THE

SOUTHERN PLANTER;

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, and the Household Arts.

EDITED BY C. T. BOTTS.

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☞OFFICE ON MAIN STREET, OPPOSITE THE BANKS.☜

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1845.

LAND FOR SALE.

THE Subscriber is authorized to sell one of the best tracts of Land in North Carolina. It contains 1500 acres, lying on Tar river and immediately upon the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road. The situation is perfectly healthy and the property every way desirable. The dwelling house is an excellent one; besides which, there are on the premises an excellent grist mill, and every kind of out house. The greater part of it is first rate tobacco land, and a great bargain can be had in it. This estate lies in Granville County, and is the property of Mr. Josiah Crudup.

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Sixty acres of highly improved Land upon the Brook Turnpike, within 2 miles of the City. Buildings new and good. A capital establishment for a dairy farm.

A very valuable farm, beautifully situated on the Rapid Ann River, in the County of Culpeper. It contains 643 acres, about 300 cleared and highly improved. The buildings are good, and the soil proverbially excellent. This is one of the most delightful and healthy regions in Virginia. The society in this neighborhood is unsurpassed by any in the Union. Price $20 per acre.

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A Market Garden of ten acres, within a mile of the City of Richmond. This place is ornamented with a beautiful cottage, and is in the very highest state of cultivation; well stocked with grape vines and fruit trees, and possessed of every convenience that could make such a place profitable or comfortable. From the sale of vegetables in the Richmond market, the proprietor has derived an income of $1,500 per annum.

C. T. BOTTS.

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EXTENSIVE SALE OF IMPROVED SHORT-HORNED CATTLE.

HAVING become over-stocked, I find myself under the necessity, for the first time, of publicly offering my cattle for sale; and that the opportunity to purchase fine animals may be made the more inviting, I propose to put in my ENTIRE HERD—such a herd of Improved Short Horns as has never before, perhaps, been offered by any individual in this country. The sale will embrace about fifty animals, Bulls, Cows and Heifers; all either imported, or the immediate descendants of those which were so, and of perfect pedigree. Those imported, were from several of the best stocks in England, selected either by myself or my friends.

It is sometimes the practice at sales of this kind, where the interest involved is considerable, for the proprietor to protect himself by by-bidders or some other kind of management, or for the owner to stop the sale if offers do not come up to his expectations or the requirements of his interest. Such practices have a tendency to lessen the interest in public sales of this character, especially with those who cannot attend without considerable personal inconvenience. But in this case, assurances are given that no disappointment shall arise to the company from either of the causes mentioned, and a good degree of confidence is felt that there will be no dissatisfaction from the character of the cattle themselves. They shall all be submitted to the company, and sold at such prices as they choose to give, without any covert machinery, effort, or understanding with any persons; reserving to myself only the privilege of bidding openly on three or four animals, which shall first be designated. This reservation is made that I may not get entirely out of the stock of some particular families which I highly esteem, and that could not probably be replaced.

A full catalogue will be prepared and inserted in the May No. of the Cultivator.

The sale will take place at Mount Hope, one mile south of the City of Albany, on Wednesday, the 25th day of June next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

E. P. PRENTICE.

Mount Hope, near Albany, March 15, 1845.

☞Gentlemen from a distance, who wish to obtain stock at the above-mentioned sale, and may find it inconvenient to attend in person, are informed that the subscriber will make purchases for those by whom he may be authorized. They can state the sum at which bids should be limited, and if convenient, designate the animals they would prefer; or give such general instructions as they may deem proper, under the assurance that it will be strictly adhered to. SANFORD HOWARD.

Cultivator Office, Albany, March 15, 1845.

LAND IN NELSON.

THE subscriber is authorised to sell a very valuable tract of land in Nelson County, belonging to Dr. Chas. Cocke. It contains 1914 acres, is situated five miles below the Court House, and eight miles above New Market, on the James River Canal. This is a splendid tobacco estate, well wooded, well watered, and well enclosed. The situation is as healthy as any in the world. It is susceptible of division into three or four farms, and would form a capital subject of investment for a lot of northern emigrants. The whole farm can be purchased for $20,000.

Apply to Dr. Cocke, Garland's Store, Albemarle, or to the subscriber. C. T. BOTTS.

FOR SALE,

A FARM of 847 Acres in the county of Prince Edward, very highly improved, in one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Virginia. It is situated six miles from Prince Edward Court House, and eleven from Farmville. This is the property of Mr. Edward A. Carter, and it is offered upon the most liberal terms. For further particulars apply to

C. T. BOTTS.

THE SOUTHERN PLANTER,

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, and the Household Arts.

Agriculture is the nursing mother of the Arts. *Xenophon.* | Tillage and Pasturage are the two breasts of the State.—*Sully.*

C. T. BOTTS, Editor.

VOL. V. RICHMOND, MAY, 1845. No. 5.

THE TUCKAHOE PLANT.

The writer of the following article is remarkable for his antiquarian lore, and his singular devotion to every thing connected with the primitive history of Virginia. We have been presented by Mr. Campbell with a specimen of what he conceives to be *not* the Tuckahoe root, which we keep for the inspection of the curious.

For the Southern Planter.

Captain Smith, in his History of Virginia, Book 2d, p. 122, says: "The chiefe root they have for food is called Tockawhoughe. It groweth like a flagge in marishes. In one day a salvage will gather sufficient for a weeke.—These rootes are much of the greatnesse and taste of potatoes. They use to cover a great many of them with oke leaves and ferne and then cover all with earth in the manner of a colepit; over it on each side they continue a great fire twenty-four houres before they dare eat it. Raw it is no better than poyson and being rosted, except it be tender and the heat abated, or sliced and dryed in the sunne, mixed with sorrell and meale or such like, it will prickle and torment the throat extreamely, and yet in sommer they use this ordinarily for bread." . . .

Again, in Book 4, p. 228, Smith says of the Jamestown colonists, "others would gather as much Tockawhoughe roots in a day as would make them bread for a week," &c.*

I have in my possession a tuberous root of the species commonly called Tuckahoe, and upon making inquiry respecting it of several country people, I am convinced that it is not the root above described by Captain Smith. Smith has it, "It groweth like a flagge in marishes;" whereas the root which I have is spoken of by those who are acquainted with it as growing without any stalk, vine, or leaf, whatever—therefore, not "like a flagge," and instead of being indigenous to marshes, is commonly said by farmers to be found in "new grounds" and on high lands. The following notice of the Tuckahoe root is found in a note appended to an article in the Farmers' Register for April, 1839, written by the late James M. Garnett, Esq.

"Would you believe it? There are hundreds of native-born Virginians so ignorant of the early history of their own State as not to know that a root called 'Tuckahoe' was a common article of food among the Indians when Virginia was first settled by the English. It is indeed a great botanical curiosity, (now very scarce,) for it has neither root in the ground, nor stem above, but it grows a few inches below the surface, apparently as unconnected with the soil as a buried cannon-ball would be. It is oval in shape, and varies in size from that of a goose-egg to that of a man's head. The coat is rough and of a dark brown color—the inner substance is very white, similar in texture to that of the yam, and of an insipid taste. I believe it is found in the Carolinas as well as in Virginia." There is, however, a diversity of opinion about it. Perhaps some of your readers can throw some light on the question, and give an account of the real Tuckahoe, which "groweth like a flagge in marishes."

In the Farmers' Register, vol. 9, p. 3, C. B. Hayden, Esq., of Smithfield, Virginia, gives an account of the "Tockawhoughe," erroneously, as he thinks, called "Tuckahoe," a corruption of the Indian word "Tuckahowe," which literally signifies "the place where deer are shy." He classes it under genus tuber, of which there are two species, *cibarium* and *albidum*. Mr. H. thinks the "Tockawhoughe," the *albidum*. It is subterranean, destitute of roots, stem and leaves. This is the truffle.

Mr. Jefferson in his Notes on Virginia, p. 35, classes the Tuckahoe as the "Lycoperdon tuber"—the "puff ball," which is as different from the truffle as from the Tockawhoughe of Smith, or the Tuckahoe described by Mr. Garnett.—Mr. Jefferson's classification is undoubtedly erroneous. This description corresponds with the specimen which I have. It differs from Smith's account of it in several particulars. The anomalous tuber described by Mr. G. may have been used by the Indians as an article of food. It is certainly farinaceous—is readily eaten by hogs, it is said, and is sometimes styled "Indian

* Beverley in his History of Virginia, Book 3d, p. 15, gives a similar account: "Out of the ground, they (the Indians) dig trubbs, earth-nuts, wild onions, and a tuberous root they call *Tuckahoe*, which while crude is of a very hot and virulent quality; but they can manage it so as in case of necessity to make bread of it, just as the East Indians are said to do of Colocassia. It grows like a flagg in the miry marshes, having roots of the magnitude and taste of Irish potatoes, which are easy to be dug up."

bread." It is, however, certainly not Smith's "Tockawhoughe." And if it was as rare at the time of the settlement of Virginia as now, it could hardly have afforded "a common article of food." Lastly, if it had "neither root in the ground, nor stem above," how could the aborigines have discovered it?

That it does grow without root or stem—like an egg deposited in the ground, is my own opinion after a good deal of inquiry on the point. But being no botanist I submit the question to those who are.

C. Campbell.

Richmond, March 30, 1845.

FIRE AND WATER-PROOF CEMENT.

To half a pint of milk put an equal quantity of vinegar, in order to curdle it; then separate the curd from the whey, and mix the whey with four or five eggs, beating the whole well together. When it is well mixed, add a little quicklime through a sieve, until it has acquired the consistence of a thick paste. With this, broken vessels may be united. It resists water, and, in a measure, fire.—*Selected.*

For the Southern Planter.

VIRGINIA OVERSEERS.

Mr. Editor,—The planters of Virginia cannot well dispense with overseers, and as the season for employing them is approaching, I beg leave to submit a few suggestions for the consideration of the agricultural community. I know not what is the custom in lower Virginia, but in the middle part of the State, contracts are generally made with overseers from the 15th of May to the 15th July, for services to be rendered the succeeding year; and overseers move on the 15th of November.

I think that these contracts are made too early, and that the present practice is highly injurious to the interests of the planters, and advantageous only to those overseers who possess no solid merit or character. Overseers can easily obtain recommendations and certificates, and upon the faith of these, they are often employed. They commence the performance of duty on the 15th November, and by June they inquire of their employers whether they want their services for another year. How can the planter satisfactorily decide that question thus early? The wheat and oats have not been cut, nor the corn or tobacco crop made. Every thing may be promising up to June, and the business of the farm in a forward and snug condition, about the time when new contracts are to be made, and some addition to wages are expected. A new contract is made, and occasionally we have seen a great relaxation of energy and industry on the part of the overseer. The wheat and oats are saved indifferently, and threshed worse; the fodder is lost, the worms destroy much fine tobacco, and when the crop of tobacco is housed, it is often cured most wretchedly. "If I could only have anticipated these things, (says my brother farmer,) I never would have contracted with this overseer for the next year."

