

Edgefield Advertiser.

"We will cling to the Pillars of the Temple of our Liberties, and if it must fall, we will Perish amidst the Ruins."

VOLUME VI.

Edgefield Court House, S. C., September 30, 1841.

NO. 35.

EDGEFIELD ADVERTISER,

BY W. F. DURISOE, PROPRIETOR.

TERMS.

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All communications addressed to the Editor, post paid, will be promptly and strictly attended to.



Poetic Access.

FOUR AUTUMNAL SONNETS.

No. I.

BOYHOOD THOUGHTS.

Season of ripening fruits and rustling grain,
Melodious Autumn, with thy birds and bees,
Bright lingering flowers and chestnut laden trees
Thou conjurest careless boyhood back again:
Most pleasant 'tis, when all the woods are still,
And but the blackbird hushes the Evening Star,
Where golden circles gleam the south afar,
To let fond Memory meditate her fill.
Oh, school companions, whether ye be
Here, as if yore, both hipps and haws abound;
Like brambles crawl the wayside hedge around;
And peep 'neath prickly leaves ripe berries red;
Hark, the free wind with beech-nut strewn the
ground;
Ye answer not, the vanished, and the dead!

No. II.

YOUTHFUL MEMOIRS.

Yes! 'tis the gilly flower that blossoms here—
Its perfume wafts me to the mellow eve,
When Love unfolded his celestial spheres,
Making earth paradise.—Still memory weaves
Enchantment round the time where, by the
tower
Time-worn, and rent, and ivy overgrown,
I lingered 'neath the elm for Beauty's flower,
And pressed the yielding soft hand in my own.
'Twas life's bright essence—bliss, Lillian bliss,
Erobbing valley and wood, and hope and thought;
It may have been an ignis fatuus gleam,
Yet is its light reflected back to this,
And though such bloom no promised fruit hath
brought,
We guess what Eden may be by such dream.

No. III.

MATURE REALITIES.

How beautiful the sunset—yet how sad!
That crimson light which overflows the grove,
'Tinging the vales below, the clouds above,
And rock and rill, and ruin ivy-clad,
Seems like funeral sunbeams. Hark! the crow
With a lone scream wings its far inland way!
And to the field, beneath yon mountain brow,
The partridge thud, at the calm close day
Pipes in her scatter'd brood—a tone of yore!
Life is illusion: else my heart had borne
The feelings at this moment, which it bore
In youth's warm noon, and boyhood's cloudless
morn;
Care's scythe the flowers of Joy's demesne hath
shorn,
And Sorrow waves beat hollow round her shore.

No. IV.

REGRETS AND ANTICIPATIONS.

Ripe-dropping fruits, show fields, and cloudy
skies,
Ye tell us that the year is on the wane,
That silent Time irrevocably flies,
And that the past never comes back again.—
Fix not Hope's anchor in the sands of Earth,
For Sorrow's storms shall dash thy bark afar,
Over the howling main, which shows no star,
Nought save black clouds, and desolation's
death
Tears bring not back the dead; deaf is the ear
Of stubborn fate, be humble, be resign'd,
And with unwavering heart the issue wait;
So Faith will lead thee through Death's vale of
fear,
And, entering with thee the eternal gate,
Bid the free spirit all true pleasures find.

Tobacco is a narcotic poison, and by its action upon the nerves and stomach, it destroys the appetite, prevents the perfect digestion of the food, creates an unnatural thirst, and renders the individual who uses it nervous and otherwise diseased.—*Thompsonian Recorder.*

Agricultural.

REMARKS ON THE NATURAL ADVANTAGES OF ABBEVILLE DISTRICT, &c.

