In whatever States, therefore, agricultural improvements have been introduced, the capital and labor of the farmer have been productively employed. Wherever the opposite course has been pursued, impoverishment and ruin have followed.

Let us dwell somewhat upon this view of the subject. All over our State, our planters have been complaining of the small interest derived from their lands and negroes. Until very recently, the cry was, that produce of every description had come down to a mere nominal value; and farming labor of all kinds was profitless. Grant this to be the case; are not such depressions incidental to every species of labor? And just as certain as there exist a cause for such depressions, there likewise exist a remedy.

We are not of those who believe there is an over-production of cotton for the uses of mankind. We rather think it cannot be shown that there is yet a large market for the consumption of that article, as was ever conceived by the most liberal imagination. The millions in China—the numerous newly discovered islands in the Pacific—the States of South America—the yet unvisited parts of Africa,—in a word, all the world is opening markets for this staple, and all these markets must and will be supplied.

Nor are we of those who are seized into the belief, that the cotton planter is starving because the staple has come down to its present depreciation. Almost every thing has nominally come down in price; and this will appear to any one who will make a comparative scale of the prices of our own staples, with the prices of the manufactures of other countries. From an exhibit now before us, we find, for instance that in 1820 raw cotton averaged in Liverpool, 9 pence per pound; while cotton twist sold at 10 pence. In 1830, cotton had fallen to only 7 pence in the pound; while cotton twist had fallen to 12 pence. Thus there had been in ten years a fall, averaging only 2 pence on raw cotton; while in the same period, on the manufactured article, the depreciation was as great as 7 pence.

This difference, we will be told, arises from the improvements in machinery, which enables the manufacturer to sell for much less. But, may not similar improvements take place in the production of the raw material? If the past teaches any lessons for the future, we are certainly warranted in such a hope. Let it not be forgotten that it is scarce seventy years since cotton was introduced amongst us as an ornamental flower—that people laughed at the idea of its ever becoming a staple commodity; and, until Whitney's Cotton Gin was introduced, no one ever thought the seed could be separated from the wool, except by the agile fingers of monkeys trained for the purpose. Are the improvements in cotton culture to stop with Whitney's machinery? We can look over the cotton plantations of no portion of our States, without being convinced to the contrary. We can point to many planters in South-

Carolina, who can afford to sell cotton at five cents and yet make money. This they are enabled to do, by raising everything on their plantations necessary for their wants, and considering cotton as the result of their surplus labor. How many planters are there in this and other States, who make large crops of cotton to the hand, but save little money. On the contrary, are there not very many who make little cotton, but are enabled to put up all it sells for. Any one the least acquainted with domestic economy, will see how this arises. Every plantation has certain wants to satisfy, and expenses to incur; supply the one and defray the other, and all over will be clear again. A system of figures has frequently proved it best, to make more cotton, and buy all the plantation wants; but few planters have ever grown rich, who did not pursue an opposite course.

Take a few instances. New England a few years since found agricultural pursuits a most profitless business. Her farmers invested most of their capital in lands, and none in improvements. Such a practice was soon found ruinous; and the remedy was immediately applied. It became obvious that it was more profitable to cultivate an improved soil than an impoverished one. And those people being most excellent economists, were apt enough to learn the maxim that "they who would get the right sort of riches, must first get the right sort of wisdom." They set to work and learned better, and the improved condition of their agriculture is evidence whether they have been disappointed in the former.

