ENRICHMENT OF SOIL.

by A. W. Ross.

[CONCLUDED FROM LAST WEEK.] Another prominent cause of the disappearthe turn-plow, repeatedly, by the cultiva- essary for the process of decomposition. tion of some crop-plant. One year's rest changed into the soluble nitrate and carthereby setting free its mineral substances, while two or more years of idleness may change the soluble phosphoric acid and potfact beyond peradventure, that while plants | the equilibrium of fertility. flourish in the proximate principles of humus, they sicken and die surrounded with its ultimate elements, and that phosphoric acid and potash may abound in the soil in

Still another cause of the disappearance of humus, and also phosphoric acid and potash, is the injudicious use of nitrogenous fertilizers, such as Peruvian and Guanape guanos. As too much whiskey causes a man to live twice as fast as he should, in like manner have these fertilizers stimulated our lands, already poor in mineral salts and formation of every plant. Hence if any one humus, to the point of expansion -- the nat- of these elements be lacking, the plant canural result of a production not commen- not be produced; or if any one of these eledrink of whiskey on an empty stomach is of this element, no matter how abundant it attacks the lining coats of the stomach and in the soil. For instance: A rich soil will the system, thereby producing sudden intoxstimulants, or you will produce vegetable plant with more fruit, is developed and as of potash. we cannot make something of nothing, the vegetable matter and the scarcer inorganic elements, such as phosphoric acid and pot- way to improve our soil is, to keep the turn ash, are extracted from the soil to the point | plow and subsoil constantly running, for the

not more than one acre in a hundred was of nitrogen in our soils. manured; but the cutter and bull-tongue plow ran late and early and the land had noarest. In support of this, we cite the plantation of the late Jackqueline Gee, a man known to most of us: and a man who always had corn to sell, with an abundance of ready cash in the hands of his factor in Charleston. Nor was he by any means miserly, but spent his money liberally. He worked a large, poor plantation, that had been tilled for generations, and made probably enough manure for the garden, potatopatch and a pet piece of cotton. He annually planted hundreds of acres of poor land in corn that to seeled in June and July at the astonishing height of three and four feet; but these identical little stalks received five and six workings with the turn plow, and hore from one to two ears of corn with their ends almost resting on the ground. Many other plantations might be mentioned but

we consider this sufficient for our purpose. We are of opinion, Mr. President and Gentlemen, that the institution of slavery, especially in the older States, would have broken down, had not the fertility of the soil been kept up the diligent and constant use of

3rd. How may vegetable matter, phosphoric acid and potash be restored to our soil? By a diligent and continuous use of from surrounding hills. Neither can moistthe turn plow and subsoil, both in the preand in turning under green matter and stubble. By a judicious rotation of crops; by pay; by making and saving all the manure fowl, and by purchasing the fertilizers best adapted to our respective soils.

In our eagerness to bring prominently forward what we conceive to be the first most our vegetable matter, viz: By pulverization with the plow we are liable to be misunderevery conceivable way of making manure, even a stiff red clay soil, than to accomplish same number of acres broadcast in about twenty days by turning under weeds or peaother work. How long will it take the same animal manures to leak through into the earth beneath, and the ammonia to pass into oak land and rusted cotton badly. In the the air above; while this is prevented by fall it was a pleasure to show this acre strip third cash, balance in two, three and four the presence of good soil or mud. This is to my friends, (I think you, Mr. Editor, saw years. Price, \$5.00 per acre. N. S. GIBSON. JOH

Report Read Before the Darlington Ag- | face-soil or mad unite with them chemically | top. This | last experiment itself was eviricultural Society, August 12, 1879, and hence do not part with them readily. Leibig says that clay parts with ammonia sugar). In horse and cow lots, pine straw ance of humus is too much rest. Land performs another important mechanical office ed, (and no other kind should be planted in should not lie out more than one year, by rendering the mass porous, thereby adwhen it should be thoroughly stirred with mitting the air, which, we all know, is nec-

