

The Sumter Banner.

DEVOTED TO SOUTHERN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, NEWS, LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND THE ARTS.

JOHN S. RICHARDSON, JR.,
PROPRIETOR.

"God—and our Native Land."

TERMS—\$2 IN ADVANCE

VOL. IX.

SUMTERVILLE, S. C., FEBRUARY 7, 1856.

NO. 14

THE SUMTER BANNER

IS PUBLISHED
Every Wednesday Morning
BY
John S. Richardson, Jr.

TERMS,
TWO DOLLARS in advance, Two Dollars and Fifty Cents at the expiration of six months or Three Dollars at the end of the year. No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the Proprietor. Advertisements inserted at SEVENTY-FIVE Cents per square, (12 lines or less,) for the first, and half that sum for each subsequent insertion. (Official advertisements the same each time.) The number of insertions to be marked on all Advertisements or they will be published until ordered to be discontinued, and charged accordingly. ONE DOLLAR per square for a single insertion. Quarterly and Monthly Advertisements will be charged the same as a single insertion, and semi-monthly the same as new ones. Obituaries and Tributes of Respect, over twelve lines, charged as advertisements.

Poetry

The Memorials of the Past.
BY ORION.
'Tis Night! and day's fierce eye hath set,
And lonely from you tree,
The Whippoorwill, in sadness yet,
Sings her harsh lullaby.
'Tis Night! and memory on the wing
Leads forth her misty throng,
And back recalls each valued thing
My heart has cherished long.
Thou, on whose arm my head reposed
In life's unconscious hours,
'Ere yet my sickly frae disclosed
Its future healthy powers.
Thee, first does faithful Memory bring
A more than Mother thow,
Who nursed me in life's early spring—
Can I forget thee now?
Who can forget the eye whose light
First sparkled in his rood,
And cheered him on, when shade and
cheer
Hung o'er his path abroad?
While Memory owns her magic powers,
Forget it, he who can,
The love that nursed his infant hours,
And reared him up to man.
And, sisters—brothers! ye are, too,
Here with me at her call;
A heart that once rejoiced with you,
Still fondly loves you all.
What though ye are estranged by years
From the far distant one,
What though your hearts have lost their
care
For one who stands alone!
Yet once again around the hearth
Of childhood's home we stand,
And Memory paints the scene of mirth
'Mid our unbroken band.
Alas! our fondest hours are gone,
And I, forgotten, tread
My pathway in the world alone,
As numbered with the dead.

PETRIIFICATION.—Mr. P. G. Soy, residing near Germantown, Ohio, in examining the bodies of his wife, his grandchild, and other deceased members of his family, from a burial ground on his farm, in order to inter them in the Ge mantown Cemetery, found that the bodies were all more or less petrified. The wife had been buried twenty four years, but the body was in an excellent state of preservation.—Upon a close examination, it was found that the remains would not give way under the pressure of a piece of board which one of the gentlemen placed upon the corpse; and this strange circumstance led to still further investigation. The shroud, and indeed, all the covering which was upon the body at the time of interment, twenty four years ago, had disappeared not a vestige of them remained. The body was perfect, except the right leg, from the knee to the anklejoint, where the flesh seemed to have wasted away, and lay at the bottom of the coffin in a substance resembling sand. With this exception of decay, the body and limbs exhibited the same perfectness of exterior they did when life and animation were in the body. The body, indeed, had been petrified! It was by some strange quality of the earth, and other causes of which we can form no conjecture, turned into stone of a drab, or more properly speaking, flesh color; and the elixir of the artist might imitate but could not make so close a resemblance to the human form divine.—*Charleston Mercury.*

A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER.—The Dahlia is a native of the marshes of Peru, and was named after Dahl, the famous Swedish botanist. It is more than thirty years since its introduction into Europe, and it is now the universal favorite of florists. The number of known varieties is about five hundred,

(By the Editor.)
Duelling.
In every age, and among every people, men inflamed by anger, have found a congenial feeling in assaults, more or less ferocious, according to the circumstances, upon the persons and lives of those against whom their anger was directed.