Again, if in June or July, you decline employing the overseer for another year, your agent is apt to be mortified or vexed, and is not so likely to act conscientiously as he would be, if the period for making contracts did not arrive before August, September or October. I have no wish to disparage overseers, as a class.—There are some good and some bad men among them, as in all other classes or pursuits. I can, however, perceive no substantial reason for adhering to the objectionable practice of making contracts at so early a day. No overseer should be continued upon a farm if he prove incompetent, and every agent should have a fair trial. To allow this, more time is required than from the 15th of November to the 15th of June. A reform is demanded by the interests of the agricultural community, who can accomplish it by concert and co-operation, and without inflicting the slightest injury upon any deserving and well qualified overseer. If ten or fifteen influential planters in each county will mutually agree to postpone making contracts with overseers sooner than September or October, the present fashion will be speedily changed, and much good will result. Overseers would then become more attentive to their several duties.

Our principal staples are now selling for about half as much as they commanded in 1835–6. Some diminution in the wages of overseers has taken place, but I respectfully ask, if the wages now generally given are not higher by from twenty to forty per cent. than the landholders can afford to give? A few years ago lug tobacco sold in Richmond at five and six dollars per 100 lbs. and now it sells at from $1 65 to $2 per 100 lbs. Good passed tobacco sells now about as well as lug tobacco did some few years back. At this time, twelve hogsheads of lug tobacco will not bring more than $200, after deducting the expenses of getting them to market. For the last three or four years the wheat crop has been indifferent in Virginia, and this staple has sold comparatively low. Our products and the prices at which they sell, should certainly be considered when we think of making our contracts with overseers. The latter have no moral right to expect high wages in the present condition of the commercial world. Let the overseers recollect that they receive something more than wages. They and their families obtain their bread and bacon, their milk and butter, and many other comforts from their employers. The overseers have no house rent

to pay or fuel to purchase. While their services are arduous and responsible, they are well paid, and I think better paid than the present income of the employers will authorize. The landholders will find it absolutely necessary to curtail wages, which now range from $200 to $450, and in a very few instances, to $500.

A Farmer.

For the Southern Planter.

MARL.

Mr. Editor,—In compliance with a wish expressed in the August number of the Planter, I will send you a short article on the use of marl. I fear, however, that you have greatly overestimated my ability to give your readers instruction upon a subject so intimately connected with the improvement of our soil in and about the tide water region of Virginia, my knowledge of it having been derived rather from observation, than experience.

The marl, with the use of which both in this county and some adjoining ones, I am most familiar, contains about forty-five per cent. of shell lime, and about thirty per cent. of green sand, varying some little in per centage in different beds on the same estate. On the Pamunkey, the beds are generally accessible, the depth of earth before coming to the shell being about twelve feet. Some beds of marl contain a considerably greater amount of green sand than others, and from such as these I should prefer to obtain it, feeling confident as I do that the fertilizing property of the marl is greatly enhanced by a large admixture of this green sand with the lime. There must, however, be a fair proportion of lime, for where I have seen the green sand used from beds that contained no lime, although the effect was almost miraculous on the clover crop that followed the application, yet I do not think that the improvement has been permanent; there are, however, two estates in this county where I understand green sand alone has been extensively used. On the one, where the soil is of a chocolate texture, the effect has been very fine, whilst on the other, where the soil is very light and sandy, no effect is visible, save on a small piece of land of like texture with the farm first spoken of. I recently met with the manager of an estate in King William county, on the Mattaponi, who told me that he had been using the green sand for the two last years with very beneficial results, putting 120 bushels to the acre.

But though every one who has green sand, and no marl, should use it as a desirable mode of improving his land, yet no one who has marl should ever haul the other unless it may be to increase the quantity of green sand when he thinks his marl contains too small a portion of it.

Marl may be applied with equal benefit to the land before a wheat crop or a corn crop. If preference can be given to either it should be to the latter, as in that case the exposure to the frost tends to hasten the decomposition of the shells, and the cultivation of the corn tends to mix it sooner with the soil; but in either case, it is always most desirable to apply it along with putrescent manures, as one of its chief recommendations is the property it possesses of rendering those manures permanent.

One cannot, I think, be too liberal in his application of marl; I have never seen but once, I think, a crop injured by too heavy an application; that was in a few acres of corn planted on a sandy piece of land on which about two thousand bushels of marl per acre had been put by way of experiment on the wheat fallow preceding the corn crop, (in the four field system,) there was too a very severe drought, which, in part, accounts for the firing of the corn. I think about eight hundred bushels a fair application, and should never put less unless I had to haul it from a great distance. A gentleman in this county is now largely engaged in hauling marl from the beds of a neighbor to his plantation, a distance of from two to two and a half miles, putting about three hundred bushels per acre. He has not been yet applying it long enough to ascertain the exact profit he will derive from it, but is very well satisfied that it is a profitable employment for his hands and teams. It is unnecessary for me at this late day to dilate on the great value of marl as an improver; no one at all conversant with the principles of agriculture is now skeptical on this subject; one has but to go into the marl region to see the inestimable benefits that the country has derived from this inexhaustible source of fertilization that nature has provided for some favored parts of the world. As a guide for the beginner, I annex an estimate of the cost and quantity of a year's marling, premising that no farmer having marl on his land should be satisfied until he has established two permanent marl carts at least.

2 carters at $40 per annum,	$80 00
1 loader at $40 per annum,	40 00
Uncovering marl per annum,	75 00
Feed for 4 mules, wear of same and carts	250 00
	$445 00

Quantity of marl hauled at an average distance of three-fourths of a mile will be thirteen loads a day for each cart containing thirteen bushels, making for the two carts per diem 338 bushels; say that they can haul 250 days in the year, and you have 84,500 bushels of marl per annum, which at 800 bushels per acre will marl 105⅝ acres, being at a cost of about $4 20 per acre.

This is, I think, a fair estimate of the cost of marling, and no one could see some of the estates in Virginia, improved by marl, without

being convinced that the improvement resulting from the use of marl, will amply remunerate the farmer for his expenditure. In the forest country, off from the Pamunkey river, in Hanover, is found an abundance of marl of a different texture and containing different shells from that on the river; this, though not so rich, has been used by many persons with very fine results.

If you think this article will be acceptable to your readers, you can place it in the Planter.

Truly, your friend, X.

Hanover Co., Nov. 13, 1844.

This article is from a gentleman who has had as good an opportunity of observing the effects of marl as any in Virginia. It was mislaid, or it would have appeared in an earlier number of the Planter.

We have great faith in the efficacy of a proper admixture of soils, and we think that much of the benefit that is due to this cause has been attributed to marling. The deposites of calcareous matter are frequently imbedded in clay, and when the admixture is carted upon a light, sandy soil, the improvement is frequently due as much to the clay as the lime. So, again, when the shell is found mixed with sand, the application to a stiff clay is advantageous, plainly upon the principle of the *sand*, rather than the *shell*. Yet it is the *fashion* to attribute all to the lime.

One of the best agricultural books we ever read, is "Morton upon Soils," where the necessity of a due proportion of sand and clay to constitute a fertile soil is clearly demonstrated.

From the Maine Cultivator.

HOW TO MAKE SOAP.

Messrs. Editors,—If you think the following article worthy of an insertion in your valuable paper, it is at your service. I have seen a great many well written articles on agriculture, cookery, &c. &c., but as I do not recollect of seeing any thing written on "making soap," I will give you the following, which is the result of *years* of experience:

First, set up your tub as usual, with sticks and straw, and then put your lime (slacked) on the straw to the depth of three or four inches—then take a long stick that will come a few inches above the top of the tub—wind a hay rope around the stick, nearly its whole length—let the stick go through the tub two or three inches, then you can draw your lye without putting your hands into it underneath. Put your grease into the kettle, and turn in about two quarts (or enough to cover the bottom of the kettle) of your strongest lye. Boil a few minutes, then turn in a little more lye, and continue to turn in as the lye boils over, until your kettle is about two-thirds or three-quarters full, when you can fill up the kettle, and after skimming the contents well, dip out and empty it into the barrel. Put in two pounds rosin to one barrel soap. If your lye is of sufficient strength, you will be *sure* to have *good* soap. I have heard people complain a great deal that they did not have "good luck" in making soap.—Their ashes were not good or not made from good wood or something or other. But if the above directions are carefully followed, I can assure them that they will have no reason to complain of "poor luck," or any thing of the kind.

N. B.—Clear grease does not require more than ten minutes boiling, but where there are bones, it takes longer time. Some people put lime in the middle of the cask or tub, but the main use of lime is to strain the lye, and make it pure—therefore, it should be put on the top of the straw at the bottom of the tub.

An Old Hand.

Grey, Feb. 28, 1845.

For the Southern Planter.

THESHING MACHINES.

Mr. Charles T. Botts:

Dear Sir,—My opinion of the wheat machine which I purchased of you in August, 1844, is favorably known in my own neighborhood, but in justice to yourself and the public generally, I feel it my duty, as it is my pleasure, to request its publication in the columns of your Planter. It has long been a desideratum with small farmers to have such a machine as yours, since crops of five hundred or one thousand bushels will not justify the heavy expense of other kinds. I prefer your machine over all others, with which I am acquainted, because,

1st. It is simple in construction and not apt to get out of order.

2d. It performs more work for less money than other machines, and is fully adequate to crops of 1,000 to 1,500 bushels.

3d. It can be worked with the hands usually found on farms to which it is adapted, without the expense and trouble of hiring extra labor.

4th. It is known that the purple straw wheat (of which we grow the most) has more *capped* grains than any other—very few of which pass from your machine in this objectionable condition.

5th. With three mules and ten hands I threshed, with ease, 120 bushels per day, passed it through the fan once and stacked the straw.

6th. The horse-power is, without doubt, the most perfect I have ever seen.

Permit me to say, sir, that the getting up this

machine, together with the very many valuable improvements, found monthly in the columns of the Planter, will swell the long list of obligations under which your zeal, enterprise and talents have laid the farmers of Virginia and agriculture every where.