Mr. Editor.—In my late communication to your paper under the above head, I spoke of two enterprises as being necessary to a proper facility of transportation to market, of the western part of our State. One of those enterprises (a rail road from Aiken to Abbeville C. H., and which I preferred) I regarded as being likely to cost about twelve hundred thousand dollars. I am now satisfied, upon enquiry and a rough estimation, that the whole cost, to put the road into complete operation, would not be over, and probably under seven hundred thousand dollars. As to the road, however, I shall at present only remark, that considering what would be its advantages in saving the present expense and labor of wagoning produce, and keeping horses for the same; in giving new value to real property throughout the section to which it would be a convenience; in bringing the market to the door of the planter, and enabling him (by his immediate command over the market, and the facilities of transportation, and thereby cutting off the series of profits made by commercial speculators upon the productions of his industry,) to obtain a ready and higher price for all his productions, and procuring his supplies at a cheaper cost and better quality; in giving an increased impulse to the more active development of Agricultural resources, and to more substantial investments and improvements, and that, considering also, that the money necessary to its being carried into operation could be raised from, and would be (a greater portion of it) expended in the section of country through which it would pass. I hope, that ere long, immediately upon the restoration of a sound and yet ample currency, and of the prosperity of the country, it will be commenced and actively completed, and that South Carolina will exhibit in her western portion, a degree of Agricultural and Internal Improvement, commensurate with its natural advantages.

But, Mr. Editor, I will now come to the object of this communication. In observing the various subjects, or heads, proposed to be considered by the different Agricultural Societies in this State, I have been surprised to see that the subject of health has not been suggested. It seems to me, that one of the gravest subjects of consideration to a planter, should be the means of best conducting to the health of his family and negroes. We hear of some planters raising fine crops, and of others being very successful in raising many negroes, and also good crops. Of course, in the long run, the latter (in a pecuniary light alone) are gainers. Every Agricultural Society should make the means of ensuring general health, a matter of special consideration. For instance, as one means, let every planter endeavor to keep open, by ditching or clearing out the swamps, branches, creeks or rivers, that may have any influence upon his plantation, residence or neighborhood. As another, let him use lime abundantly in the Spring and Summer, in whitewashing his negro houses, and other places in which filth collects. As a regular habit, let him be careful to make his negroes, another, let him wash and keep clean their bodies, persons and clothing, to prevent their exposure, and running about at night, to be judicious as to the time and quantity of their labor, and to give them comfortable places and means to sleep, and a sufficiency of wholesome food properly cooked.

From the S. C. Temperance Advocate.

NEWBERRY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Report on Cotton No. 1.

In obedience to your appointment, I state the mode of planting and cultivating Cotton, which I pursue, and think to be the best. The ground is first to be put in good order. If it has not been in Cotton the previous year, it should be well broke up.

It is then laid off as follows: in old land, 3½ feet between the rows, and in fresh land 4 feet; the bed is formed by throwing two furrows with a twister on the last; that makes a high ridge. The seed is then well rubbed in common earth, and is planted heel and toe from 12 to 18 inches apart. The planting heel and toe is accomplished by making the impression on the ridge for the seed with the heel, and covering it with the foot. This mode of planting leaves the ridge high and smooth. It takes much less seed, and is, in my judgement, the best and safest way of planting a cotton crop. When thus planted, the cotton comes up strong in bunches, and the ground is less broke up by the coming up of the plant, than in drilling, and there is more earth left about the roots, and there is, therefore, less danger of its dying out; the stand is always better.

When the cotton comes up, I throw out the middle between the rows with a twister, and that makes the narrow planting bed a nice wide one for the growth of the plant, which is precisely in the middle. The next business is hoeing, and thinning to two stalks in a place, which make a stand. The next time it is worked, I side it with a shovel plough, and hoe it the third time.—I side and plough the row out, and if it is clear, it is unnecessary to use the hoe. Cotton, I think, ought to be ploughed five times—the last time should be the last of July or the first of August. The hoe should follow the two last ploughings, so as to have it perfectly clear when laid by. If the cotton is well grown, and the season is a good one, I prefer, topping it from

the 10th to the 20th of August. If it is not seasonable do not top.

The cotton crop should be gathered as speedily as possible; to leave cotton in the field after Christmas is to sustain a heavy loss in both quantity and quality. After that time, a hand cannot make more than half a day's work.

THOS. MONTGOMERY,
Springfield, July 20, 1840.

Report on Corn No. 2.

BY NATHAN WHITNER.