The tendency of human nature is, and always has been, towards the gratification of any passion which may be excited. The influence which society, as it approaches nearer to enlightenment and refinement, exerts, is of restraint upon all the passions. Every man who has at all observed his own emotions and impulses, should, in his calm or moments feel grateful to Providence for those various restraints which have so frequently prevented acts, either of folly or madness, whose consequences might have been, to others, wretchedness, to himself remorse. How many a man, whose hand is now unstained by blood, can recall occasions, when but for some apparently fortuitous, really providential circumstance, he might now have "murderer" burnt in upon his conscience. From the time when Cain was sent forth, a disgraced, wretched, panic-stricken wanderer, men have known that the frown of Heaven rested upon him who in anger raised his hand against the life of his fellow man. The teachings of experience warn to the same restraint which the command of God imposes, and show that not only holiness, but happiness, demands the practice of that divine virtue, FORGIVENESS. "To err is human." It is much less difficult to act or speak so as to offend than as to please.—What a slaughter pen would this earth become if the heated passion, anger, so frequently excited, perhaps each day of every man's life, were permitted to indulge itself in acts suited to its nature. Murder, repeated till the heart would sicken, would be the result. The Great Ruler over Heaven and earth directed that "by man should his blood be shed who sheds the blood of man," and inexorable Necessity has forced mankind to subvert the divine direction. The fearful penalty of death has been held up before the angry passion to fright it from the deed. And if the sword of Justice be escaped, that Humanity which is within the man as well as in the millions of the universal brotherhood, has its death penalty, more unerring than the other. In many, many, solitary, living deaths has the doom of the first manslayer been terribly realized, since the black day when murder first was done upon the earth. Murder has for its companion Horror. All this has marked the history of man. How then can the duel, and its place in human history, its foundation in human nature, be explained? Can blood, shed in a fair, equal contest, be gathered up again to reanimate him from whose heart it has poured forth? Is the wife less a widow, are children less orphans, is the death gloom to survivors less oppressive, because the husband and father has been struck from life, not by a savage, unseen, assassin, but by an adversary full in front, calm, composed, observant, to the nicety of a hair, of the rules of etiquette? Is the fallen one less destroyed, less lost to the joys of this life and the hopes of the life to come, because the combat was deliberate, planned out, and he the slain because he could not be the slayer? Is the killing done with less determination, less malignancy of purpose, because the slayer hazarded his own life for the opportunity to commit the deed; and can that, which comprises both murder and suicide within itself, be less in enormity of crime than either? Alas for poor human nature when it is the enlight. ened, the refined of mankind who answer "Yes" to all these questions.—Originated in an age when superstition assigned to the Duel, the pious office of deciding the Right and punishing the Wrong; when "God preserve the Right" was the cry as the door and the redresser of wrongs closed in upon each other in deadly combat, and all believed that by His decree it was

that defeat was visited upon the guilty one—it has come down to us disrobed of its superstitions investiture severed from pious justice—a game of hazard, in which the injured one may have fearful odds against him, and the stake the life of one or both. The men of the Dark ages, who believed that Heaven presided over it and awarded justice by its result, should not be condemned by those whose ignorance has been enlightened; but how can we pardon ourselves? Do we believe that by it wrong is punished and Right redressed? No such pious superstition sours the mind of this age. Then it had its foundation in the confessed inability of human tribunals to read the secrets and detect the guilt of the heart; and the Great arbiter, to whom all secret things were known, was invoked to make manifest the truth by the issue of the combat.

Now that reason does not support it. The duelist of this day knows, if he thinks at all, that God, unevoked, is there, but only to be insulted and angered by the violation of his own commandment. The duel now is, confessedly, no Court of Justice. The chances are, perhaps most frequently, in his favor who has spent a life in insulting and injuring, and has skilled himself by practice in the art of destroying those who resented the wrongs done them.