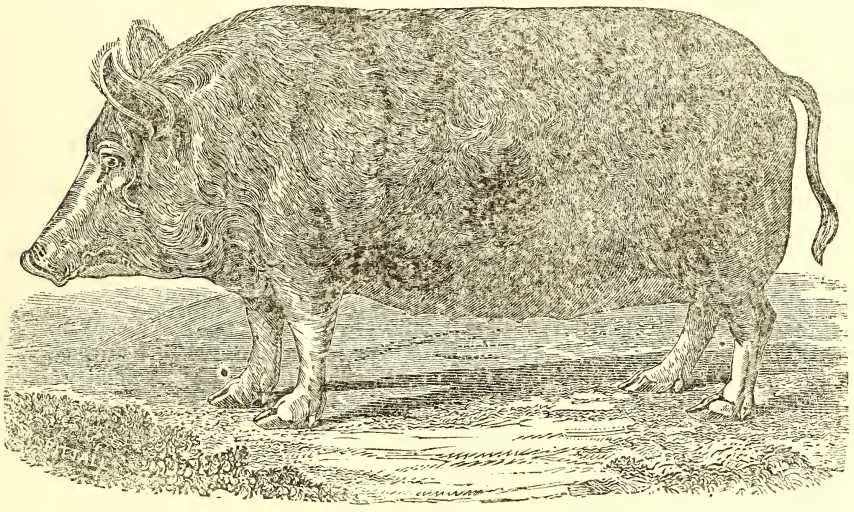
It may not be amiss to state that as far as my observation has extended, the wheat crop is at this time more advanced and more promising than I have ever seen it. The seeding was larger, and without some disaster this county will produce 10,000 bushels more than any former year.

Three years ago, I commenced the use of ashes, leached and unleached, as a top dressing for wheat. My time of applying them is February and March. I aim to put about two hundred bushels to the acre, and select the lightest and most sandy parts of my fields. With the result so far, I have cause to be entirely pleased, and I would respectfully invite the attention of farmers to this use of their ashes, than which, in my judgment, no better disposition can be made.

With great regard,
Yours,
ALEX. BRYANT.

Mantua, Prince George, April 5, 1845.

BERKSHIRE HOG.



In our last number we furnished a cut of the Siamese sow; we now present our readers with a very fine engraving of the old Berkshire hog, by the cross on which the modern Berkshire was produced. Although the unnatural excitement and artificial interest that pervaded the country a year or two since on the subject of hogs, has passed away, the fondness for good bacon still exists, and the history of the hog is not without its interest either to the farmer or the epicure.

Low, in his "Illustrations," furnishes us with representations of all the different varieties of hogs in England, and amongst them he seems to give the preference to the one at the head of this article. With the far seeing wisdom of a philosopher, he appears to have dreaded the very error into which the public now think the authors of the modern Berkshire have fallen. For our own part, we adhere to the opinion, that in the mania for Berkshires a great many varieties of hogs were produced; thousands of which were entirely worthless, some of which were *very superior*. If the following quotation serves no other end, it may at least warn breeders from the common error of pushing a principle to an extreme. Low says,

"Those varieties of the swine of England, which have received the name of *breeds*, have been usually named from the counties, or places where they have been reared in numbers—thus we have the *Hampshire*, the *Suffolk*, the *Berkshire*, and other breeds, each supposed to be distinguished by a set of common characters. Of

these breeds, one of the earliest improved was the Berkshire, so named from the county of that name; but the principal improvement of the breed was made in the counties farther north, chiefly in Leicestershire and Staffordshire. It still retains, however, its original designation, and the Berkshire has long been known as one of the most generally-spread of the improved breeds of England.

"The true Berkshires are of the larger races of swine, although they fall short in size of some of the older breeds, as the *Hampshire*, the *Rudgwick*, and some others. They are usually of a *reddish brown color*, with brown or black spots—a character which makes it appear that one of the means employed to improve them, was a cross with the *wild boar*. The Berkshire has long been regarded as one of the superior breeds of England, combining size with a sufficient aptitude to fatten, and as being fitted for pork and bacon; it has been regarded also as the *hardiest* of the more improved races. The Berkshire breed has, like every other, been crossed and re-crossed with the Chinese or Chinese crosses, so as to lessen the size of the animals, and render them more suited to the demand which has arisen for small and delicate pork.—Many of the modern breed are nearly black, indicating their approach to the Siamese character, and sometimes they are black, broken with white, showing the effect of the cross with the white Chinese: from this intermixture, it becomes in many cases difficult to recognise, in the present race, the characters of the *true* Berkshire. And although no doubt can exist with respect to the great benefit that has arisen from diminishing the size and coarseness of the former swine of England, yet assuredly there should be *limits* to this diminution in the size of the hog, as of every other animal cultivated for food; and, in many cases, the diminution of size has been merely to suit the caprice of taste.—The larger kinds of pigs do not find a ready sale in the markets of great cities, and hence, the more essential property of an abundant production of butcher's meat is sacrificed; but we should remember that the supply of pork is of immense importance to the support of the inhabitants of every country, for in the state of bacon it is largely consumed by the mass of the people, and in the salted state, it is used in the supplies of shipping—it is not, therefore, for the general good, that the old breeds of England should be merged in the smaller races of China and other countries; and while we should improve by every means the larger breeds that are left us, we should take care that we do not sacrifice them altogether; *the country might one day regret that this over-refinement has been practised, and future improvers exert themselves in vain to recover those fine old breeds which had been abandoned!* In place of unceasing crossing with the smaller breeds, it would be more praiseworthy and beneficial, to apply to our larger races those principles of breeding which, in the case of other animals, have succeeded. By mere selection of the parents, we could remove all the defective characters of the larger breeds, and give to them all the degree of fineness which consists with their bulk of body; *for there is no animal so easily changed in form, and moulded to our purposes, as the hog.*

"Hogs are from time to time brought by our innumerable shipping, from the countries of the Mediterranean, as Italy, Turkey, Spain, and mingled with the swine of the country. Of the Mediterranean breeds, the Maltese was at one time in favor; it was of small size, black color, nearly destitute of bristles, and capable of fattening quickly; but at the present time, a breed from the country near Naples has been introduced, and has been employed very extensively to cross the other breeds: this breed, like the Maltese, is of small size, and of a black color: it is nearly destitute of hair or bristles, but on being bred several times in this country, the bristles come: the flesh is exceedingly good, but the animals themselves are destitute of hardiness, and unsuited for general use, but they have been made to cross the other swine of the country, and the progeny exhibit much fineness of form and aptitude to fatten: their flesh too is delicate, on which account the Neapolitan crosses are in considerable favor in several parts of England. But there are other races of Italy which might, with greater benefit than that of Naples, have been introduced into this country; the best hogs of Italy are supposed to be produced in the Duchy of Parma; they are of larger size than those of Naples, while they possess even greater aptitude to fatten, and yield pork equally white and delicate."

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL IN BUCKINGHAM.

A few weeks ago Mr. J. F. Schermerhorn, a gentleman with whom we have been slightly acquainted for several years, informed us that he had purchased an establishment known as the "Female Collegiate Institute," in Buckingham, which he intended to devote to the establishment of an agricultural school. He promised to develope his plans more fully to us at a future day, and we forbore to mention the subject until we heard farther from him; but in the meantime, we find the following in the New York Farmer, which may be interesting to our readers.

We look with great interest to this *projet* of Mr. Schermerhorn. Every thing will depend upon the details of his plan: a failure will strike

a severe blow at agricultural improvement; but if he can so educate the young men placed under his charge, that when they return to their homes they can make more money from the same means than their neighbors, then will his labors be crowned with success, and then need he entertain no fears of a want of patronage. If he cannot teach them this, no matter how *learned* he may make his pupils, he has done little for them, and nothing for agriculture.

At a meeting of the New York Farmers' Club, Mr. Schermerhorn being called to the chair, remarked,

"I am here accidentally. You honor me with the chair. I thank you, gentlemen; and as I have long felt the immeasurable value of agriculture, I will say what I think, in a few words. I have long looked in vain to the State Legislature for encouragement to agriculture. It is a remarkable fact that our General and State governments have legislated for every and all interests except one, and that one the greatest of all, agriculture! Surely the public funds should be used for the establishment on solid foundations, of proper schools for agriculture.—When Franklin said that the growing of two blades of grass where but one grew before, made the grower a benefactor of mankind, he said a great truth. If science can make thirty bushels of wheat where only ten grew before, who can dispute its value? As to my plan, I have passed the last year in Virginia. I found there a building of about 180 feet in length by 36 in width, containing 52 rooms, large and small—some of them large lecture rooms, well calcalated for my Agricultural College. There are 120 acres of land attached to it. The building is of brick, three stories high. The land is what is termed in Virginia *tired;* it is the very place for my experiment; I mean to render that tired land active, healthy, and vigorous, by the application of science and industry. I am sure of success; when I want them, I shall add to the farm about 300 acres more. I have been looking about for proper persons to be employed as Professors. I want one of Language, one of Philosophy and Mathematics, and one of Practical Agricultural Chemistry. This last professorship is difficult to fill. I must have a young man, one who is well read, who is enthusiastic in the cultivation of the soil. I hope that I shall be able to find the right kind of a man. I mean that my students shall be able to take hold of any profession; but my main purpose is to make them practical, scientific farmers. I mean that, like physicians, they shall know well the diseases of soils and the remedies. They shall take a specimen of soil and determine practically what are the diseases and the remedies. Every boy that possesses the necessary faculties, shall be able to do this himself. I shall teach the boys that in farming, the first law is economy—that ruin ensues where the outlay on the farm exceeds the product! I shall cause the boys to learn practically, with chain and compass, land surveying and civil engineering. They shall learn, when a stick of timber is required for any purpose, to go into the woods, select the best tree, and make no mistake by cutting my trees down to waste. They shall take a bag and hammer and collect minerals, and when brought home, thoroughly understand and describe what they are; and the like practical course in botany.—In the garden, they shall cultivate all the useful vegetables and fruits, and not omit those that are merely ornamental; nor shall they fail to understand the medicinal plants, and all useful plants, whether for man or animals. Boys get weary of study in confined rooms. I intend that mine shall use the old peripatetic plan.—They shall walk, and talk, and learn. I never saw a boy that did not want a spot in the garden to cultivate himself. He shall have one, and all the seeds and instruction. He shall perfectly learn how to bud and to engraft. By mixing study, exercise and amusement, in an agreeable variety, I hope to see them cheerful and strong of body. I shall have about ten acres for an experimental garden; there we will plant all kinds of new seeds and plants; we will apply every manure, test them all, and when approved, transfer to the farm. So we will have the best animals—learn all their points; best modes of crossing breeds, of feeding and keeping. We will teach the diseases of animals and the remedies; the most economical keeping and management; soiling and fattening—all practically. We will raise everything for our table. I shall look out for new staple articles for cultivation—we must have some new ones. The mountainous portion of Virginia is one of the most admirable in this country for raising stock. No part of New England is comparable to it for raising sheep and stock of all kinds. We will improve the breeds of sheep, where it is required; they shall have good fleeces and carcasses; and our boys shall see and learn how it is accomplished.