We would here combat a prejudice which exists in the minds of many planters, as regards agricultural improvements—in doing which we have to acknowledge ourselves indebted for many our views to an address of the late Senator Robbins, of Rhode Island, highly approved, and commended in a letter of Mr. Jefferson. Some of our planters conceive that planting is altogether a business of experience and skill; that it must adapt itself to each one's situation; and will be, and ought to be, different in different countries.—These opinions we will not dispute.—But when Planters maintain that no instruction is to be gathered from the experience and skill of other countries; no useful hints to be gained from books; no advantages to be reaped from understanding the theory of those results, to which their business mechanically conducts them, they are deceived, and should be otherwise instructed. Let them be taught that though productions vary with situations and modes of culture with productions, yet principles are every where the same. Let them be taught further, that *experience* is and ever has been the teacher in all ages, and that her lessons are not confined to any particular men, or class of men; that she has suggested different means to the same ends in different places; and that it is presumptuous, and too much to believe, that she has already taught us the very best means, and left us nothing to learn. All farming knowledge, valuable as it is, was once *theory*; and only became *practical* from experiment; and *familiar* from traditional experience. But how is this knowledge to be taught? By introducing the study of agricultural science into our systems of education; into our schools, academies, and colleges, and by making our people conversant with its principles and improvements, through means of agricultural societies; and by a means more efficacious than all, by introducing the agricultural surveyor and lecturer amongst them, to awaken their minds—teach them their interest, and convince them it is better to experiment a little, than to live altogether in inglorious, death-causing ease. Let us not be mistaken in the last suggestion. We wish it distinctly understood, we are no advocates for a geological survey of the State at this time. Our people are yet unprepared to appreciate its benefits; and the great majority of them are yet to learn the very alphabet of agricultural science—to be taught the true economy of labor—to understand the use of even the commonest tools of husbandry—the application of the ordinary vegetable and animal manures; the value of certain seeds and staples, and the actual wealth contained in a thousand common things around them. Such information can only be imparted by the popular lecturer going amongst our planters, familiarly conversing with one and another, and wearing away prejudices by bringing the result of one neighbor's experience to bear upon another's. It is such a system of agricultural surveying and lecturing, that has brought the agriculture of Massachusetts up to its present point of excellence, and gained for Colman, who was employed for the purpose, the just fame which attaches to him wherever known. When such a lecturer is procured for South Carolina, you will find our citizens every where gathering to hear him; you will discover year after year prejudices wearing away, and the people every where waking up to a true sense of their interest.

This is the way all moral, religious and political reforms are effected, and so will a true agricultural reform come about whenever the proper means are resorted to. One reformed drunkard going about telling the people the rocks upon which he had

split, and the means by which he was at last saved, has exercised a salutary influence over thousands. Let some reformed farmer do the same, towards effecting an agricultural reform, and the same measure of success will crown the effort.

But, however much agricultural surveys will do towards advancing our agricultural interest, the creation of new agricultural wants will do still more. Take a familiar instance. A few years since, the Charleston vegetable market was the most miserable in the Union; because its citizens were not a vegetable-using people. A new population with new wants has grown up, and behold the consequence. The Charleston vegetable-market has become one of the best supplied in the Union; a large amount of capital is employed in farming for that purpose; and fully \$100,000 is annually derived from this source of labor. A large domestic trade is thus put in motion, and not only this, Charleston, like some of her Northern Sisters, is beginning to carry on an export trade in several kinds of vegetables; and the Northern cities are now the annual purchasers of some thousands of dollars of the labors of our Charleston farmers.

The depressed condition of our agriculture has been so often presented to us, that we are apt to consider it worse than it really is. We must not be deceived however. While our agricultural resources have been very imperfectly developed, our planters and farmers are far from being in the distressed state represented. And if we look at the present and past condition of our agriculture, it will appear that our planters have actually undergone many improvements. The traveller passing through any District in South Carolina, will observe that well built cottages and in many places elegant mansions, have taken the places of the rude log houses of former times; he will find the style of living amongst all classes improved even to luxury; he will see education more generally diffused, and refinement in many places pervading, where thirty years ago, was to be found the greatest rusticity and rudeness. To bring out all this reform, must have cost something; and the people must have been at work to pay for it. We will not grant, therefore, that South Carolina has been doing nothing in the march of improvement, or in the making of money. But at the same time we contend, she has not done a hundredth part she ought to have done, with the numerous resources at her command.

A volume might be written in pointing out the many cases, in which a liberal investment of capital would call forth the agricultural resources of the State. We shall instance one or two only. All along the sea coast of Carolina, and on the margins of our rivers there are thousands of acres of marsh lands which when reclaimed, produce the most abundant crops of rice, cotton or corn, yielding in every instance where the experiment has been made, twenty, thirty and forty per cent. on the capital invested in their reclamation. Let companies be formed to reclaim these lands, and after reclamation, either cultivate or sell them out. The plan is no new or untired one. It has been successfully practised elsewhere, and at this time there are companies on the Mississippi, whose business is, at immense profits, to reclaim lands for the uses of the planters.

We state it upon reliable authority that nearly one million of dollars of slave property, have been taken away from two or three parishes of this State within twenty years, solely from the want of a few thousand dollars of capital to drain certain swamps and irrigate some of the best rice lands of South Carolina. Had it been otherwise our State would this day have retained a large portion of the slave population that has gone West; and the wealth and taxes arising from these sources would have still been here, to divide amongst her people.

