

# CHERAW GAZETTE

AND

## PEE DEE FARMER.

VOLUME IV.

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### THE GAZETTE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Experiments on Manures &c.  
From the Transactions of the Essex (Mass.) Agricultural Society.

The Committee Report: That they consider the subject of the making and application of manure, one of the greatest importance to the agricultural interests. Manure and labor are to the farmer what capital and credit are to the merchant. With them well applied, the one will add barn to barn, the other store house to store house, till there shall be no room to contain their several wealth; without them, they must soon suspend operations, and their farms and their ships pass into the hands of more skillful and industrious owners.

Many farmers think they cannot afford to purchase manure, and the price does seem disproportionate to the immediate profits; but no farmer will say that he cannot afford to make the most of what he has, and to apply it to the best advantage. Many take an honest pride in being able to say, I have raised so many hundred bushels of corn, or so many tons of hay; now to be able to say I have made five hundred loads of manure, is just as much a matter of boasting, for manure will make corn, and hay, and other valuable products, if it be only judiciously applied. Put in the seed and the manure, and the grateful soil will make you a liberal return. It is held to be true by experienced farmers, that he who doubles the expense of labor and manure, will increase his profits and products in nearly a four-fold proportion. In other words, the man who spends half his time upon his farm, and skims over one hundred acres of land and glean from it fifty bushels of corn and twenty tons of hay, if he should devote his whole energies to his farm, and improve his means of making manure, might raise nearly two hundred bushels of corn and eighty tons of hay.

Some have, in their natural situation and proximity to the sea-board, greater facilities for making and obtaining manure; but every substance of animal and vegetable matter can be mixed with the soil in such a manner as to increase the fertility of the earth; and even the different soils may be mingled so as to produce the same effect.

The quantity of manure a farmer uses, is a pretty fair criterion by which to judge his character. In Plymouth county, where a premium is rewarded to the man who makes the greatest number of loads, a most worthy and truly respectable farmer, the last year, reached the very enviable eminence of seven hundred and ninety-eight loads; the lowest competitor claimed for three hundred and fifty loads, and his must be allowed to be an improving character. William Clark, jr. of Northampton, in his statement to the Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Agricultural Society, represents that he keeps an average stock of eight swine, three horses, and eight oxen and cows; from this stock, with the skillful use of all his advantages, which are not superior to those of many of our farmers, he made from June 1837 to June 1838, nine hundred and twenty loads, an honorable monument to his intelligence and industry, which compensates in utility and solid value for what it may want in taste and splendor. Mr. Clark used for compost three hundred loads of soil and two hundred and forty-seven loads of swamp muck. His yards were supplied with corn-stalks and refuse hay during the winter, and brakes and weeds in the summer, and cleared out twice during the year. It might be supposed that manure so made could possess but little of the quickening and strengthening principles; but those who have visited his farm and seen his fields burdened with their heavy crops, are satisfied that Mr. Clark knows how to make manure and to apply it, and that his fields acknowledge their obligation and pay their due return. Mr. Clark, from such manure, has raised more than one thousand bushels of corn in a year.

The committee award to Daniel Putnam, of Danvers, for the satisfactory experiment and the full and explicit statement made by him, a premium of twenty dollars. They recommend that Mr. Putnam's statement and the letter addressed by Joseph How, Esq. of Methuen, to the committee, be published.

For the Committee,  
DANIEL P. KING.  
Topsfield, Dec. 25, 1838.

#### Intelligent Farming.

We extract the following paragraph from a letter to the Editor of the American Farmer.

Embarking next day at St. Michael's I had the pleasure to traverse Eastern Bay, one of the most beautiful sheets of water in the world, bordered by woods and fields and mansions of surpassing richness, lux-

uriance and beauty—steaming along Wye river to Wye landing and back, you see surrounded with towering poplars, "Wye House," that ancient and celebrated seat of opulence and luxurious hospitality, and almost within the smoke of each other's chimneys, you pass in full view of the elegant residences of the younger brothers James M. and Daniel Lloyd, all splendid estates, conducted with a skill, and yielding crops that evince beyond all question the improvements which have been made even in their yet young time and tide, and may I not add as connected with and accessory thereto, since the establishment of your old American Farmer—What an evidence of the effect of the application of mind to matter! You, as I have understood, first published but 500 copies at your own expense and without a single subscriber, believing agriculture to be an interest, in itself, and for itself, susceptible of progressive improvement, and worthy of being studied. Now, there are papers of great ability devoted exclusively to that greatest of human concerns, of which there are not less than fifty thousand impressions issued regularly—and what is the consequence? Children on subdivisions of estates, make more than their fathers did on the whole; the current of emigration to the west has been arrested, if it be not reformed, and old states worn down by abuse and dead of exhaustion are becoming reanimated and fat again, like an old ox turned into the corn field.