"I am preparing a prospectus which will contain my plan of operations in better order.—I was called upon here unexpectedly, and have thrown out these ideas without the proper order. As to the professorship of agriculture, I shall have the advantage of the intelligent and thorough-bred agricultural scholar, Fleischman, of Washington. He will lecture for me for three months in the summer. He has received the full education as such in the best school of Europe. I mean to apply art to agriculture—have a shop where the boys shall learn how to make every implement—stock a plough, make a har-

row, and every other implement. Virginia has many most respectable, talented and amiable gentlemen farmers—but I want to prepare a class of young men to become scientific gentlemen farmers."

For the Southern Planter.

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Mr. Editor,—I have received a copy of the Constitution and proceedings of the State Agricultural Society, and find the honor of being one of the General Committee for Brunswick county has been conferred on me—for an honor I really consider it to be selected as one of the co-workers in such a work. I hope and believe that I have the planting and farming business of the State as much at heart as any of her sons, and am willing to give my time and bestow my exertions to promote and improve this vital interest of our country as far as he who will go farthest.

And whilst I fully appreciate the feelings of *real* patriotism which brought together the gentlemen who have commenced this good and glorious work by the formation of the Society, and am convinced that the right spirit is abroad to improve our condition, I fear that the plans adopted will not lead to success. Long articles do not suit the Planter; I will condense what I have to say, at the risk of being obscure.

The basis of the Society, in my humble judgment, is not broad enough.

1. The voluntary system, is no system at all—private contribution hardly ever comes up to the plans laid down in such societies—and the contributions fall entirely on the liberal and generous, therefore, unjust.

2. The funds to be raised are too small, and will not do for Virginia what she really wants.

3. The exhibitions and premiums, and meetings may diffuse a good deal of information around the *place* of meeting, but they will be powerless to penetrate the dark corners and counties of the Commonwealth, which I fear would be nine-tenths of her soil and population.

They who undertake the improvement of Virginia agriculture, to any extent, undertake a gigantic work; if they do not look well to what they have to do, and provide means adequate to the end, nothing can come of it but failure—which is worse than doing nothing. All of us know to what a state of poverty our soil is reduced—what superficial and scourging culture is bestowed on it—what poor returns it makes for its annual cultivation. How many of our best and brightest sons and daughters abandon their native home every year, for the South and West. We all know too, in whose hands the cultivation of the soil is now placed, and has been placed for almost a century. Ignorance and most frequently the most bigoted ignorance, holds supreme dominion. In the county of Brunswick, (and is it not so in most other counties?) how many are directing the cultivation of the soil who are qualified for nothing but day laborers? As I am not electioneering, I hope the *truth* will offend no one, and no small part of the difficulties in our way, is the *ignorance* of our population—an ignorance widespread, alarming—lamentable—but regret it as we may, it is amongst us, and we have to deal with it. The capital vested in lands, slaves, stock, &c., in Virginia is *very* large, and is fully three-fourths, or more, of the entire wealth of the State. In any country, or in any age, was the same amount of capital, so little under the direction of science? Here, every man is *born* a farmer and politician. An exhausted soil and an ignorant population are the material we have to work on—to improve the one and enlighten the other is surely a work in which the greatest intellect and the highest benevolence would feel proud to be employed.

Will the plans and contemplated resources of the Society consummate these ends? Will they even advance them to any beneficial extent? I fear not. If not, what shall be done? for all seem to agree that *something must be done*. I will give an outline of my plan, and call upon my brother members and brother farmers to give theirs, that we may have the benefit of the best reflections of all.

1. In the first place we *must* have money—and enough for our purposes, be it what it may, within our means—not to be raised by private subscription, but out of the public exchequer. We pay almost the whole taxes, and why should we not take enough of our own money for the promotion of our own peculiar interest? Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been thrown away on internal improvements, and no one said nay to it, and if the James River interest will allow us, why should we not call for enough to endow what the real tax payers want? The planters and farmers have only to *command* in this and they will be obeyed.

2. The institution we shall raise up should be complete in itself—dependent on no corporation, society, or otherwise with the government than as an independent department of it. A Bureau of Agriculture, standing out from all others—with full means for all rightful purposes.

3. It should be located on a large farm, the property of the institution, with all necessary houses, fixtures, &c.

4. It should have two departments—one for apprentices, to be bound to the institution by the overseers of the poor, of the different counties, who shall cultivate the farm under the most approved modes of cultivation, making all proper experiments, and these poor boys should receive during their apprenticeship for their labor a good

support, and a good education, all of which to be provided by the institution. Here would be a field large enough for all experiments in plants, stock, implements connected with farming and gardening, and our boys would diffuse over the State, in a few years, improvements and habits that would astonish the most sanguine. The other department should be under the control of the best science that money could buy—the best chemist—mineralogist—geologist and botanist; they should lecture to the apprentices a part of the year. They should survey every county in the State, and every part of every county; keep an accurate record and publish, as might be deemed advisable. They should also lecture, a part of the year, to a class, if one should attend, on these sciences as they may best promote the end in view; keep a diary of the weather—the quantity of rain, and all such things, and let the institution be the head of the husbandry of the State, where all statistics may be preserved. These scientific persons should find out what is in our soil, and let us know; they should have no other business until every part of the State had been thoroughly explored, and its soil analyzed. Of course, if it were thought best, there might be an Eastern and a Western farm.

These are mere suggestions—I have no pride in the thing; let any one criticise them as much as he pleases, provided he will suggest something better.

After discussing and considering the subject, let us settle on something, and get petitions from the counties to the next General Assembly, and *demand* an endowment of an institution which is able to do "the State some service."

Yours, very respectfully,

E. B. Hicks.

Lawrenceville, March 29, 1845.

ECONOMY.

Perhaps the most marked trait in the character of the Southern farmer is the want of economy. Many reasons have been assigned for the depressed state of agriculture in the South. That our country enjoys the most unrivalled advantages for the prosecution of agricultural pursuits, is undenied, and undeniable: that the improvements in this art have not kept even pace with other departments of science, is universally admitted. The inquiring mind, which seeks for reasons for every fact, has been engaged in the explanation of this phenomenon. Some have declared that the light of science was wanting to the pursuit of agriculture; some have attributed the stationary character of this pursuit to the existence of a slave population, &c. &c.

That the science of agriculture is in its nature one of the most complex and intricate, a little consideration must satisfy the most careless observer; and the fact that a *season* is required to test an experiment, proves that experience, which is the foundation of true knowledge, is more difficult of attainment in this than in any other art. But this is true of agriculture every where, and only accounts for the retarded progress of the art when considered in relation to the world generally. It has been asserted, however, that in the southern part of the United States, the portion of the whole globe perhaps best adapted to the pursuit of agriculture, improvement languishes most. Whilst we are not prepared to admit this charge to its fullest extent, we will confess that agricultural improvements encounter peculiar difficulties in their progress through the Southern States; not, as some imagine, for want of knowledge of the scientific discoveries in agriculture, for they, we believe, in truth, are very few, and are as well known to the enlightened farmers of the South as to any other portion of this Union. But the fact is, that amongst the highly favored, wealthy farmers of the South, a state of financial embarrassment prevails, that offers an insuperable bar to agricultural improvement. It is not uncommon to find a Southern farmer with real estate and negroes worth fifty thousand dollars, sadly embarrassed with a debt of twenty thousand. Our Northern friends will wonder how a man with fifty thousand dollars' worth of property can be seriously embarrassed with a debt of twenty thousand, but a Southern man will readily understand the feelings and sentiments which make it so distasteful to part with that peculiar kind of property in which a large portion of our funds is vested. But unless he sell his slaves, the farmer cannot part with an acre of his ground, which is, in his opinion, hardly sufficient to keep them employed. Thus it is, that the debt is not only retained, but perhaps from the same cause from which it originated, it is increased, and to provide for the interest alone, absorbs all the funds and much of the time of the improvident farmer. It were bootless to look to the origin of this state of things; it could perhaps be traced to the fact of expensive habits derived from a wealthy ancestry, whilst the enormous profits that justified them in former years, has altogether ceased in later times; for whilst there is no difficulty in expanding your expenses in prosperity, the con-

traction in adversity is not quite so easy. Be that as it may, the fact of a very general pecuniary embarrassment amongst even the wealthy portion of the agricultural community in the South, is not to be denied; and this circumstance alone, when fully considered, will be found sufficient to account for the retarded state of agricultural improvement in the South. Money is the great lever with which the world is both raised and lowered, and we know of no improvement that can be effected without it. Suggest to a farmer a system of cultivation by which his exhausted fields may be rested and restored; he is fully aware of it, but he tells you that the corn from that field is devoted to the liquidation of a debt already incurred; prove to him that if he is deprived of this resource for a year or two, it will only be to double the product in after time; he knows it; but even with the yield of that field, he fears that his income for the year will fall short of his expenses. He hopes that it will be better after a while, but *this* year, he must "make every thing tell." Show him a valuable labor-saving machine, an investment in which would be equivalent to an interest of fifty per cent., his answer is, "my dear sir, I am a borrower, not an invester of money;" and so he is, poor fellow. It is not the want of scientific knowledge that keeps that man's fields poor, and induces the most skinning system of cultivation, but it is the want of pecuniary means.

What is the remedy for this state of things? We answer emphatically, *retrenchment* and *economy*. Begin with yourself; curtail your individual expenses, go through every member of your household, cut down and pare off every where; teach your children that the conveniences and elegances purchased of the milliner and the mercer, may be substituted, in a great measure, by their own handicraft. Your own part is nothing, but to deprive those you love of that to which they have been accustomed, is, we know, a bitter pill; but it must be taken. In the great fall of agricultural products, there is no help for it.

Do not tell us that you already practise economy to its fullest extent. My dear sir, you don't begin to know the meaning of the word. What is your income? About $1,500—well, go to the North and see how a farmer with an income of $2,000 lives, compare your expenditures with his, and then see if you know any thing about economy. And whilst you are there, observe the difference between his case and yours—he probably has at the end of the year eight hundred or a thousand dollars to devote to the improvement of his land, which improvement probably secures him a surplus of twelve or fifteen hundred dollars at the end of the next year, and so he goes on, getting richer and richer, whilst you are getting poorer and poorer. Suppose your situations to be nearly the same in 1845, work this thing out, and see where you will both be in 1855.