But it is absurd to reason and decant upon this subject. Common sense revolts at it. One who really feels a wrong or insult may be willing to hazard his life for the chance of revenge. It is but a chance, he knows, but life and its concerns then seem as nothing compared with the gratification of the absorbing passion. And the wrongdoer may meet him, either from a wish to injure him more, or from recklessness—or frequently from fear of what the world would say were he to refuse satisfaction. And this very fear is the cause of many duels. Men fear to do right by making acknowledgements and reparation when they have done wrong; the others fear to do what God himself does constantly towards man—show mercy and forgive; misunderstandings and difficulties are complicated and inflamed until they end in blood, because of fear that the world will sneer at their want of courage and spirit. A chivalrous situation to be propped up by fear!—Duelling is really the most ridiculous absurdity of the age—if that could be called ridiculous which has destroyed so many thousands, not only of reprobates, but of the really high souled and noble minded. To treat a man like a gentleman when you are about to kill him because you say he is not one; to give a man means and opportunity to inflict an irreparable injury upon you, because he has already injured you: to be calm and composed, when, if your feelings at all consort with the act you are about to commit, your heart is boiling over with hot wrath: all this may be very fine and chivalrous, but it is unnatural. An angry man, when he acts naturally and without affectation, assaults his foe immediately and with violence; his feelings force him to corresponding action—he uses no soft words, assumes no easy, indifferent manner, but looks and acts the angry man. Yet for him there are laws, that will be enforced too.—Should he not be able to meet his injurer then—should a day, though it may not abate his wrath, yet delay his vengeance—then the law against murderers would be enforced in his case. Let him receive the same injury, delay his revenge for as long a time, avow his purpose; deliberate, malignant, calm in his resolution from the knowledge that a quick eye, a steady hand and superior expertness will enable him to kill his adversary as safely to himself as if he too were not armed—and the laws of Honor will shield him from the penalties of his country's laws. Ought these things to be so? What justifies juries in distinguishing between these two cases in favor of the latter? The one "not guilty"—the other "guilty"! Does the law justify them? Does Com-

mon Sense? What lifts from their consciences their solemn oath? We labor in vain to imagine a reply.—The plainest of all murders is the one most easily found to be no murder. What bloody delusion is it which, upon this subject, has so crazed the public mind, that it makes void the laws which Heaven declared and Humanity approves, makes that honorable which is the highest crime, and declares that chivalric which is unatural and affected. And how much is each individual, whose sentiments on this matter go to make up a public opinion in favor of duelling, answerable to his own conscience for the perpetuation of the practice, for the lives it has sacrificed, for the suffering and anguish of heart it has caused, and for the perversion of moral sentiment it has effected! How many there are, especially of the youthful, who, in the unreflectiveness and impetuosity natural to their age, become complicated in "affairs of honor," that find themselves, almost unconsciously, carried onward by the ponderous machinery of the institution to the dread consummation; oft times facing each other with deadly weapons in their hands, but with no malice in their hearts—one perhaps to fall, a victim to false principles of honor, the other to lead a life of bitter regret. We feel convinced that, in the majority of fatal duels, it is not the unhappy survivor who is the real murderer, but Society, which by its perverted moral sentiment has set in action influences mechanically, as it were, productive of the disastrous effects.

We ask not to be pardoned for having thought thus, but we do feel that (for it is in our view every member of the community should be interested in) but we feel that, perhaps, we have trespassed by the too lengthy expression of our imperfect and rambling thoughts. The consideration of the subject at this time, was suggested to us by the following which we take from the correspondence of the *Charleston Courier*:

NEW-ORLEANS, Jan. 10.
The duello has at last been decreed a crime by a jury. Juan Pages, who, as I mentioned in my letter of yesterday, killed some three years since another Spaniard, named Juan Paster, in a duel with knives, has been convicted of manslaughter by twelve impartial citizens. The verdict, though tempered by a recommendation to mercy, consequent on the chivalrous manner in which Pages conducted his portion of the affair, by giving up to his adversary an advantage which he had in weapons, yet establishes a precedent which it is to be hoped will have a good effect in deterring many from engaging in such horrible battles, as have at times disgraced this section of the country. "Up to this period," says the Crescent, "it has been next to impossible to obtain a jury that would convict in any case where a fair duel had been fought, notwithstanding the numerous laws that have been incorporated into our different constitutions, and stringent statutes that have been passed by different Legislatures on the subject of duelling."