From the Genesee Farmer.  
Varieties of Indian Corn.

The following is an extract from a paper read before the Agricultural Society of Fredericksburgh, Virginia.

The kind of corn cultivated, I believe to be of greater importance than is generally supposed. Any Virginian who has traveled northwards, must have observed the difference between their crops and ours. He must have seen that the stalks diminish in size, while the crop per acre, obviously increases; and yet ours is notoriously the soil and climate for growing corn. I think the difference may be attributed to the kind of corn cultivated, a kind which enables them to plant much thicker than we do. Here, most of us plant a gourd-seed corn, showing up a large stalk, bearing generally one, occasionally two ears, and not admitting thick planting. There, the stalk is low, is planted very thick, and bears two, three, and four small flinty ears. Not farther North than Pennsylvania, I have seen corn planted five feet by four, with three and four stalks in the hill. Counting three stalks at this distance, and allowing three ears to each, any given space, there, will yield seven or eight ears to our one; small ears certainly, but still large enough to account for the great superiority in the product per acre. I commenced with the old full-breed Virginia gourd-seed, and stuck to it for six or eight years; but finding that on common land many stalks were too late in coming, or did not ear at all, determined to change my seed. My next variety was the "Taliaferro white flint." This sort is touched with the gourd-seed, but it is superior to it in having a smaller stalk, ripening earlier, bearing more ears, and a harder and heavier grain. I then tried what is called the "Alsp corn," resembling the Taliaferro in other respects, but somewhat smaller in stalk, and superior in number of ears, often producing two, three and sometimes a greater number of ears. This corn I still plant. I made one experiment with the Maryland twin corn, and thought it as prolific as the Alsp; but the grain being lighter and the stalk taller, it was abandoned. Last winter I purchased, in Washington, a small quantity of "Bladen corn," and planted with it a rich lot of two acres. It came up and grew off well, was the tallest corn I ever saw, averaged five or six shoots to the stalk, and promised at one time to make a great crop. But it suffered nearly twice as much as the rest of my corn, from the heat or drought of the summer, and was broken off by a wind in August, which did very little injury to the rest of the crop. It did not course fill up or ripen well, and I feed it to hogs. But as it certainly had more shoots than any corn I ever saw, I have saved a small portion to plant again. If it can be brought down to a proper standard, retaining its great number of shoots, it will probably turn out to be a very prolific variety.

It will readily be seen that I consider thicker planting than common essential in making heavy crops of corn per acre. But thick planting with a large kind, is out of the question. At the same time, it must be borne in mind, that as we increase the number, we diminish the size of the ears, and add to the labor of gathering and husking. Every judicious farmer will decide, from experience, how far he can carry this process; and will stop as soon as he begins to doubt whether he is paid for his additional labor. Dismissing all speculation on this point, I believe we may safely plant any small variety of corn, at the rate of one stalk to every ten square feet on tolerable land, which would give about 4360 stalks, and from six to ten barrels of grain to the acre. I will only add, in conclusion, that although I have frequently been deterred by the influence which custom exercises over the mind of every one, from planting corn as thick as I was inclined to. I have, in no one instance, exceeded the usual rate without adding to the crop.

WILLIAM P. TAYLOR.  
Caroline County, Va.

CHANGE OF SEED WHEAT.—Nothing is we believe better established than the benefit which results from a change of seed and of

breeding animals.—We are satisfied that an exchange of these between even neighboring farmers, will always be attended with advantage. No matter how clean may be his own wheat or his corn, or how well grown may be his bull or his boar or his ram, a change will be followed by improvement. We give the hint without thinking it necessary to amplify or multiply proofs.  
Amer. Farmer.