There is one point upon which we will take the liberty of giving you the gentlest hint in the world. Be not afraid in this proposed system of reform of any opposition from your wife.—Come out like a man and explain to her the necessity for it; women are always more frugal and self-denying than men; we will answer for *her*.

It is astonishing how not only the *price*, but the *real value* of land, is effected by the economical habits of a neighborhood. We were sensibly struck with this fact in a conversation last summer with an intelligent gentleman from Rockingham. We were both at the time in the county of Albemarle, and something was said about the high price for which land was sold in that county. The Rockingham gentleman remarked, that similar land in his own county, not at all more productive, farther from market, would sell for one-third more money.—He was then asked, why he did not sell in Rockingham and purchase in Albemarle. He replied because he found, upon a fair calculation, that the land was cheaper in Rockingham than in Albemarle; that is, that owing to the different habits and customs of the people, he could lay up more money from an investment in the one than the other. This is sound reasoning, and it is the reasoning upon which men act. This is the reasoning by which men are induced to give a hundred dollars an acre for lands in New York or Pensylvania, whilst lands equally productive can be purchased in Virginia for half the money.

Those who know us will hardly suspect us, in making these remarks, of a base or niggardly spirit. No one can despise more than we do the miserly disposition, which induces some men to deprive themselves of the comforts and elegancies of life for the mere sake of hoarding money. We recommend them the practice of

economy by which wealth may be accumulated.

"Not for to hide it in a hedge,
Nor for a train attendant;
But for the glorious privilege
Of being independent."

And in the words of the same immortal poet, we say to you, gentle reader,

"May you better reck the *rede*
Than ever did the adviser."

For the Southern Planter.

FARM PEN.

Mr. Editor,—The farmers look to you, sir, as the expounder of the law; therefore, I have taken the liberty of addressing this note to you on the subject of a farm pen. This pen has a shelter in it open to the south; the back, at the north, is tight, consequently it is warm. This pen since November last has been regularly and evenly littered and limed under the shelter, as well as outside, until about the 1st February, at which time it was some two feet deep. When I saw it, on a visit to the owner, he knowing my fondness for such things, soon invited me in; after some conversation, I asked for a fork or grubbing hoe: a few places were dug in the centre of the pen, where (just as I expected) it was found to be not much, if at all, decomposed; we then dug several places under the shelter, and to our perfect astonishment it was found to be beautifully decomposed and fit for almost any crop forthwith. That most delightful odor of amnonia, which is or ought to be interesting to the farmer, was given out as soon as the mass was disturbed. Now, sir, the object of this note is to request that you will please give your opinion of the whys and wherefores of the decomposition under the shelter, and the non-decomposition without. Several gentlemen have been consulted on the subject, but no conclusion had—but all wondering at the fact.

My sheet not being full I will make a few more remarks. For your editorial in the March number of the Planter on the subject of the State Agricultural Society connected with a system of school education, I think every man in the State ought to tender you his most hearty thanks, and say well done, go on, we will assist you with all our might. You say, which is true too, that the Legislature is always backward in appropriating money. Perhaps if it were more so on some subjects, it would be better. Well, sir, I think the people, the voters, could very easily have the Legislature to do what they want done, if they would set about it in the right way. Let us vote for no man, then, that will not pledge himself to carry out the measures for agricultural improvement so far as is in his power, that we desire. It is a strange fact, that candidates strongly solicit our votes, and so soon as they have received them, the people, like sycophants, beg them by petitions, &c., to do what the county and State want done. The method above, suggested is perhaps the most sure and effectual one. Send none but the friends of agriculture and the education of the poor to the Legislature.

Having yet a plenty of space, I have concluded to give a small experiment made on one acre of corn land. In April, 1844, I had the rows laid off five feet apart, the furrows about ten inches deep. Half of this lot was manured with litter direct from the woods, filling the furrow only from end to end, then covering the same by running four furrows, which formed a bed; the beds were slightly opened, and corn dropped about three feet apart, and covered with a hoe. The corn was worked all one way.—The other half was managed precisely as the first, except the manure, which was coarse farm pen. From first to last, no difference in the looks of the corn could be detected. Several gentlemen saw it and appeared to be much pleased with the method. I could give you the names of them, or four of them, that I know you are personally acquainted with. When the corn was cribbed, it was measured in a flour barrel, allowing three measures to make five bushels; the produce was forty bushels per acre of long, the short and rotten corn not measured. In 1841 the same lot was in corn and produced twenty bushels. Had there been no curiosity exhibited by those that saw it I should not have named or noticed it in this way.

The Planter has a few fast friends among us, and I am pleased to say that there can be no question but we are benefited by it.

With great respect,
I am your obedient servant,
J. Bunch.

Chuckatuck, Nansemond, March 18, 1845.

We are much obliged to Mr. Bunch for the kind and complimentary manner in which he writes to us, individually, and we hope shortly by a personal acquaintance to strengthen a friendship that a more distant intercourse has been cementing for years.

With respect to the two piles of manure, one of which was decomposed, whilst the other was not, we should like to have an opportunity of cross-examining the witness, before we are called on to pronounce a judicial opinion. We can well understand that in the pile exposed to the weather, all the soluble salts may have been washed out by the rains, whilst they were preserved in the one under cover. Hence the *per-*

fume in the one, that was wanting in the other. Moreover, lime, whilst in small quantities it promotes decay, like salt, when applied in larger proportions acts as an antiseptic. It may have been that the vegetable decomposition, out of doors, was prevented by the action of an overdose of lime.

A TRUE PICTURE.

The following picture of a Southern planter, as we too often find him, is from the graphic pen of our friend Wilson, of the Planters' Banner. There is a deuced sight more truth than poetry in it. By-and-by our planters will probably learn a little gumption, and then we shall be happy to see the picture reversed, but until then candor compels us to acknowledge its correctness.—*Tropic.*

"Now for the picture of the *planter*. *He* wouldn't sell a chicken, nor a dozen of eggs, nor a bushel of peaches, nor a calf, for any consideration. He is *above* that! *He* raises *cotton*—*he* does! He rides in a six hundred dollar carriage, for which he is in debt. His daughters thrum a piano that never will be paid for. He buys corn which he could raise at ten cents a bushel, and pays sixty cents for it, after two and a half per cent. advance to his commission merchant. He *could* raise his own *tobacco*, yet he pays $3 a pound for 'Richmond scented.' He *could* raise his own *hogs*, yet he patronizes *Cincinnati*. The consequences are disastrous. Being the possessor of one staple, he fluctuates with the market of that article. He takes the 'Price Current'—he pays postage—he gobbles down the English news like a cormorant. If he sells to-day, he'll lose—therefore, he'll wait for better advices. He is 'mixed up' in cotton, and is a *gambler* therein. Meantime he wants money; drafts on his factor! He wants cotton goods and clothes for his plantation, that he could make at home. He *orders* them, and feels 'large.' The manufacturer, the insurer, the shipper, the freighter, the drayman, the warehouse man, the seller, and finally, the commission merchant, all have a finger in the *pie* of profits, and the pround, *foolish* planter pays them all. The year closes, and he is 'up to his eyebrows' in debt! This is the result of his not 'calculating,' nor even *guessing* the difference between *farming and planting*. One supports a *family;* the other supports *pride*, until pride gets a fall."

For the Southern Planter.

WARD'S WHITE WHEAT.

Mr. Editor,—In the January number of the Southern Planter, page 19, I observe a few words said about Ward's white bearded wheat, supposed to be described by Gen. Harmon, as follows: "Kentucky white bearded, better known in Western New York as Hutchinson's, or bearded flint, or Canada flint."

Whether it is the same kind as that known in this section of country, as "Ward's white bearded," I am not able to say. The kind known in this vicinity by that name has a tolerably long beard, and resembles very much, when ripening, the variety called the "golden shuck." When ripe, the shuck is of a reddish brown, the straw is, near the ground, about as solid as that of the white flint, and ripens about as early as that variety. It has been extensively cultivated in this and the adjoining counties for the last eight or nine years. A gentleman informed me a few days ago that his father carried some of it with him to Kentucky, when he moved there some seven or eight years ago. This wheat was propagated by me from four heads which I found growing in my wheat patch in the summer of 1830. About one head and a half was wasted before I discovered that it was white; I then rubbed out the balance and sowed it a few days before Christmas. I continued to sow the product each year, without taking much pains with it. The harvest of 1833 I reaped four bushels and five-eighths, from which the next harvest I reaped about ninety-six bushels, which was more than double the quantity necessary to sow my crop; the balance, by my recommendation, was purchased of me, by my neighbors, for seed; they were very well pleased with it. Nearly all I made to spare, for several years, was readily sold at the Richmond price, delivered at my granary. I still continue to cultivate it, and now, after about thirteen years experience, I have no hesitation in saying that it is, in my opinion, the best kind I have ever seen. With regard to it, I can endorse the opinion expressed a few years ago by an old negro man of mine; he came to me in the wheat patch, in harvest, and said, "Master, I am an old man, and have seen a *heper* kinds of wheat in my life, but this kind of ours stands every thing better than any kind I have ever seen." It is still in this vicinity, I believe, more generally cultivated than any other kind. Some have fallen out with it, and sought for some other kind, which will, in turn, share the same fate. I am not surprised at it, as it is my opinion, that the very best kind of wheat will after a few years degenerate, if sowed upon land not well adapted to its growth; whereas, if sowed on land well adapted to it, it will, with ordinary care, rarely if ever degenerate. If those farmers whose land is not suited to the growth of the wheat crop, would make it a rule (and let it be like the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not,) once at least in two years to procure their seed wheat from some care-taking person whose land is well adapted to its growth, they would, in my opinion,

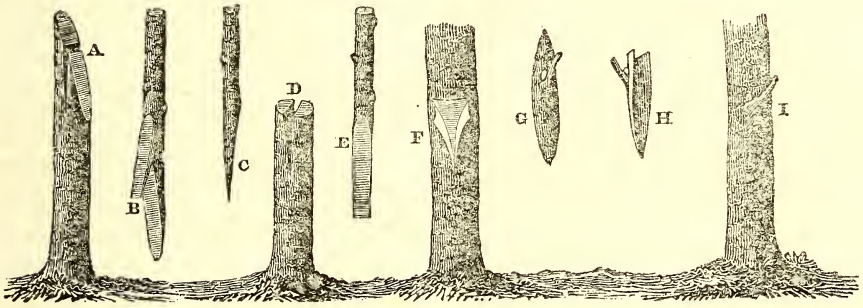
be greatly benefited, and would not so often have to seek for a new variety; and they would have less cause to complain of short crops, and would not have so much to say about spelt, cheat, &c.