We have thought this a fit time for these comments, because there are no contemporaneous circumstances to which they can be applied, and we cannot therefore be charged with personality. In concluding we would, to corroborate our opinion as to where the sin lies, advert to what has been stated of Illinois: that the survivor of the first and only duel in that State was convicted of murder by the Jury. It stopped there. Shall this degenerated feature of the Dark Ages longer darken this enlightened age? It is for the men of the country, the sworn Jurors of the country, to say when it shall be effaced.

INTERESTING STATISTICS OF THE PRES. BYTERIANS.—Baltimore has one Pres. byterian communicant to 118 of the population; Philadelphia one to 78; Pittsburg one to 47; Richmond one to 59; Louisville one to 35; Nashville one to 22; Charleston one to 56; Columbia, S. C., one to 35; Mobile one to 45; New Orleans one to 128; Cincinnati one to 153.

Edwin Barnes was elected Sheriff of Kershaw District on the 22nd ult.

Transplanting Fruit Trees.

BY H. C. VAIL.
The autumn is a favorable time for making plantations of hardy trees, such as apples, pears, cherries, quinces and plums. The more tender varieties of fruit trees are frequently set out in the fall with success, yet the spring is the better season for removing the peach, apricot, nectarine, and even the plum.
The taste for fine fruit is becoming more general, and we believe that as men become more civilized and refined, they will give a greater share of their attention to the cultivation of the soil—particularly to the propagation of fine varieties of fruit. Thousands of acres of land have been devoted to orchards within a few years; still the price of fruits in our great cities is probably higher at the present time than it was ten years ago, even if we allow for the scarcity of fruit this season, which has caused an advance in price. In short, the public taste is rapidly undergoing an educational course, which renders it almost an impossibility to overstock the markets with good fruits at remunerating prices.

Fruits should be grown more extensively for home consumption.—There are hundreds of farmers whose families know nothing of the luxury of having abundance of fine fruit on their own farms; who probably, never plucked a luscious pear or a ripe, bluish green apple from a tree of their own.—Too often we see a few fruit trees carelessly set alongside a stone wall, or in some neglected corner where they never receive attention, instead of having a field set apart and cultivated especially for the production of fruit, which may be thus obtained in any quantity and to suit the taste of the most refined amateur.

We are highly gratified at the increasing demand for fine fruits, and to notice the number of trees sold annually by our leading nurserymen. We are equally grieved to witness the careless manner in which nine tenths of them are placed out, under the name of setting, which is very proper, for they are set with no more care than if they were posts, or some other lifeless thing. It never seems to enter the brains of some people that a tree is an organized body, possessed of vitality, and the roots, etc., acting as conduits for supplying the means of sustaining its vitality and increasing its mass. Such is the case, however, and therefore, after having used the proper discretion in selecting the right kind and quality of tree, as to vigor, form, etc., the best mode of transplanting should be understood and acted upon. Take two plots of ground of equal size and transplant trees, equal in every respect, into both. Plant the one with care, the other in the ordinary manner and at the end of ten years the former will be so far superior that no amount of care or manuring will bring the latter to the same state.

Those persons who are about to transplant fruit trees would do well to observe a few facts. Nurseries, in which trees are grown until large enough for the orchard, are generally in excellent condition, the soil made rich by frequent and plentiful manuring, and kept clean by cultivation; hence in removing trees it is well to select as fertile a soil as possible in which to set them. Trees should never be pulled or twisted out of the ground, but always carefully taken up. If necessary to sever roots, it should be done with a sharp spade or other proper tool. Care should always be taken to preserve all the small roots, for they are invaluable to the health and prosperity of the tree. Exposure to the sun and wind will so shrivel up the roots as to unfit them for the performance of their regular functions.—Hundreds of trees are lost annually from this cause alone. All injured roots should be removed carefully, with a clean cut made by a sharp knife, the tops trimmed just in proportion to the mutilation of the root.—The practice of removing all or nearly all, the top of trees transplanted is injudicious. The leaves are required to perfect their organization, and these are more readily developed on the younger than on the more matured portions of a tree. The holes for the reception of the roots should be spacious—from four to six feet in diameter, and never less than two and a half feet in depth. It must be recollected that if the spot where a tree is set, it never can be done afterward, and that their roots extend wider and deeper than those of ordinary crops, hence the soil must be loosened to a greater extent to enable them to travel without hindrance. The soil removed from the bottom of the hole should never be returned to it. Its place must be supplied with that of a better quality. Where rich earth can be readily obtained, the surface soil about the hole may be taken off and placed in it, and