Let those patriotic capitalists who know nothing of the resources of Carolina, but the commissions on the sale of her Rice and Cotton—let those who are eternally prating about what a lazy people we are, while they, lordly, sirs, have one hand on all Bank issues, and the other in the pockets of the honest farmers; let these paper money manufacturers—these devious-faced stock jobbers and commercial gamblers—sponge-like, soak the life-blood of the country and then pray God the victim may not die. Let them, we say, possess cunning and more honesty; learn the difference between reckless speculation and true economical wisdom, or if that be past praying for, let a just sense of indignation rise up in the breasts of the people, until such imposters shall be driven from our places of honor and popular trust; and the Planter of Carolina will then be known by another name, than that of the Lazy Drivers of Slaves.

GRAFTING THE TOMATO UPON THE POTATO.—At a meeting of the New York Farmer's Club, Mr. Meigs read from the "Annals of the Royal Horticultural Society of Paris," an account of a successful experiment of grafting a stem of the tomato upon the stalk of a potato, by which a crop of tomatoes was raised in the air, and one of potatoes in the earth. The tomato

and the potato are of the same *genus* of plants.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE WILL O' THE WISP.

"You ask me, boys," said Andrew Bell, "what a will o' the wisp is," and I will tell you. At one time it is called will o' the wisp, and at another jack o' the lantern, but both these names mean the same thing.

"A will o' the wisp is not always to be seen, for I have looked for hours without finding it; while, at other seasons, without looking for one at all, a will o' the wisp has appeared before me.

"You need not look for a will o' the wisp on the top of a mountain, or in a dry sand corn field, or in a warm sunny slope, for these are not the places where it is to be seen. It is in low, marshy meadows, in swamps and boggy ground that it is most likely to be found.

"A will o' the wisp is a vapor, that takes light, and flits and dances about among the bogs that it comes from. Many a night traveller has taken it for a taper in a cottage window, or for a friendly lantern, and has been so far misled by it as to find himself, before he was aware, in the watery swamp. Have a care, boys, and let not wills o' the wisp deceive you.

"But, besides the will o' the wisp of the swampy ground, there are hundreds of another kind that will beset your pathway through the world—and some of them are very dangerous. If you never meet with any but those of the bog, you may not be in very great peril, but it is against others that I wish to warn you.

"Pleasure is a will o' the wisp that has led many astray. When we follow our own will, and not the will of God, we are sure to get into danger.—Pleasure has drawn many from the path of duty into the quagmire of sin. Never let pleasure lead you into evil; for one false step may plunge you into destruction.

"To some, praise is a will o' the wisp; for it altogether deceives them, and makes them think more highly of themselves than they ought to think. When a boy grows conceited and proud there is little hope of him. He is out of the right road, and is in great danger.

"Learn to condemn all praise betimes,
For flattery is the nurse of crimes."

"Finery is a will o' the wisp often, to both boys and girls, and ought not to be followed. The love of fine clothes has brought many to rags. O, what misery a pair of ear-rings has before now brought upon the wearer! Be neat, be clean, but beware of fine clothes! The rich man dresses himself in fine clothes, Luke xvi. 19, but after that he lifted up in his eyes in torment.

"Hundreds have found money a will o' the wisp. It has glittered before them, and dazzled their eyes, so that they have been deceived into the belief that it would make them happy, whereas "the love of money is the root of all evil." "Give me neither poverty nor riches," is a proper prayer. The love of God can make you happy, but the love of money never can. A contented mind is worth all the money in the world.

"A bad companion is a will o' the wisp, beware of him; for if there be one thing more likely than another to draw you into trouble, he is that very thing. He will pretend to be a friend, but he will prove himself your enemy; he will seem to be a light, but he will draw you into darkness. If you wish to get into miry places you do it at once by following a bad companion. That will be the way to lose the right path; this will be the way to fall headlong into ruin.

"The sparkling glass is a will o' the wisp. O, what numbers has it led astray! How tempting it is in its appearance! How pleasant it is to the taste! How it cheers the spirits! But by degrees the deceit uncoils itself as a snake, and bites as a serpent. It shows itself to be a will o' the wisp, and those who have been deceived by it find out, too late, that it has lured them to destruction.

"Cards and dice are wills o' the wisp that have led bodies and souls astray without number. A person begins by playing for amusement—then for small sums; but his desire for gain grows greater, and his vice increases; he wins or loses just as the will o' the wisp that deceives him shines on or withdraws his light; but on he goes, and his downward road ends in a miry swamp without bottom.