It is impossible to attach too much impordoubles the amount of soluble phosphoric tance to the peavine as a manurial agent acid, while the insoluble silicate of patash is Being a potash plant it sends a long tap root bonate of potash; and one year is sufficient a considerable amount of potash, which is to change vegetable matter into its proxi- distributed on and near the surface, if it is and litter from the woods, stable manure, mate principles of carbonic acid and amonia. turned under with the plow. Being a hearty feeder, it spreads forth an immense surface area of broad leaves and porous vines which absorb ammonia and carbonic acid ash into insoluble neutral salts and resolve from the atmosphere above. The tendency the carbonic acid and amonia into its ulti- of potash is to sink down into the earth from mate elements, viz: carbon, hydrogen, oxy- the leaching effects of heavy rains; and the gen and nitrogen, while all that might have | tendency of ammonia is to rise up, its volbeen gained by absorption is lost, from the atility being acted upon by the rays of the fact that the land has not been pulverized by sun. Hence the peavine reaches above and the plow. Now, science has established the | below for materials with which to maintain

Another important item that should be remembered by all who desire the improvement of the soil is this: We cannot make something out of nothing. Every cow, hog or the form of neutral salts and at the same sheep slaughtered or sold, is so much mintime be worthless, as these neutral salts are | eral matter taken indirectly from the soil. Every bushel of corn, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, rice, peas; every bale of cotton, every pound of fodder, shucks, straw and hay contains a certain amount of mineral matter taken directly from the soil.

Now we know that the organic elements of the soil, enter invariably in deffinite proportionate quantities, by weight, into the surate with their producing capacity. It is ments be scarce, the plant will be small and a well established physiological fact that a unproductive in proportion to the scarcity most pernicious, as, in the absence of food, may be the amount of all the other elements intestines, while the stimulant is carried will not produce wheat if potash be lacking. | goods. more rapidly by the blood to every part of Hence we see the importance of keeping the soil supplied with all the elements of fertiliication. Then, gentlemen, be sure that you ty. Most of them, as we have already regive your poor starving lands breakfast, marked, are permanent and inexhaustible. dinner and supper before you apply the but we should be sure, especially in the long leaf pine lands, that lime, potash phosphoric drunkenness in the form of early decay, acid and vegetable matter be supplied. We comprehend; the conversion of cheap corn shedding, firing or rust. The concentrated do not burn a pine tree to procure ashes for nitrogen fertilizer, with the aid of water and the manufacture of soap or gunpowder, but the bountiful supplies of soft flannels and carbonic acid, have dissolved larger quanti- an oak tree; hence the predominant growth cloths for beds and clothing, at little felt ties of the mineral salts and hence a larger of this country certainly indicates a scarcity

To sum ur, Mr. President and Gentlemen we are of the opinion that the best and only double purpose of pulverizing the soil and We venture the assertion that no man will turning under vegetable matter; to avoid attempt to refute the patent fact that the resting our lands more than one year; to done nothing but rest since emancipation, to our lands; to make all the stable and lot fore the war, with tolorable success, where nia according to the abundance or scarcity

> Most respectfully submitted, A. W. Ross, Chairman.

Rust in Cotton. [From the Orangeburg Democrat] The subject of rust in cotton will only be interesting to those in the county living beow the clay beit. We all know clay lands do not rust cotton, but continue to mature fruit until frost. Why they do this will be apparent as we proceed. What is rust in cotton? Some will tell you it is a want of vegetable matter in the soil ; others that it is caused by an excess of moisture; others again that cool nights produce it, and I have heard some old farmer say, it always starts from poke weed growing near the cottor: Now all these different opinions prove conclusively that this scourge of our cotton fields has been having its own way, not because there is no remedy for it, but because the disease, if I am allowed the term in this connection, is so little understood. It cannot be for want vegetable matter in the soil, for we frequently see cotton rusting in soils abundantly supplied with vegetable matter. I'll admit it does correct it to a limited extent. I have seen cotton almost entirely destroyed by rust in bottoms, where there was an abundance of vegetable humus washed in