I said to two of my friends once that the grub worm crawled or walked on his back, with his feet up. They laughed heartily at the notion, and said it was reversing the order of nature. I reckon I should be laughed at if I was to say that spelt and cheat could be propagated from wheat; but as I do not know it positively, I wont say so.

I am, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
N. WARD.

Home, Nottoway, March 18, 1845.

BUDDING AND GRAFTING.



We copy the cut above and the following excellent article from Affleck's Farmers' and Gardeners' Almanac:

"Although it is generally better for a farmer to go to a nursery, and there select the young trees he may require, yet every one ought to have a knowledge of grafting and budding—with this view a sketch descriptive of the process has been prepared, and is here offered.

"Stocks for grafting or budding are produced either by sowing seed, or from layers, suckers or cuttings; but the stock must be of the same natural family as that to which the graft belongs, or have a close affinity to it. To use others—as the sycamore for the pear and apple, the walnut for the peach, &c.—may do as a matter of amusement or experiment, but can be of no permanent and real advantage. In grafting, mere propagation should not be the only object, for to secure a permanent union between the stock and graft is of far more importance. For apples, seedlings of the apple and the crab. Pears, those of the wild species or of the quince. Plums, seedlings of the common or wild plum. Cherries, seedlings of any free-growing wild variety. Peaches, on the stock raised from seed. The apricot and nectarine, the larger sort of plums. The season for grafting may begin by the middle of March, and continue until the end of April; the grafts being cut into lengths of four or five buds each; the knife to be thin, small and keen-edged. Cut off the head of the stock and the base of the scion at a corresponding angle, so as to form, when put together, a neat splice: the tip of the stock, if larger than the graft, is to be cut off horizontally. Next a slit is made downwards in the centre of the sloping cut in the stock A, and a corresponding slit upwards in the face of the scion B; in applying the scion to the stock, the tongue formed in the base of the former is inserted into the cleft of the latter, and so fitted that the inner bark may unite neatly and exactly on one side; the splice is then tied and covered with clay or waxed bandage. Other methods might be mentioned, but it will suffice for our purpose to include cleft and root grafting; the former being adopted where the stock is much larger than the graft, when the head of the stock is cut off, and a perpendicular slit made, D, the scion being sloped on both sides, C, E, and inserted like a wedge into the cleft of the stock. Root-grafting is performed on a root a little thicker than the graft, and the more fibrous the better; a quantity of them may be procured in the fall, and packed away in sand or earth in a cellar, those from young trees being most desirable; the plan represented at A, B, will answer best, and when grafted they may be packed away in earth in the cellar until the spring, when they may be planted out in nursery rows.

"*Budding.*—This mode of propagation is applicable not only to fruit-trees but to ornamental

trees and shrubs, including the rose, and there are some fruits that can scarcely be multiplied in any other way. It consists in removing a bud with a portion of the bark from a tree, and inserting it in a slit of the bark of another tree. The season for performing this operation is in July or August, when the buds destined for the following year are completely formed in the axils of the leaves, and when the portion of bark parts freely from the wood beneath; the buds to be preferred being those on the middle of the shoot. There are many forms of budding; but that which is the simplest and most easily performed need alone to be described. The operator should be provided with a budding-knife in which the cutting edge of the blade is rounded off at the point, and having a thin ivory or bone handle, like a paper folder, for raising the bark of the stock. A horizontal or transverse incision is made in the bark, quite down to the wood, and from this incision a perpendicular slit is drawn downwards to the extent of perhaps an inch. The slit has now the resemblance of the letter T, see F; a bud is then cut from the tree that is wished to be propagated, having a portion of the wood attached to it, so that the whole may be an inch and a half long as at G. The bit of wood is then gently withdrawn, care being taken that the bud adhere wholly to the bark or *shield*, as it is called, as at H, which is the reverse of G. The bark on each side of the perpendicular slit being cautiously opened with the handle of the knife, the butt and shield are inserted, as at I; the upper tip of the shield being cut off horizontally, and brought neatly to fit the bark of the stock at the transverse incision. Slight ties of moistened bass matting or candle-wick are then applied, and in about a month or six weeks these ligatures may be taken away, when, if the operation has been successful, the bud will be fresh and full, and the shield firmly united to the wood; the next spring a strong shoot is thrown out from this bud, and to this the stock is headed down in the course of the summer."

EXTENSIVE SALE OF IMPROVED SHORT HORNS.

We see by a notice in the Cultivator, that Mr. E. P. Prentice designs selling, on the 25th of June next, his herd of Durham cattle. Mr. Prentice, whose word is a sufficient guarantee to those who know him, pledges himself, that with two or three exceptions, this sale will be made without reserve; and we doubt not great sacrifices will be made. To those who admire and desire the choicest of Durhams, no better opportunity of supplying themselves could possibly be afforded.

This sale will take place at Mount Hope, within one mile of the city of Albany, and Mr. Howard, of the Cultivator, offers to take charge of any orders for purchasers that may be sent him; but we would advise all those who can spare the time to attend the sale in person.—Mount Hope itself is worth a visit, the pleasure of Mr. Prentice's acquaintance is worth another, and a sight of his stock is worth a third.

For the Southern Planter.

VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

Mr. Editor,—I have seen your dun in the last number of the Planter, and must say it is a very reasonable one. Want of opportunity prevented my being more prompt in the payment of my subscription. As, however, this is the first time you have caught me in arrears, you may afford to excuse this small default.—Had you applied your sixty day rule with strictness, your subscribers could not have murmured, because they had fair notice, yet I thank you for the extension of time, and should deem myself a hardened transgressor if I did not avail myself of the thirty days of grace, allowed for reformation.

Permit me here to to say that I differ as well with those who think your paper worth only eighty-seven and a half cents, as with those who think it worthless. If I arise from the perusal of one, two or even twelve numbers of the Planter, with only *one* new idea upon the subject of agriculture, I consider that I have received valuable consideration for my dollar. Indeed, sir, whenever I feel at a loss upon any subject connected with farming, I seize my Planter. If I do not find precisely what I wish I always find something instructive, and thus glean from each number some hint, or if you prefer, some *idea*, which I can, with advantage, apply to my own farm. By computing each *idea* at a dollar you will discover that in the course of twelve months your readers get twelve times the worth of their money, and the whole may be stated in figures as follows, viz:

51 *ideas* (corresponding with the 51 numbers of the Planter) at one dollar each,	$51 00
Cr.	
By amount paid in subscription,	5 00
Balance due Planter,	$46 00

The fact is, gentlemen can easily test the value of the paper by contrasting the present with the past—by comparing the present amount of agricultural knowledge with that pertaining to the period preceding the publication of agricultural journals. To the farmers of Virginia I consider the Planter all-important, as well because it contains the kind of information suited

to their soil, climate and product, as that this information is imparted in plain, practical and easily comprehended language, or in other words, in their mother tongue. It is not to me a matter of surprise that a journal originally published a little south of you, fell through. It was first a farmer, next a philosopher, and lastly a politician. To the student in his closet its speculations were not only entertaining, but instructive. But to the plain, common sense farmer they were useless, because couched in language as incomprehensible to him as Hebrew. This error, the Planter has avoided, and I hope our farmers will continue to bestow a liberal patronage upon it, for nothing can or will so clearly mark a decline in the agricultural spirit of the age as the fall of agricultural papers. A little reflection will convince those who are inclined to depreciate such publications, that they visit their own transgressions upon innocent heads. By the frequent and attentive reading of papers they acquire new thoughts, which by repeated recurrence become so familiar to their minds that they learn to consider them as original, and thus, in practice, enjoy all the benefit of the editor's toil without allowing him even that pittance of praise which he so richly merits.

Wishing all success to the Planter,
I remain yours, respectfully,
MAYO B. CARRINGTON.

March 21, 1845.

Not to be outdone, we square the account with Mr. Carrington, stated on the opposite side, by the following entry:

M. B. Carrington in account with
Southern Planter, Cr.
By opinion of our merits expressed in the foregoing, valued at $46 00

FENCE POSTS.

A practical farmer informs the Hartford Times, that in taking up a fence that had been set fourteen years, he noticed that some of the posts remained nearly sound, while others near rotted off at the bottom. On looking for cause, he found that those posts which were set limb part down, or that were set as they grew were rotted off. This fact is worthy the attention of farmers.

GUANO.

We have received a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Agricultural Association of New York; an institution which seems to have gone into operation under very favorable auspices.

From this Association we have received the following Report upon the subject of Guano. Five or six cargoes of this fertilizer have already been sold in the Richmond market, and the demand continues unabated. Every thing, therefore, touching an article which fills so large a space in the public mind, must be interesting to our readers, especially a report coming from such authority as this. We, therefore, give it entire.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

NEW YORK REPORT ON GUANO.

"*Resolved*, That the Association cause an analysis to be made of the cargoes of guano from Ichaboe and Peru, now in the market for the use of members and all persons in the neighborhood; and that a report be drawn up with the analysis containing suggestions for the application of the manure; the whole to be published as early as practicable in the agricultural papers of this city and vicinity."

PERUVIAN GUANO.

Uric acid,	10·5
Ammonia,	19·0
Phosphoric acid,	14·0
Lime and magnesia,	16·0
Salts of soda and potash,	6·0
Oxalic acid, with carbonic and muriatic acids,	13·0
Water,	13·0
Sand,	2·0
Volatile and organic matters,	6·5
	100·00

ICHABOE GUANO.

Ammonia,	13·5
Humic acid,	4·0
Phosphates,	25·0
Oxalic, &c., acids,	20·0
Salts of soda, &c.	7·0
Water and volatile matter,	27·5
Sand,	3·0
	100·00

Prices and Relative Value of the Peruvian and African Guano —These specimens are both very fair, and represent the peculiarities of the two kinds of guano. The absence of uric acid in the African variety, is the cause of its inferiority; for that body decaying gradually in the soil, continues to yield carbonate of ammonia for a long time, so that the stimulating effects of the guano are seen the next year, whilst the African is more fleeting. The prices of the two are, for Peruvian $45, and for African $35 per ton, for quantities amounting to five tons; and this may be considered, all things being taken into the account, a fair representation of their value in agriculture.

The African being soluble to the extent of 40 per cent., is better adapted for watering plants,

and where very rapid growth is wanted. The Peruvian, on the other hand, acts for a longer time, and is better calculated for crops which continue to grow vigorously during many weeks. The two will probably produce very similar effects for one crop; but the Peruvian is much more active on the second crop.