From the Maine Cultivator.  
Book Farming.

Some people give their *knowing* heads a toss of contempt at the very idea of book farming. They want none of your newspaper theories and speculations about farming—not they! The knowledge which they possess, comes by intuition, we suppose, or the equally respectable and intelligent source—tradition. Their fathers knew how to balance the bag on old Dobbin's back, by leading one side with a stone equal in weight to the grist, on the other side, and so do they, wise souls! What good can such wise acres derive from a book or a newspaper? Surely none. Avant—all ye Abercrombies and Franklins, ye Loudons and Powells, ye Cobbeis and Fessenders, ye Buels and Colmans—what know ye about herds and flocks, labor-saving implements, chemical combinations, soils and manures, sowing and tilling, fencing and ditching? Is it possible that learned men should know anything about the best modes of husbandry?

To be serious, however, there can be no doubt that many of the theories and speculations which have appeared in books and periodicals, professedly devoted to terra-culture, have failed in point of practical utility: but what then? Are we to cast every fact aside, because it is written out by a friend to farming, and has found a place in a newspaper? No reasonable man will say this. On every thing else, people have derived benefit from reading the discoveries and experiments of others; why should farmers alone repudiate all information from such a source? It is prejudice to do so.—There are men who have conferred great benefit on the world by their agricultural researches. Should they not be honored? But for the art of printing, how slow would be the progress of the various improvements that have been made? Let us not be so unreasonable as to indulge in this vain prejudice: but let us all who cultivate the earth, make, each, what improvement he can, and then throw the common stock together, through the medium of some agricultural publication, for the benefit of all concerned. In this way, a mutual benefit will be secured, and much hard labor will often be saved.

#### Agricultural Papers.

Judge Price, in his Agricultural Report to the Legislature of New Jersey, remarks, "As a means of improvement your committee beg leave to recommend a more general circulation and perusal of periodical publications, expressly devoted to the subject of agriculture. There are, in our country several of these, which have justly acquired a high reputation for the ability with which they are conducted. They collect and embody a large amount of useful information, which cannot be acquired in any other mode. They would afford to the farmer the means of occupying his leisure hours both pleasantly and profitably, and almost amply repay all the cost of their procurement. Very few, it is believed after a fair trial, would willingly forego the company of these quiet, yet instructive, visitors."

#### Profitable Breed of Swine.

A few weeks since we gave, from the Kennebeck Journal, the dimensions of an extraordinary pig of the Bedford breed, owned by Mr. J. W. Haynes, of Hallowell, Maine. By a communication of Mr. H. on the advantages of this breed of swine, lately published in the Maine Farmer, and from which we make the following extracts, we perceive that the pig alluded to has been slaughtered. His dressed weight, at nine months old, was three hundred and two pounds! The manner of keeping and fattening this pig will be found below.

After giving some extracts to show the estimation in which this breed is held in Massachusetts and elsewhere, Mr. H. says, "Since I have had them I have found them to fully sustain the reputation given to them by breeders in Massachusetts. They are very small boned in proportion to the size—quiet, easily fattened, do much better on raw food than any other kind, and obtain a good size at an early age.  
Zanesville Gazette.  
"I have crossed the pure Bedford with the half Bedford and half Mackey, making the progeny three fourths Bedford and one fourth Mackey, and found very little advantage from the crossing. One of these pigs I wintered last winter on eight pounds of raw mangel wurtzel per day, and she kept in good condition, and brought a litter of ten pigs in April; a few weeks previous to which I fed her on the slops from the house. Nine of the pigs lived and made fine hogs. During the summer she lived principally upon grass, with a few raw potatoes, and in October she had another litter of thirteen pigs, four of which, however, owing to an accident, died. She was then kept for a while on boiled pumpkins, oats, peas, and barley meal. Since then she has lived entirely on raw ruta baga and mangel wurtzel, at the rate of about twelve pounds per day, and is now in good condition.  
"I killed one of the pigs, which was seven eighths Bedford, one eighth Mackey,

when nine months old, that weighed three hundred and two pounds. He was fed on the slops from the house during the summer and the last two months he was fed on meal and corn. When I commenced feeding him on meal he ate about two quarts per day; but after five or six weeks he would not eat more than one quart per day. He gave the most meat in proportion to the bone, of any hog, I ever killed, and I think was the cheapest raised. Others who keep this breed have made the same statement. There was one of the pure Bedford killed in the neighbourhood, fourteen months old, that weighed three hundred and eighty-five pounds, and another, ten months old, that weighed four hundred and twenty pounds, neither of which had any extra keeping."  
"J. W. HAINES."