ure be the prevailing cause, or the clay paration for and cultivation of our crops, hands would also suffer by rust in wet seasons; and the same reason may be assigned why cool nights do not cause it. The poke hauling surface and pine straw when it will weed does not grow everywhere, and particularly about these rusty cotton patches. that we possibly can from man, beast and The blame cannot be laid at its door. Then if none of these opinions advanced are the cause of rust, what is it that causes cotton to rust on nearly all the lands below the cotton or clay belt? My answer is the want of important and cheapest way of increasing sufficient potash in the soil. And now for the proof. Why does rust start and spread from a poke weed growing near cotton? Not stood; and hence we repeat, that we endorse solely because it takes the disease from the poke, but because the poke has exhausted provided it does not cost more than it is all the available potash in the soil near it, worth. But, we say, that the circumstances and the cotton near, being the first to feel must be extremely favorable, where a farmer the want of potash, show symptoms of rust. could better afford to haul pine straw, on The analysis of poke and Irish potato vines show that they contain more potash than the same end by turning under weeds or any other vegetable product. We are also peavines. Two hands and a mule can culti- taught that clay soils abound in potash, vate twenty-five acres of land, and one of the absence of rust in cotton on them, and in these hands and the mule can manure the consequence their superior adaptability to cotton. In 1873 I applied fifty bushels unleached ashes to an acre of land that had vines, while the other hand can engage in been rusting cotton badly. The cotton remained green until frost, and matured mule and both hands to broadcast twenty- fruit to the top, when the adjoining five acres with pine straw? We suppose cotton failed to mature any top crop, and balance in one and two years. tains no potash, or only a trace and no nitrogen at all; while the peavine is both a nitrogen at all; while the peavine is both a nitro- cotton since. The potash in the ashes was \$1.50 each genous and potash plant. Pine straw is a what the soil needed to keep the cotton from pretty good absorbent and should be used rusting. The following year one of my only on horse and cow lots, and always in hands put a sack of Kainit or German potconnection with mud or rich surface soil, as ash salt on one acre through the middle of a the straw alone allows the urine and juices of seven acre patch of cotton. The lan' had animal manures to leak through into the been in cultivation for years, light sandy

obvious when we consider that pine straw it.) while the cotton on both sides of it was Timmonsville Business Cards | MERCHANTS' NEW FLOUR, only unites mechanically with these juices | demuded of leaves and all the top bolls dead while the mineral constituents of the surthe reviedy for rust in cotton. I have since Number of the same results in cotton. only at a white heat. (water with lime or noticed the same results in similar experiments. I believe on lands thoroughly draincotton,) and not entirely destitute of vegetable matter; potash in every instance will correct the tendency to rust in cotton. By rest and rotation the tendency to rust cau be corrected in a great measure but when the lands are corrected every year, and clay into the substrata of the earth and procures | is not near the surface, potash must be supplied either in unlimited amounts of trash ashes, or some of the commercial preparations of potash. MIDDLE ST. MATTHEWS.

Southdown Sheep,

We have a letter from a well-known farmer of Winona county, asking if the Southdown sheep are kept on the Iowa College farm, and for our opinion as to their proving a profitable breed for keeping in large or small flocks on our prairie farms.

On the college farm are kept small flocks of American Merinos, Cotswolds and Southdowns. With similar care the Southdowns have taken the lead in uniform and perfect health, rapidity of increase, and pecuniary profit. So far as our observation has extended this has been the general experience in handling small flocks of this breed in all parts of the State. We do not know of a arge flock in the State. With first-class care it may be possible that in flocks numbering three or four hundred the Merinos may prove most profitable. But the keeping of a very large flock on one farm is at least, questionable on the score of profit or satisfaction. A system of mixed farming with a small flock of sheep on each place would soon do more in the way of creating home independance than any number of homilies on political economy or finance. The busy hum of woolen machinery would soon be heard on interior prairies, and our pocketbooks would be less depleted by the purchase of shoddy