Crops to which it is Applied.—It is hardly necessary to state, that the application may be made to every crop, for experiments are already multiplied with nearly every common plant or tree: to enumerate a few is sufficient. Wheat, corn, grass, the cerealia, sugar-cane, tobacco, apple, pear, and other fruit trees, flowers, cabbages, turnips, and other cruciferous plants; the experiments are fewest on leguminous plants. But the effect of guano will not be equal on all; for those plants requiring most stable manure, such as tobacco, turnips and corn, are more benefited than grass, oats, or such as require less; the chief effect of the manure being due to the quantity of the ammonia it contains. The reason guano is serviceable to all plants, arises from its containing every saline and organic matter they require as food.

Kinds of Soil to which it may be Applied.—It has been used beneficially on all soils; for as it contains every element necessary to plants, it is independent of the quality of the soil—*one great point* being attended to, that the land be in *good tilth*; for, otherwise, the tender roots of the vegetable find an obstruction to free growth, and are crippled. Poor, well-tilled soils exhibit most increase by guano, for in them some essential to the growth of plants is more likely to be absent.

Amount to be Applied.—On wheat 250 lbs. per acre will be an average for a fair soil; 300 lbs. for one that is poor, and 200 for a good soil.—Corn, potatoes, turnips, cabbages, and garden vegetables, will require 300 lbs. in fair lands; but the amount may be diminished by 50 lbs. if two applications are made instead of one. For grass, rye, and oats, 200 lbs. will be enough.

Time and Mode of Application.—Seeds may be prepared by soaking in a solution of two lbs. of guano to the gallon of water, and this will answer for a first manuring, if they are left sufficiently long to exhibit signs of germination. Wheat and other small grains should be steeped in this solution about sixty hours, corn about one hundred hours. Thus steeped, the seeds of smut will also be destroyed. Half the quantity per acre to be applied when the plant has fairly started, and is in second leaf. By this timely addition, the effects of many insects are avoided, and the seedling at once takes on a robust habit. The remaining half should be applied to the small grain crops when they are throwing out new stems, or tillering; to corn, as the tassel appears, or at the second hoeing, and so with other hoed crops. This application should be made, therefore, at the latest period of working, and as nearly before flowering as practicable. The guano should be sowed with a mixture of fine soil, gypsum or charcoal, to give it bulk, and divide the particles. No lumps should be thrown amongst the plants, for they burn them; and where an extensive application is to be made, it is better to screen the manure and pound the lumps. In sowing, reach the soil, if possible, for it is unserviceable to sprinkle it on the plants, and frequently destroys them. Select a season when the land is wet or moist, or when rain may be expected; for in dry weather the guano does not answer well, or even does injury, by acting as a caustic on vegetation.—But if the crop suits, always prefer manuring the plant or hill; do this whilst hoeing; less guano is thus used, and more certain effects result. One tablespoonful to the hill of corn, tobacco, potatoes, &c., is an abundance for each application. If a solution be preferred, mix one pound in ten gallons of water, and water sparingly with this on the soil, and not *on the plants*, at the times before mentioned, taking care to stir up the insoluble portion when applied. For this purpose, the African variety will be most suitable. Or, where rapid growth is wanted, irrespective of seed, the clear solution may be applied; the insoluble matter (phosphates, &c.) being reserved for wheat and corn. Guano may be composted with common soil, or any thing but *lime* and *unleached ashes;* for these liberate the free ammonia, and thus diminish the effects of the manure.

Value, Compared with other Manures.—So far as the experiments in England and Scotland may be adduced, one cwt. of guano is equal to about five tons of farm-yard manure on an average; but it is much higher for turnips than for grass, &c. It would be advisable that in the very different climate of the United States, comparative experiments be made on this point. Let twenty single cart loads of stable manure be used per acre on wheat, corn, &c., and contrasted with four cwt. of guano. It would also be of service to the agricultural world, that some experiments were made on the value of the organic and inorganic portions of guano. A plat of ground eight square yards may be divided into two parts, half manured with the ordinary guano, and half with the ashes remaining after burning. In this way the proportionate effect of the organic and saline parts would be estimated, and the conclusion be serviceable, insomuch as the saline matters can be mixed into a compost for a trifling sum, and thus the expense of guano avoided.

D. P. Gardner, M. D.

March 12, 1845.

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Notice.—This publication is made by the American Agricultural Association, not that parties may be induced to purchase guano, but

that attention may be called to the varieties for sale, and other particulars for the diffusion of correct information. It is their intention to examine all available manures, and make them known publicly, as well as the results of careful experiments in agriculture, horticulture, and the management of stock, and to issue not only information from time to time, but a series of transactions, embodying the particulars of their experiments, analyses, &c. All those wishing to advance the cause of improvement are respectfully solicited to become members, and forward suggestions for the advancement of agriculture. Letters or communications to be addressed, post paid, to the Secretary of the Executive Committee, Dr. D. P. Gardner, 412 Fourth street, New York.

By order of the Executive Committee.

R. L. Pell, *Chairman.*

BEES.

Dr. Waterman gives, in the Cleaveland Herald, his mode of catching the bee-miller or moth. He says, "I took two white dishes, (I think white attracts their attention in the night,) or deep plates, and placed them on the top of the hives, and filled them about full of sweetened vinegar. The next morning I had about fifty millers caught; the second night I caught fifty more; the third night being cold, I did not get any; the fourth night being very warm, I caught about four hundred."

CHINCHES.

A gentleman very eminent in the science of *bugology*, an editor too who ought to be supposed to know every thing, informs us, that by simply anointing the joints and crevices of his bedsteads with *lard* in the spring of the year, his household escape the ravages of those devouring insects commonly denominated chinches.

We believe it is a discovery of his own, and we think it ought to place his name, which he is too modest to give to the public, upon the same pinnacle with that of the inventor of the safety lamp and the protector from smallpox.

For the Southern Planter.

COCKLE.

Mr. C. T. Botts:

Dear Sir,—Enclosed you will find one dollar for your valuable paper, the Planter, this year; valuable not only for its agricultural intelligence, but for the able and independent manner in which you expose all humbugs, either in farming operations, stock, or labor-saving machines; and permit me to say that the public have been more imposed upon by the latter than any other class of articles. We see an implement or machine advertised, and recommended as a "*sine qua non*," and relying too much on what we see in advertisements, are induced to order, and at high prices, what, to our chagrin and loss, we find almost a worthless article, and soon serves to help fill a room with old lumber.

Would that some plan could be devised by which the various implements, labor-saving machines, &c., could be tested, so that the worthless could be condemned, and the truly useful recommended to the public. It would be the means of bringing the useful into more general use, as a great many persons who would purchase them, and cannot afford to submit to the loss, are now deterred from doing so by the fear of imposition.

If our law-makers could create a fund for the purchase of seeds and manures, implements and machines to be tested by a committee of intelligent farmers, whose report should be made to the succeeding Legislature, and made public, more essential service would be rendered the good old Commonwealth of Virginia than is now done by two-thirds of the time occupied in legislating. I would also have the State offer premiums for the best implement or machine for certain purposes, the invention or improvement to be made by native or resident citizens.

I submit these views to you, hoping, if you can make any thing of them, that you will take them in hand, build upon them, and induce such action as will best promote the mechanical and agricultural interest of our good old State.

I am now in want of a machine, and for the want of information, am at a total loss about it. It is a machine for separating cockle and cheat from wheat. I don't know that there is any thing that will answer the purpose, and if there is not, I've no doubt but a screen might be constructed which would succeed, and which would free our crops entirely, or nearly so, of such stuff the second or third year, if not the first year, and give us much better seed wheat; to the inferior quality of which I attribute much of the failure in that crop.

My wheat is very much infested with cheat and cockle, which repeated fannings, and substituting a board for the screen in the fan, and blowing hard, (which has been recommended by the millers,) together with soaking in strong brine, (on which the *cheat* floats,) would not remove; and for the want of a better sieve I took out the screen of my fan, and by putting in a small quantity, and sifting it slowly, was enabled to sift out all the cheat and all the cockle, save some of the largest grains, which would not pass through. A good deal of the wheat passed through, but what was left was large and of superior quality for seed. This was a very slow

and tedious process, and did not clean more than thirty bushels of my seed; the balance of my crop which was seeded before this plan occurred to me, is thickly set in cockle, and unless I can have some more expeditious mode of getting clear of it, the sale of my growing crop must be materially affected by it. It is idle to talk about pulling it out as has been suggested by some of my friends. It could not be done by all my force between this and harvest.

Do you know of any machine that will answer the purpose? From my experience in sifting it, I think a cylinder made of cockle wire, say eighteen or twenty-four inches in diameter, and six or seven feet long, and fixed on an axle, with a hopper attached, and a little inclined and made to revolve so that the wheat may pass in from the hopper, and as the cylinder revolves to pass out at the lower end, would answer the purpose. The cockle and cheat would fall through the meshes of wire. If there be such a machine I should like to get some information about it from you or some of your subscribers; if there is not, I've no doubt that you might tax your ingenuity, if you can understand my idea about it, so as to construct something that will have the desired end.

I am not one of those who defer to the last moment; and am, therefore, desirous of procuring in time something to rid my wheat of the pest complained of. Any aid that you can render me in doing so will be thankfully received by

Your subscriber and well wisher,
ALBERT E. WRENN.

Shoal Bay, Isle of Wight, Feb. 4, 1845.

We must apologize to Dr. Wrenn for the apparent neglect with which we have treated his communication. We placed it in the hands of a distinguished miller of this city, who returned it to us yesterday with the remark, that there was no pest so objectionable to the miller as cockle. He knows of no means of getting rid of it except by eradicating it from the field and repeated screening and fanning after the crop is harvested.

For the Southern Planter.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AND CROPS.

Through the month of March we had in Amherst but two or three mists of rain, which were perhaps of no advantage to vegetation; and every day of April, so far, has been remarkably drying, in consequence of high winds.—Oats which were sowed in February do not now look as well as they did twenty or thirty days past, and those sowed lately cannot vegetate.—Wheat has nearly ceased to grow. Trees, grass, and other vegetables have been stopped in springing by the combination of dry weather, and the three or four last days past of cold. Our domestic stock looked better, and lived better through the winter, than usual, but are now suffering for want of proper nourishment. My son, who is my overseer, informs me that all the tobacco plants on my lands are dead, and so far as I can learn, this is the case throughout the neighborhood, except on moist spots. It is not yet, however, too late for sowing plants, provided we can have favorable weather from the 12th or 15th of this month to the planting season. Under favorable circumstances tobacco may be planted up to the 10th of July and produce a fair crop. The only chance now is to resow, and manure judiciously. I incline to think that tobacco snuff is the best manure which can be applied to a plant bed. Plaster of Paris is also beneficial, especially on such beds as we call old land; and it is well to mix the tobacco snuff and plaster together; say in the proportion of one measure of plaster to four of tobacco. I would sow at the rate of six or eight bushels of this compound to the acre.—The ordure of fowls is a very rich manure, and answers well on plant beds; but must be used cautiously, for perhaps a quantity more than two bushels to the acre would prove injurious.