The first thing requisite to raise a good crop of Corn, I consider, is, early in the year, say in January, to lay in a good supply of farming utensils; for instance, say a farmer runs ten ploughs, let him have at least fifteen good plough stocks, in order; out of the surplus number, to supply the place of any which may be broken, without loss of time; also, he should have for those ten ploughs thirty shovels and as many scooters, and a good supply of twisters, if used. The next thing necessary, is to prepare your ground well. Have it cleaned of sprouts, fallen trees, &c. Break it up deep and close. If the soil be a light alluvial one, with considerable litter on it, I would prefer the twister, but if a close, compact one, I would choose the scooter. Ground prepared in this way, is sure to grow mellow all the year. In the next place, the selection of seed Corn, is a matter of importance. I think all the new sorts of Corn, no improvement, but am of opinion our common Corn can be improved; in which opinion I am supported, by a very able planter, Capt. Duckett; that if the farmer will be at the small trouble of going through his Corn fields, after the ears are fully matured, and selecting his seed from twin ears, that is, taking in every instance the upper ear, in three years, he may have his whole crop twin ears; but continued longer, the stalks have too many shoots, and consequently, the ears too small. As regards planting, early planting is much the surest. Corn, except new ground, should be sure to be planted sufficiently early in March, to be up, sided, hoed and thinned, before the Cotton crop requires work. Corn cannot be thinned too early, and at this stage, may be thinned and hoed, nearly as easy as thinned alone, when more advanced. The practice of suffering Corn to remain until knee high, before thinning, and then when the ground is very wet, is a great error, as injurious both to the land and crop. The second ploughing you may defer three weeks, without risk, except your ground gets grassy. The third ploughing should take place, within fifteen days from the second, and it a season be in the ground, a shove should be sure to be made, the ploughing deep, thereby putting a good bed to the Corn, and covering the roots well. I would repeat it, at this time, it is of great importance to be industrious, for I am certain, in case of much drought ensuing, Corn ploughed at this stage, deep, with a good season, will make nearly double the quantity if neglected until the season is out of the ground. At the fourth ploughing, which should be performed within two weeks from the third, run some distance from the Corn, and the two first furrows shallow, with a short shovel. It is also of moment to push at this time, if a season should be in the ground. If the ground is strong, I would prefer a hoeing the fourth working, instead of the plough; indeed, I think if we would plant a little less, and rely more on the hoe than is practised, it would be as well for our crops, and much better for our lands. I think our hilly lands should be planted horizontally, as the cultivation is much easier, both for man and horse, and ditched so that no water be allowed to escape from the field. A good and experienced hand can drop in horizontal furrows, every in an inch or two of the same distance every time, by giving a short or long stride, as the quality of the land may require, then dropping two grains, thereby making thinning easy and regular at the first hoeing. Another advantage in planting Corn in this way is, peas may be planted at any working, between the stalks of Corn in the drill. I think the best time to plant new ground, is between the 10th and 25th of May, drilled and dropped by stepping, with peas between the corn. Keep the bushes out. Break the middles when the Corn is half leg high; hoe at the same time; within a weeks, hoe and plough again, and lay by. If the season is favorable, the Corn will be good. As to manuring, I think every hill of worn land should be thoroughly manured.

Report on Sheep.

BY M. M. HIGGINS.

Mr. President: Since I have been appointed by the Society, to make a report on the best manner of rearing Sheep—I beg leave to make the following brief statement. I have owned Sheep for the last ten years, and know that to rear them, is of the least expense of any kind of stock, I have ever attempted to raise. I think they should be kept confined in some enclosure. In the spring I let them run in my pasture, for three months, which pasture is a branch swamp; from thence I turn them into my wheat field and oat field, and so on, as I gather my crop. I find, as soon as I let them out, they stray off, and it is with much difficulty that I can get them again. I find, the gentler that they can be kept, the more easily they are to manage.

These, sir, are the brief statements of my own experience in rearing of Sheep; and as I probably have not devoted as much attention, to the rearing of this kind of stock,

as some other one of the Committee, I shall say no more at present, but hope to gain more information from their reports.

M. M. HIGGINS.
July 21st, 1841.

From the Maine Farmer.

ERRORS IN FARMING.