"Bad looks are will o' the wisp that fearfully lure astray, leading the simple aside from holy things, and tempting the root to say in his heart—

"There is no God." God's holy book tells us we are sinners, and that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour; but bad books deny this truth, and paint sin in gay colors, that it may deceive. A bad book attracts the eye, but poisons the soul; it is a will o' the wisp that has beckoned on thousands to destruction.

"I might tell you of many more wills o' the wisp, for as I said, there are hundreds besides those of the swamp and the bog; but remember that sin of every kind is a will o' the wisp—it will take all sorts of shapes. At one time it is as bright as a friendly lantern, and at another as cheerful as a taper in a cottage window; but it is al-

ways dangerous and deadly; like an adder, it has a fine skin and a poisoned tooth; like a fire-work, it sparkles; and then becomes dark as midnight; like Satan himself, whence it springs, it promises pleasure to inflict pain, and only gives present delight to insure future destruction."

THE NASHVILLE BEQUEST.

The Nashville Whig gives further information respecting the very liberal endowment of a seminary in Tennessee by a bequest of the late Isaac Franklin, who died in April last.

Franklin began life as a boatman, and left at his death property to the value of more than \$1,000,000. A large part of his estate was situated in Louisiana, where the law limits the proportion of his property which a father may alienate from his children. The amount thus secured to them by law, being sufficient (say \$300,000, or more,) all the remainder of his estate is given to the endowment of a seminary, to be established at the place of his residence in Sumner County, Tennessee. The Whig says—

"Here, then, is an institution of learning endowed by a single individual, with property of the value of not less than \$600,000. Moreover, the will provides that it shall be built on his plantation in Sumner County, the selected retreat of his declining years—a spot cultivated like a Paradise, and as fertile and attractive as can be found in the Valley of the Mississippi. This delightful spot, upon which nature has lavished her choicest gifts, is set apart to an object worthy of its natural excellence, and, it may be hoped, will be ranked among those localities in the world to which our minds recur with sentiments of reverence and awe, as devoted by man and sanctified by Heaven to advance the well being of the world.

"The simple and unpretending terms in which this magnificent endowment is couched are not a little striking, and, at the same time, characteristic of the man. The revenues arising from the property, says the will, are to be laid out in building proper and suitable edifices on my Fairview plantation, in the County of Sumner, and State of Tennessee, for an academy or seminary, the furnishing the same with fixtures and furniture, and the employment and payment of such teachers and professors, male and female, as may be considered necessary by my said trustees for the education, board and clothing of the children of my brothers and sisters and their descendants, in the best and most suitable and proper manner for American youth, having a particular regard to a substantial and good English education; and such other higher and ornamental branches as the aforesaid trustees, &c., will enable my said trustees to accomplish. And, if the revenues, &c., shall be sufficient therefor, I also wish that the poor children in the said County of Sumner, of unexceptionable character, and such as my trustees may select, should likewise be educated and supported during the time at the said seminary.

"The main object, in the nature of events, here designed by the testator, namely, a provision for the poor children of Sumner County, is modestly cloaked under a provision seeming to be chiefly for his own and brothers' and sisters' posterity. This noble benevolence effectually extinguishes the sting of poverty and orphanage in Sumner County, and makes blessed a lot usually so mournful, and so exciting our sympathies."

A NEW MODE OF ATTACK.—Mr. J. Wise, the celebrated Aeronaut has tendered his services to government through the columns of the Lancaster American Republican.—Mr. Wise, proposes to take the castle of San Juan de Ullon by means of what he calls a "war balloon."

His plan, he describes as follows: A balloon of common twilled muslin, of 100 feet in diameter, well coated with varnish, and capable when inflated of raising 20,000 lbs. is to be laden with 18,000 pounds weight of percussioned bombshells and torpedoes, leaving 2,000 lbs. for ballast and men. The balloon may be inflated on shore or on board a man-of-war, having a cable of five miles in length attached to it, to govern its manouvres. Leaving the shore or vessel out of reach of the guns of the Castle, it is to hover at the height of a mile above the Castle, and literally rain down destruction upon its inmates. This offer completely throws Capt. Brobdignag's plan of cutting up an army in detail, into the shade. *Eve. News.*

The character given by Neckar, the celebrated French financier, of the eloquent Mirabeau, was doubtless correct, and describes in a few words that distinguished man, viz: "He was a Democrat from policy, but an Aristocrat from taste."

A good criterion by which to judge the disposition of a man, is to watch him when he passes some boys at play. A kind man will step out of the way, and let the little fellows have their sport.

A MUCH NEEDED INVENTION.—A Yankee has taken out a patent for an improvement in the "scales of justice."