the subsoil removed from the hole may be substituted for the surface soil so removed. The exposure to sun and air will so ameliorate its condition that it will soon become surface soil. It is an excellent practice to place bones, horn piths, woolen rags, leather shavings, and other refuse materials, such as old mortar, bricks, etc., in the bottom of the holes as a deposit of materials for the future use of the tree. If a hole be dug near a vigorous tree, and a fresh bone be placed in it, at the end of a year the bone be dug up, it will be encircled with fibrous roots thrown out from the tree and feeding upon its substance.

The field devoted to fruit trees should be underdrained, if wet, for no tree can do well in wet, cold soil. We would advise the deep and thorough underdraining of naturally dry lands a practice which is now pursued in England with great success, and which we have not the least doubt would prove an excellent investment on American farms, particularly on those portions which are expected to yield so abundantly as orchards.—Deep and subsoil plowing must necessarily precede the transplanting of trees, for with the exception of the middle portions between the rows of trees, they can not afterward be done thoroughly without great injury to them.

Compost manures are best adapted to trees. Unfermented, concentrated, ammoniacal manures, are highly injurious, disorganizing the spongy and rendering the tree unhealthy. Large amounts of mulch, river or pond mud, turf, sods wood, mold or other refuse vegetable matter prepared by the use of the salt and lime mixture, or charcoal dust, mixed with ordinary manures, or with guano, hen dung, or other concentrated fertilizers, may be used with safety, and should be mingled with the soil, not placed in immediate contact with roots.

Trees never should be set deeper than where they grew in the nursery. If any set, they should stand an inch or two higher, to allow for the settling of the soil, which will leave them at the proper depth. Care must be taken to give every rootlet its natural position, and when all ready, fine mold sprinkled over them, so that every crack and crevice may be filled. When properly covered, a few quarts of water thrown on from a broad spout, so as to give the streams a flat, thin form, will carry the soil about every root and insure success in its future growth. The practice of shaking, recommended by many writers, is extremely injurious. We know from ample experience in pursuing both methods. During the operation of shaking, the roots are drawn out of place and are left in a cramped position.

After having carefully planted a tree, set a tall, plant stake near it, and make the tree fast by means of a wisp of straw, or a soft tow string, or strong bast matting. The object in using a limber stake is to give the tree an opportunity to move when attacked by winds, and yet remain firm enough to prevent being uprooted or having its roots drawn from their proper place.

A mulch covering of loose straw, coarse litter, seaweed, coarse manures, spent tan bark, stones, bits of boards, chips, etc., placed around the tree, prevents rapid evaporation of moisture, and thus enhances the likelihood of success. Trees may be freely watered when mulched, but when not so treated, it often does much injury by compacting the soil and preventing the access of air.

Diluted guano water, solution of night soil, improved superphosphate of lime, and other concentrated fertilizers, may be applied to trees with profit at almost any season of the year.

When guano alone is used, it should be dug in the ground in the fall, so that the autumn and winter rains may dissolve and distribute it through the soil, and destroy its virulence before the season of rapid growth commences. Should it come in contact with the spongy roots in its concentrated form, it would result in their destruction.—Superphosphate and improved superphosphate of lime are valuable as application to fruit trees of all classes, and may be used at any season with out fear of evil results. Indeed, fine fruit cannot be grown without the presence of phosphates in the soil, and we have every reason to believe, both from theory and actual experiment, that the use of the soluble phosphates is productive of the greatest benefits to fruit trees of every description.