Mr. Editor:—Will you permit an old farmer to make known to the public through your useful periodical, the errors he has fallen into as a farmer on an old farm, so called, not on new or burnt land. First, and greatest of all, I have erred in not paying attention enough to manure, and the means of procuring it, without which it is idle to think of obtaining any considerable property by farming. Nor have I cast about to see what kind of stock would do most in making manure. I am now aware that swine are the things for that, as they soon manure for the market, I have erred that I have not kept more of the rooters. I have also erred that I have not kept more sheep, although wool at times has been low; yet they double so often by their increase, that when compared with black cattle they are much the most profitable, having due regard to the expense of keeping each. I have erred in not paying attention enough to my fences. I have planted, than I have well manured, though I believe that no crop is more profitable, highly manured, if a proper variety is planted. I have not set a proper value upon ashes for farming, every bushel of which is worth a bushel of corn. At a distance from the sea, salt is a cheap and excellent dressing for corn soil, which I have erred in not using, nor have I gypsum and lime as much as I ought mixed with barn or compost manure, they are exceedingly valuable according to their cost, and here it may be proper to observe, that I have erred in being a fraud of cost, for manure top dressing, &c. dress land well, and it gives great returns generally, as well as we expect our boys, or hired men to be able to perform labor without value, as for our soil to yield us any thing valuable from year to year, if we return to it no manure, or top dressing. I have erred in not raising many more roots of the various kinds for my stock. I am now fully convinced that with hay and straw, they are more valuable for all kinds of stock than I used to suppose. I since so many bushels can be used to the acre, I should have depended more upon them. I have erred in mistaking my apples into cider instead of giving them to my stock, for which they are more valuable than I used to believe. I have erred in keeping more stock than I have kept well, in the fall I ought to have been more certain that I had reduced my stock to my keep, so that in the spring my stock might not go hungry, to the trying of my purse and feelings. As stock has generally been nearly as high in price in the fall as in the spring, why did I not sell off in the fall, so as to be certain I had the wherewithal to keep well what I retained? If stock is starved like our soil, it will certainly make us poor in the end. I have erred egregiously in being afraid to keep help to assist in making manure.—Manure is to the farmer the beginning of the alphabet, if we fail here, if we try to withhold more than is meet we shall certainly come to poverty. But I used to suppose as I had not money on hand to lay out for help, manure, &c. I could not trust my farm to repay me in the fall, though I might have procured the means on credit. Now, in this credit is really the wherewithal, I ought not to have been afraid to spend something on my farm. Capital is needed; my habits and work was such, that money men would have assisted me in this, sooner than to have used their money in trade, or in the hands of Merchants, who sometimes as one said, break off as short as a pig's tail. I have not used the plough enough by far, and have mowed over too much soil &c. WISER.

TO WASH IRON OR STEEL WITH COPPER.

Dissolve sulphate of copper in water in the proportion of 1 to 3; wash iron or steel with it, and it will instantly be covered with reduced copper. This is best performed by applying the solution with a brush, which must be followed directly with a sponge of clear water. In this manner any letters or figures may be drawn with a camel hair pencil or a pen, and if it be on polished steel, the letters or figures will assume the brilliancy of the steel, and appear like highly polished copper. It may sometimes be requisite to cleanse the metal by washing it with diluted muriatic acid, thus the copper may adhere the more readily.—If the steel thus ornamented be held over a charcoal fire, the copper figures become blue, the copper takes a gold color, by diluted muriatic acid.

TO GIVE IRON THE WHITENESS OF SILVER.

To give iron, diluted with an equal quantity of water, add as much mercury as the acid will dissolve; then add to the solution three or four times as much water, and having given the iron a coat of copper, as directed in the above experiment, brush it over to the manner with the diluted nitrate of mercury; its appearance will be equal, if not superior to that of real silver. In this manner any common or rough iron work may be apparently silvered at a most insignificant expense.

AMERICAN TEA.