#### Agricultural Convention of S. Carolina.

We rejoice to see that an agricultural convention for the state of South Carolina, is to be held in November next. If zealously and efficiently carried through, there is no mitatory measure more likely to render service to the declining agricultural and general interests of South Carolina; and no state in the confederacy needs such aid more, or is better fitted, by the offered bounty of nature, to profit by the first efforts, and what we hope may be the consequences of the action, of a properly operating agricultural convention. In referring to the means for resuscitating, and giving new and heretofore unknown vigor to the soil of this state, (or at least a large portion of it), we allude principally, though not exclusively, to her immense and as yet untouched and profuse beds of fossil shells, or marl, which alone would serve, if judiciously and properly availed of, in a few years to increase the gross products four-fold, and the net product ten or twenty-fold, of all the region underlaid with this calcareous deposit. And we firmly believe that this immense amount of improvement, and of created wealth, might be secured, by an outlay of annual expense not greater than the actual cost of removal annually incurred by the thousands of emigrants, from South Carolina, who are continually deserting her in her decay, to seek more fertile lands in the new southwestern states. This declaration will probably be deemed ridiculously extravagant. Nevertheless it is our firm belief, founded upon large experiment and very extensive observation of the use of calcareous manures in the similar region of lower Virginia—though applied there as yet very insufficiently, and generally injudiciously, in almost every case. Where marling begins, emigration ceases. We are not among the adventurous class of speculators, or of those who are willing to exchange a certain benefit in hand, for the chance of a much greater one in prospect. Yet—if it were possible to try the chance—we would not hesitate to exchange all the possessions that we have yet acquired, and our labor for the next twenty years, for the one-hundredth part of the net profit which South Carolina alone would gain by the judicious, economical, and general use of marl, after the mode, and in accordance with the theoretical views, which we have tried so vainly (or at least with such limited influence,) to impress upon the great agricultural public. Farmers' Register.

#### SILK CULTURE.

From the Journal of the American Silk Society.

SILK CULTURE.—THE PAST AND PRESENT.  
"If the business of silk making be practicable in this country, why have all our attempts to introduce it heretofore failed?"

The above is the essential oil of all the arguments used by the very few opponents of the silk cause in this country; and we design answering the question with such facts and arguments as will, we hope, convince all persons that the failure of the silk business heretofore, is fairly attributable to other causes than its impracticability or unprofitableness.

The grand cause of all failures heretofore, was the want of a judicious provision of mulberry trees, before attempting to feed worms. We have always heretofore begun at the wrong end of the business. We have procured a supply of eggs, hatched worms, and erected fixtures, before we planted mulberry trees, depending upon the native mulberry of the wild woods for a supply of food for the worms; and the consequence was, as might well have been expected, a complete and entire failure. In 1770, when a society was formed in Philadelphia, composed of three hundred and forty-five of the most respectable gentlemen of that city, with the governor (John Penn,) at their head, the first thing they did was to publish "Directions for the breeding and management of Silk Worms;" and the next thing was the erection of a filature for reeling silk. From all we can learn, they expected to depend upon the wild woods for the supply of mulberry leaves. It is true, they published a letter from Dr. Franklin, in which he urges them to encourage the planting of mulberry trees. "If," says the Doctor, "some provision were made by the assembly, for promoting the growth of mulberry trees in all parts of the province, the culture of silk might afterwards follow easily; for the great discouragement to the breeding worms at first, is the difficulty of getting leaves, and the being obliged to go far for them." To this sentence of true Franklinian common sense, the society appended the following note: "It was thought that the intention would be more effectually answered by giving the premiums and bounties on the silk raised, than on the trees planted; for the experience of a neighboring government shews, that a bounty on