A little careful thought will enable any one to perceive that the Spanish proverb, Wherever the foot of sheep touchos, the land is turned into gold,' is far from being a myth. Some of the methods of conversion are by no means mysterious or difficult to and provender into form for transportation; cost; the enriching and sweetening of the soil on which they feed; the destruction of noxious weeds, bushes and brambles; the cheap and convenient supply of healthful and nutritious meat to take the place of the salt junk-all these are tangible conversions not only into gold, but into solid home com-

Many will admit the durability of small larger portion of our cleared lands have pursue a system of rotation of crops suitable flocks on our farms, but will urge the want of suitable fences. The Southdown sheep is and yet how do they stand in regard to pro- manure possible; to haul surface and mud; the easiest of all animals to restrain and ductiveness? How will they compare to if it be rich and the distance short; and to keep within the desired bounds. The wire, ante bellum days? No one will deny the fact | buy fertilizers containing lime, potash and | rail fence, board fence or hedge, that prarie also, that thousand acre farms were run be- phosphoric acid, with more or less ammo- steers would totally disregard, will duly be respected by them, if well fed.

The sheep mania, a few years since, with its flocks, gave rise to common impression more valuable - acre for acre - than our ferile prairies for profitable sheep breeding Conditions as to size of flock, shelter, &c. being the same, we now know this belief not

o be well founded, even with the Merinos. The Southdowns find on our rich prairies health and high condition than on their native heaths and turnip fields. We only reed combined systematic effort on the part of our people in order, in the very near future, to introduce the flock into every rural picture upon our prairies, just as we see it introduced in England and New England

home pictures, both realand upon canvas. To fully realize the present importance of this subject let us ask: Where would old or New Enfiland stand to-day on the score of thrift and prosperity, if as nearly destitute as we are of the animals with the golden boof .- College Quarterly.

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> Respectfully, J. IRA HALLFORD.

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DOWN TRAIN.				
Leave Cheraw	9	30	A.	21.
Cash's				
Society Hill	10	30		
Dove's				
Floyd's,				
Darlington	12	00	M.	
Palmetto	12	25	P.	M.
Arrive at Florence	12	45	P.	M.
UP TRAIN.				
Leave Florence	3	50	P.	M.
Palmetto				
Darlington				
Doye's	5	20		

Arrive at Cheraw. B. D. TOWNSEND, Close connections made at Florence with trains to and from Charleston, Columbia and

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GENERAL TICKET AGENT'S OFFICE CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 7, 1877. On and after Sunday, Dec. 8th, 1878, the Mail and Passenger Trains of this Road will be run as follows: Leave Charleston...11.15 A M and 9.55 P M.

Arrive at Florence ... 4.00 P M and 2.10 AM Leave Florence......1.00 P M and 1.35 P N Arrive at Charleston..5.45 P M and 6.45 A M. Train leaving Charleston at 9.55 P. M. will stop only at Monk's Corner, St. Stephen's, King Stree and Scranton. Train leaving Florence at 2.42 A. M. will stop only at Scranton, Kingstree and Bonneau's. Train leaving at 11.45 A. M. connects with Cheraw and Darlington Railroad, and at Cheraw with stages for Wadesboro', N.C. P. L. CLEAPOR, General Ticket Ague

that the sterile hills of New England were WILMINGTON, COLUMBIA AND AUGUSTA RAIL ROAD

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Leave Wilmington ...... 10.13 P. M. Leave Florence...... 2.50 A. M Arrive at Columbia ...... 9.00 A. ...... 2.55 A. M. Leave Florence ..... Arrive at Wilmington ..... This train will stop only at Flemington, Whiteville, Fair Bluff, and Marion. Passengers for Columbia, and all points on G C R R and in Western North Carolina via Columbia and Spartanburg, should take Night Express Train from Wilmington.
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