LONDON, N. H., July, 1741.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Monthly Visitor: As there are many inquiries respecting the gathering and drying our native American Tea, I would observe that this Tea has mostly been used for a medicine as a remedy for pleurisy, which has given it the name of Pleurisy; therefore the best method of drying it to make it palatable has been little studied. My method has been to strip the leaves from the stalk with the hand in the field as it stands—put them in tin pans and set them in a warm oven till wilted—then dry them on blankets in the shade. Great improvements may be made on this method, I have no doubt.

Habit has a strong hold on man: there are those who have taken this tea at first as medicine, and who prefer it to the tea imported from China after using it for a while. This plant may be found in almost every part of New England—it has all the exhilarating properties of foreign tea, and may be secured with little expense. Respectfully yours,
SHADRACH CATE.

AMERICAN SILVER.

The Philadelphia U. S. Gazette says that Mr. F. Blackburn has placed in the Exchange a sample of silver, entirely pure, from the Washington mine, Davidson County, North Carolina. The mass weighs 227 ounces, and is worth about four hundred dollars. As we do not remember to have seen any silver from mines in this country before, we made some inquiries as to the manner of obtaining it, and the chances of getting more; and the following is the result.

The company went into operation, under a very advantageous charter from the State of North Carolina, about the first of September, 1840, the mine being then but partially opened, and showing the bed of ore to be of very great extent, comprising millions of tons of ore, of the richest kind. In the early part of 1841, one furnace for smelting was put into operation, which up to the present time, has produced 25 tons of mixed metal, (lead and silver); the early yielding only about from one to two hundred and fifty ounces silver to the ton, and gradually improving up to this time, when it yields from five to six hundred ounces per ton of mixed metal.

Wheat and Fruit Trees.

Two of the best farmers in the range of our knowledge, one a resident of Coos county, and the other in Orange county, Vt., have communicated to us the manner in which they secure their fruit. It is this: they do at some distance from the body of a favorite tree, until they find a joint, which they cut off. The part disjunct from the tree is turned up so as to appear above the ground. It sends forth shoots the first season, and bears fruit precisely like that upon the parent. Let those whose trees are decaying, or who wish to increase good varieties, try the experiment.—*N.H. Whig.*

SALT ON GRASS AND TILLAGE LANDS.

If any of our readers have used salt this season in their gardens, or on their grass grounds, to destroy worms or to attract moisture from the atmosphere they will much oblige us by giving information of the effects produced. A gentleman from South Carolina has just informed us that he used salt on some of his hills of corn this summer, by way of experiment on one row he applied one spoonful of salt to each hill of corn—on the second row he applied half a spoonful to each hill—the third he applied one tea-spoonful to each hill. The result was that his two first rows soon died; and that the corn in his third row grew more thrifly than that in any part of the field where no salt was used.

We have seen some accounts of salt sown on pasture grounds, but not enough to satisfy us of the economy of using it in that way. In hills or dry land it must have the effect of producing moisture, and this alone could be serviceable—but it destroys weeds also, and in this it would

help many pastures which are infested with them. It is well known that a large quantity of salt will destroy vegetation;—but perhaps a small quantity will prove useful in many cases.—*Boston Cultivator.*

CHARACTERISTIC OF FARMERS.

Farmers seldom affect a mystery of their agricultural operations, as is the case with most other occupations. A farmer is always free, ready, and communicative—and this has been a characteristic of the husbandman from time immemorial. It is related of Ischomachus, a complete husbandman, described by Xenophon in his economies, that "all other tradesmen are at great pains to conceal the chief parts of that art. But if a farmer has either sown or planted his fields with care and propriety, he is happy having them inspected;—and when asked, will conceal nothing of the manner by which he brought his works to such perfection."

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WEEDS AND PESTS.

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is seldom these hills will average two good ears to the hill, owing to the careless practice of selecting the seed, dropping, ploughing, &c. In the first place, we should break up the ground deep, furrow it out straight and drop plenty in the hill, and after it is up to the height of 18 inches or 2 feet, pull all out but three stalks, (but not like French's negro, who, when he found but one or two in a hill pulled them also, because he had been told to leave but three stalks in a hill) by this practice we will obtain 167,334 ears, and in a common season to take the ears as they stand on the stalks 126 will make a bushel, which will be 1393 bushels, or about 69 bushels to the acre, and, as remarked before, in a general way the farmers of this country do not get more than two-thirds of this amount from an acre, or at most 49 bushels; where there is one man that raises more, there is two that falls short.