mulberry trees, though it may make people plant, yet it does not necessarily follow, that because they have trees, they will raise silk worms." Now a greater blunder than is set forth in this note was never made; and the experience of the very "neighboring government," (Connecticut,) to this day bears testimony to the wisdom of the policy, that first encouraged the planting of mulberry trees. For a few years the people of Pennsylvania struggled along, making a few pounds of silk from leaves, gathered from the forests at a cost of labor and expense, greater than the gross proceeds of the sales of the silk produced. Some few planted mulberry trees; but too few in number for any profitable purpose; and when the revolution broke out, the silk business was abandoned and forgotten. But in this "neighboring government," (Connecticut,) where the planting of trees was encouraged by bounties and premiums, the silk business was never abandoned. Though the revolution gave our forefathers enough to do in the tented field, their wives and daughters still kept the industrious insect at work; for the TREES WERE PLANTED, and the feeding of the worms naturally followed. But even in Connecticut there were not a sufficiency of mulberry orchards planted to make the business much of a public interest, and it was pursued as a domestic branch of household economy, and on the simplest and rudest principles. Even in this way, however, it was a very profitable adjunct of domestic economy, adding to the family income an hundred dollars or so, annually, without increasing the expenses at all. In Georgia, it was managed somewhat differently. A few mulberry orchards were planted; but the population was so sparse, and the difficulty of procuring hands so great, that the business was abandoned after a few years. The same causes produced the same effects in all subsequent attempts, and particularly in that of 1824 to 1832.—The writer of this was in the heat of the battle of that period, even in the front rank though a private "in the line." We fought hard to get the people to plant mulberry trees. The first sentence that the writer of this ever published on the subject, was this—"The first object of attention to a person contemplating the culture of silk is, to secure an abundant and convenient supply of mulberry leaves, without which he, of course, can do nothing." But all was of no avail. People were continually sending to the writer for silk worm eggs—not for mulberry trees; sometimes, it is true, they would send him for five dollars worth of silk worm eggs, and as many mulberry seeds as would feed the silk worms produced by the eggs! But the idea that they must first plant mulberry orchards, and by that means secure an abundant and convenient supply of mulberry leaves, could not be impressed upon their minds. The people of the United States are a thorough go-a-head people; but, unfortunately, they do not adopt the whole of the excellent precept of our old and eccentric friend, David Crockett—"they do not first see they are right, THEN go-a-head;" but they go-a-head first and then, after experiencing all sorts of disappointment, look about to see if they are right! Heretofore, we have begun to raise worms first, before we had leaves to feed them; now we are raising TREES first—we are beginning RIGHT, and the result will be, we shall certainly "go-a-head" in the silk business.

We are continually asked, "is not the present trade in morus multicaulis trees a mere speculation? Will not those engaged in it, both as buyers and sellers, back out, as soon as they have made all they can with their trees?" Whatever the motives of the dealers in trees may be, matters not; we know that the effect of their operations will be to plant mulberry orchards all over the country, and that is all we care for. If they can contrive to make fortunes out of so great a good conferred upon the country, all the better for them. All we certainly know is, that heretofore we could not enlist the money interest in the silk business; we therefore had no mulberry orchards planted, and the consequence was FAILURE; now we have the money interest deeply involved in the business, mulberry orchards are in progress all over the country, and success to the silk business is certain; because MONEY is the great motive power of human enterprise. Whatever may be the result of the trade in trees, whether failure or fortune attend it with each individual, matters not to the cause at all—the money each person has ventured will have produced its quota of trees in the country, and the trees will be here ready to furnish food for the silk worms. Not a single tree that is produced will be annihilated; not a single tree can be appropriated to any other purpose; if traders in the tree fail, and become bankrupt, and their stock of trees be sold for the benefit of creditors, the trees will remain to the country, and silk will be made from them, and the country will be enriched by them. So, whether the trade in trees be or be not a matter of mere speculation, and whether the present dealers back out or not, is of no consequence to the GREAT CAUSE.

"But," say some cavillers, "you are doing nothing but raising and selling trees; you want to see you making silk, if you can."