Probably the best method for watering trees is to bury a piece or two of pipe tiles, with one point below the body of the tree, and the other coming to the surface of the ground one and a half or two feet from it. In this tube, thus formed, water, very diluted solutions of manures, may be poured

at any and all seasons with perfect safety. Other plans may suggest themselves to the ingenious cultivator.

One word concerning dwarf pear trees. In selecting pear trees grafted on quince for the purpose of dwarfing them, be careful to choose those grafted close to, or even beneath, the surface of the soil. When grafted on quince above the surface they are subject to destruction from high winds. This precaution in selecting may prevent the loss of many, besides the pear may throw out young rootlets; and in time be growing on its own roots.—The tap root of the quince should be cut out, for if left it will soon decay and leave the tree in an unhealthy state.

GAS TAR IN HORTICULTURE.—We clip the following from one of our exchanges. If true, it is a useful discovery and well worth trying.

From Galignani's Messenger, as quoted in the Franklin Institute for December, 1854, we learn that a discovery, which is likely to be of great advantage to agriculture, has been reported to the Agricultural Society at Clermont, France. A gardener whose farms and hot houses required painting decided on making them black, as likely to attract the heat better, and from a principal of economy he made use of gas tar instead of black paint. The work was performed during the winter, and on the approach of spring the gardener was surprised to find that all the spiders and insects which usually infested his hot houses had disappeared, and also that a vine, which for the last two years had so fallen off that he had intended to replace it by another, had acquired fresh force and vigor, and gave every sign of producing a large crop of grapes.—He afterwards used the same substance on the posts and trellis-work which supported the tiers in the open air, and met with the same results.—All the caterpillars and other insects completely disappeared. It is said that similar experiments have been made in some of the vineyards in the Gironde, with similar results. We commend these facts to American horticulturists as equally applicable to other growths than that of the vine.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.—There is a strange story now floating on the great sea of literary talk.—Nothing less, let me tell you, than that an unpublished fiction by Sir Walter Scott has turned up, and will be published in Paris, where it was found. The story runs, that a rich old German, who lived in Paris when Scott visited it in 1826, had a monomania for collecting autographs, and wanted one of Scott's; that Anne Scott gave him the manuscript of a historical romance by her father, which he had determined not to publish; that he prized this very much, kept it in a box by itself, and promised to bequeath it to his private secretary; that he quitted Paris in 1830, and was lost sight of; that a few months ago the German's daughter forwarded the writing case from Bavaria; that the secretary opened it, and found it to contain, "Moreau, a Tale of the Twelve Hundred and Ten;" that it is of the usual three volume extent; that it is being translated for publication in the French, and that it has the genuine life, spirit, and reality of the best of the Waverley romances.—*London Cor. of the N. Y. Sunday Times.*

A REMEDY FOR WARTS AMONG SHANGHAIS.—This breed of fowls is very subject to a disease resembling warts, and which some persons miscall *gout*. It is an excrescence which appears upon, and rapidly extends itself over the shanks; rendering the subject very inactive and unhealthy, and if not removed, in time proves fatal. The disease is speedily cured by—first, washing well the part affected with warm water and soap, wiping dry, and then smearing thickly over it, a mixture of tar and lard.—The first application often effects a cure; if it does not, in ten days or a fortnight after, apply the mixture a second time, and it will rarely fail.

DURATION OF VEGETABLE LIFE.—Lord Lindsay states that, in the course of his wanderings amid the pyramids of Egypt, he stumbled on a mummy proved by its hieroglyphics to be at least 2000 years of age. On examining the mummy after it was unwrapped, he found in one of its closed hands a tuberous or bulbous root. He was interested in the question how long vegetable life could last, and he therefore took that tuberous root from the mummy's hand, planted it in a sunny soil, allowed the rains and dews of heaven to descend upon it, and in the course of a few weeks, to his astonishment and joy, the root burst forth and bloomed into a beautiful dahlia.