If this calculation is correct, and we believe it will be found so in a general way, then each farmer is losing 364 bushels of corn; this at 25 cents is \$116. A sum sufficiently large to pay for the culture of the crop. If our views are not correct we hope some of our experienced farmers will set us right on this subject.—*Nearck Sentinel.*

Romans.—We have some of these potatoes now growing in our garden, that are decidedly the most thrifty and flourishing for the season, we have ever seen. Many of the tops have an appearance of constitutional hardiness that augurs well for their reputation, which, by the way, we are somewhat apprehensive has been greatly undervalued.

We have planted quite a large quantity of these potatoes this season, and have instituted a variety of experiments in order to test their comparative value with other varieties, and of which we shall be happy hereafter to give a particular and detailed account.

So far as our experience enables us to decide concerning the merits of the Rehau, we have no hesitation in according to them a far more generous consideration than has been usually conferred. Our experiments with them in 1840, the summer of which it will be recollected was one of extreme drought, and consequently very unfavorable to the potatoe, were such as to impress us with a very favorable idea, of its value; and although much has been said and written in reputation, there exists no sound reasons, we think, why they should not be cultivated in preference to any other varieties which are now high in public esteem. Their eating qualities are superior, and for stock and even swine, they are preferable, we are confident, to the Irish or Long Red's. To all who have been induced to plant them, we would say, unhesitatingly, cultivated the *secundum artem*, and should the season be favorable, you will doubtless be liberally and amply remunerated in the crop for your labor and expense.—*Yankee Farmer.*

From the (S. C.) Temperance Advocate.

SAVING SILVER.

A friend of ours, who deservedly holds a high rank as a practical Planter, in all its various details, gave us, in conversation, the plan he pursues in manuring his land. He owns about a hundred and fifty head of cattle, all of which are driven home in the evening and penned. His cow pen is half an acre in size. He pens his cattle in one place, three nights, and then moves it forward, so as to cover half an acre more, and a plough follows immediately, and turns under the manure, on the half acre just occupied, so that nothing is lost by evaporation. He continues this throughout the year, at the end of which, he has about a hundred and twenty acres well manured, and the manure all well turned under, so that he has lost none.

The trouble of moving such a small pen so often, he thinks is less than it would be to wagon out the same amount of manure, and scatter it; and then by his system, he saves a vast amount, that would be lost by evaporation, if permitted to lie long in a heap.

But he gains, too, in another important particular. This secures for his cattle greater attention, than is ordinarily bestowed on stock, and prevents his losing a large number.

We asked if he did not haul straw and leaves to his pens? He remarked, that his land was a light, sandy porous soil, that would not bear this kind of manure; but that after his cattle had remained two nights in a pen, he hauled in a rich, clayey soil, from a large swamp near him, and scattered this over the pen, and the cattle was penned on this third night, which was, of course, turned under too. He thus not only enriched his land, but produced a permanent change in the physical structure of the soil.

We regret that we are not at liberty to use the gentleman's name, as authority for the advantages of this system, for he would be recognized by many of our readers as a successful planter. And in connection with his success in planting, he remarked, it is *using wholly to planting short to the hand, so as to afford me an opportunity to manure lightly.*

INFLUENCE OF THE MOON.

Lunar Influence.—In considering the climate of tropical countries, the influence of the moon seems to have been entirely overlooked;—if the vast tides of the ocean are raised from their fathomless beds by lunar power, it is not too much to assert that the tides of the atmosphere are liable to a similar influence. The power of the moon is not only visible over the seasons, but also over vegetable and animal life. In Guyana, for instance, as regards vegetation there are thirteen springs and autumns, for so many times does the sap of trees ascend to the branches and descend to the roots; and, as regards animal life, I have seen, in Africa, the newly littered young, perish in a few hours, at the mother's side, if exposed to the rays of the full moon; fish become rapidly putrid, and meat, if left exposed, incurable or preservable by salt.