This is the effervescence of the go-a-head spirit of our people noticed above. They cannot wait for the end, as in the natural progress of things, but must have the effect before the cause be fairly in operation. The only obstacle the writer of these commentaries fears at this time, as likely to impede

the silk business, is the beginning to make silk too soon. The country is not supplied with mulberry trees—not an hundredth part of the number wanted to supply the country will be produced this year. The consequence will be, the prices of trees will induce people to sell, and thus to defer planting permanent orchards. Hence, all the worms raised this year, or the major part at least, must be fed on the native mulberry from the woods at a cost more than equal to the value of the silk produced. This will, or at least may serve to disappoint many, and to disgust others. But when the country shall be well supplied with trees, and the prices of them consequently reduced so that there will be no object in selling, then may the culture of silk be expected to "go ahead." In another paper, however, in the present number, we have made a condensed statement of the cocooneries now feeding in many. The facts set forth, we feel assured, will satisfy any reasonable person that we are making silk even now, to an extent that very few have heretofore supposed possible.

Another reason why we can succeed, though our predecessors failed, and one, too, greater than all others, is to be found in the advantages we possess in the morus multicaulis. They had not this invaluable tree. They were obliged to wait five to eight years for their white mulberry trees to grow large enough to afford leaves for their worms. It is not too much to be wondered at that our peculiar people were discouraged by the very distant prospect this afforded them of profit. We can plant our morus multicaulis trees one year and make more silk from an acre of them next, than can generally be made from an acre of white mulberry trees eight years old. Besides, it is less labour and expense to produce ten acres of morus multicaulis trees than one of white mulberry.—These facts, which every one acquainted with the business knows full well, have caused trees to be comparatively and apparently very high prices. A tree costs say one dollar; well, the purchaser cuts it up, and in six months he will have at least ten and not improbably thirty trees, equal every way to the one he had purchased. Thus for one dollar, and not two hours labour, he has obtained, say fifteen first rate trees.—Now apply the same test to the white mulberry, the tree used in Europe for silk worms, and with which we have heretofore failed. Suppose you only have to pay ten cents for it, you must plant it and cultivate it five or six years before you can use it; and even then it will be only one tree; still for you cannot multiply it as you can the morus multicaulis. But suppose you sow an ounce of white mulberry seed, that will cost one dollar, and you obtain 5,000 trees from it; still it will be six or eight years before they are fit to afford leaves; and in that same time you might have produced 100,000 trees from the single morus multicaulis tree that cost one dollar. Therefore, in the morus multicaulis we have a great and powerful influence, that will, even though all other advantages were absent, insure success to the great cause.

G. B. S.

From the Raleigh (N. C.) Register.  
Extract of a letter from Buckingham Court House, to a gentleman in Richmond, Va.

The Rev. Jesse S. Armistead, of Buckingham county, has sold 500,000 buds of the Morus Multicaulis, to be delivered this fall, at two cents a bud. Mr. John Morris of the same county, has sold 300,000 buds in lots of 100,000. Capt. Saml. Branch of Campbell, has also sold 110,000 buds at the same price—a good many smaller sales have been effected at the same price, viz. four cents a cutting or two cents a bud, Mr. Charles A. Scott of Buckingham, has we understand, been offered eleven cents a tree for 200,000 trees, delivered in the fall of 1840.

In an article on the silk culture copied in our last from the National Gazette, a typographical error occurred. Instead of 30,000, the number of trees stated to have been sold the week preceding, it should have been 300,000.

So large a proportion of our readers—we dare say a full third of the whole number—are interested in one way or other in the progress of the silk culture, that we have supposed we could not fill so much space more acceptably than by transferring to our columns the article on that subject which we copy to-day from a paper published in the heart of the silk-manufacturing region.  
Nat. Intelligencer.

The article referred to by the National Intelligencer, in the above paragraph, is a detail of the proceedings of a meeting of the Philadelphia county Silk Society, from which we copy the following extended paragraphs:

Mr. Physick stated, among other things, the complete success which had attended his efforts to produce superior silk from the leaf of the Morus Multicaulis tree. Again order forever to put to rest the doubt and fear expressed of the adaptation of this tree to the silk culture, he read several certificates from the principal tailors in Philadelphia, expressive of their opinion, on a trial, of the character of sewing silk produced by worms fed on the leaf of this tree in this country. He exhibited, at the same time, specimens of the silk, and also specimens of