I will take upon me to give my fellow-planters one caution, and if the planting season should be late, as the present prospect would indicate, I earnestly entreat them to remember it. If there should be a good planting season, whilst yet your plants are small, do not fail to plant, for you know not that another planting season may occur in time for a crop. I say if the season is growing late, plant, although the leaves of your tobacco are no larger than your thumb nail. And yet another caution. Do not sell your last crop until you see the prospect for the present year.

There is yet but little corn planted in this county, and indeed it is well, for the ground is dry several inches *deep*, consequently there could be no vegetation. I have determined not to plant until the May rain, when all my seed, as usual, will be soaked in strong tobacco amber, and rolled in plaster. If any should inquire why soak in amber, I answer, as often before published, that the amber is the richest kind of manure, and being gummy, it fastens a goodly portion of plaster to the grain, and lastly, no animal or insect will touch it, consequently I have no replanting.

Some two or three weeks past it was thought we should have no fruit in this neighborhood, but I now learn that we may expect about one-fourth crop of every kind, unless the present cold should prove destructive. We have had ice for the last three mornings, but as the wind is high both day and night, the safety of the

fruit will depend on the clearing up shower, whenever that may come.

The water courses are perhaps lower than ever known at this season of the year, many saw-mills having ceased to work for lack of water.

Considerable damage has been done by fires lately, in the destruction of houses, coal, wood, &c., and more may be expected. Although it may be advantageous at intervals to burn superabundant litter on rich land, yet the burning of poor land is always injurious, and particularly so in the spring of the year.

Tobacco cannot be handled this weather, consequently but little can be doing in the market, and perhaps our manufacturers may need before they get a supply.

Wishing all prosperity to the State Agricultural Society,

I remain, ZA. DRUMMOND.

Amherst, April 8, 1845.

P. S.—I have examined this morning and so far I discover no fruit is living. Nearly every particle of foliage of every kind is killed. There is no frost, for the weather is too dry, but the destruction is produced by ice or freeze.

Z. D.

April 9.

The drought has been, for the season, most unprecedented, and the effects of that, combined with the excessive cold, have told most injuriously upon every species of vegetation. There will not be fifty peaches raised within fifty miles of Richmond; garden vegetables have been universally replanted, and the early wheat has been generally cut down by the frost in lower Virginia. We have, however, seen a very old gentleman who informs us that a similar circumstance occurred in 1783, and that the roots of the wheat remaining strong and vigorous, new shoots put forth with great alacrity, and that the crop was neither later nor inferior to what it would have been without the accident.

The late wheat is very promising.

For the Southern Planter.

CURRIE'S SCOTCH PLOUGH.

Mr. Editor,—At the request of Mr. John Currie, of Richmond, I take pleasure in giving a brief statement of a plough recently invented by himself, and taken from his recollection of the best implements of this kind used in Scotland. I have one now in use on my farm, near the city, and cannot say too much in praise of it—for ease of draught, level and smoothly turned furrows, together with great regularity and sufficient depth, either in clay, turf or sandy soils, it greatly surpasses any plough I have ever tried—so valuable and important and so very essential do I consider a first rate plough on a farm, that I do take pleasure in recommending this to the agricultural community.—A specimen can be seen at the office of Shields & Somerville, Cary Street, No. 137.

Respectfully, yours,

J. N. SHIELDS.
RICHARD CROUCH.

We have been called on to examine the plough alluded to above, and can testify to the substantial manner in which it is gotten up.—Mr. Currie is not only an excellent mechanic but a good farmer, and we know few gentlemen whose judgment we esteem more highly than that of Mr. Shields.

The plough, we think, is not calculated to turn more than a nine inch furrow; indeed we believe that that is as much as two horses can ever accomplish, to do the work in its greatest perfection. These ploughs cannot be sold for less than twelve dollars apiece.

ADVANTAGE OF KEEPING MANURE COVERED.

An experiment, conducted by the President of an Agricultural Society in England, shows that manure which was kept covered by nine inches in depth with earth, so that no evaporation escaped, produced four bushels more of grain per acre, than the same quantity and kind of manure applied to the same extent and quantity of land, but which had lain from the 13th of January to the 4th of April exposed to the weather.—*Albany Cultivator.*

NEW BOOKS.

From Messrs. Drinker & Morris we have received a copy of the American edition of STEWART'S STABLE ECONOMY. To Mr. A. B. Allen, the American Editor, the public are much indebted for his additions to, and corrections of, this standard work of Professor Stewart.

We have many scientific treatises upon the *diseases* of the horse, which after all, are comparatively useless in the hands of the ordinary practitioner, but in this work of Mr. Stewart, we have practical directions for the treatment of the healthy horse from his cradle, if we may say so, to his grave. The most complete and sensible directions are given for the construction of stables, the manner of breaking, training, grooming, feeding, driving, and in short, for

every operation connected with the management of the horse—the whole gotten up in a very beautiful manner and handsomely illustrated with engravings.

The book is sold for seventy-five cents; for this notice, in a regular business way, we should have charged one dollar and fifty cents, and yet we think we are paid three times over in the copy with which we have been presented.

From Messrs. Nash & Woodhouse we have received a copy of "Boussingault's Rural Economy," translated by Mr. George Law, "Agriculturist." This is a volume of five hundred pages, handsomely gotten up, which is sold for one dollar and fifty cents. We mean to study it; for a slight glance at its contents satisfies us that it is a work not to be *read* but to be *studied.* We hope this fact will not deter those who desire to understand the science of their profession, from purchasing the work, for be assured, that there are few acquisitions really worthy of attainment that are to be had without labor. The celebrity of the author ought to ensure it a general sale and careful perusal.

We are happy to hear from Messrs. Nash & Woodhouse, who have lately opened a very elegant book store in our city, that they intend to pay particular attention to the agricultural department of their business.

We are indebted to the author for a copy of a work entitled "Historical Collections of Virginia," by Henry Howe.

There is much of the curious and romantic connected with the early history of Virginia, and there is great need of a historian to collect the fragments whilst they are yet floating upon the tide of time.

Mr. Howe's work is in its nature geographical, biographical, anecdotical, and historical; and in the cursory examination which we have bestowed upon it we discern evidences of considerable labor and research. We know no work which will afford to the Virginian a more useful or interesting history of his native State. Mr. Howe seems to have collected a great deal of gossipping anecdote, which the more stately but less natural historian might have considered beneath his notice. A history of the counties is furnished in alphabetical order, interspersed with biographical memoranda of their most distinguished citizens, and were it valuable only for its statistical information, we would commend it as a book of reference to our readers. It is liberally ornamented with engravings, sold only by travelling agents, and furnished at three dollars and fifty cents.

MILE.

There is a great difference in the number of yards contained in a mile in different countries. The following table, showing the difference will be very useful to many persons as a reference:

Mile in	England or America,	1,760	yards.
"	Russia,	1,100	"
"	Italy,	1,476	"
"	Scotland and Ireland,	2,200	"
"	Poland,	4,400	"
"	Spain,	5,028	"
"	Germany,	5,866	"
"	Sweden & Denmark,	7,223	"
"	Hungary,	8,800	"

REAPING MACHINES.

Our ingenious young friend, J. S. Gallaher, of Winchester, has sent us a drawing and description of a reaping machine, which he has lately invented. His object has been to get rid of the reel, with which he considers M'Cormick's to be encumbered, and also by the use of an endless band and a revolving rake, to deliver the wheat evenly and straightly for the binder. If Mr. Gallaher succeeds in the latter object, he will save the raker from a very laborious operation.

We expect soon to present our readers with a cut and further description of this implement.

BOMMER.

We received from Mr. Barnett, some time since, the article on our cover, which he requested us to insert as an advertisement. We wrote him in reply, that such was the prejudice in Virginia against Mr. Bommer and his method, that we thought he was only throwing away his money in paying for the advertisement; but he informs us that such is his confidence in the value of this process, that he is not afraid to face even prejudice itself with it, and in conformity with his desire we insert his advertisement.

We have not the least question that this process affords a speedy, and in many situations, an economical method of decomposing vegetable matter. As to Mr. Bommer's right to this patent, we leave him to settle that matter with Mr. Ellsworth and the public.

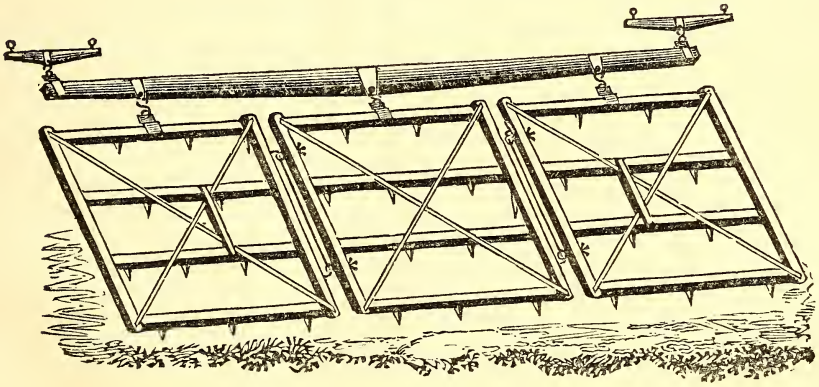
PEAS.

We have received from Mr. Henry Clarke, for public distribution, a parcel of peas which according to his statement are worthy of attention. He calls them CLAY peas, but assures us that they will grow in any kind of soil. He says the pods are from eighteen to thirty-four inches long, and that if they are gathered when they are about twelve inches in length and served up like asparagus, that they are a capital substitute for that delightful vegetable. They require to be trained on a pole like butter beans.

We have also received from Mr. Haxall a paper of peas called the ROCKY MOUNTAIN PEA, concerning which he has been furnished with the following statement:

"In calling the public attention to these peas, I am well aware of how often our citizens have found themselves deceived by ardent descriptions on the one hand, or dreamy promises of profit on the other. These peas, however, will answer any reasonable expectation. I planted five quarts of them about the 20th of May, in a piece of rough new ground, of sandy soil, and only middling in quality. The product in peas and in rich good hay, exceeded anything I have ever seen. Whether we wish to save them as hay for cows, horses or mules, or to turn stock upon them, as upon cow peas, or to improve the land by their decay, they are, in my opinion, far better than any common pea. To instance only one thing: I planted them along side of the red cow pea; a dry spell in August arrested the farther product of the common pea, the vines were leafless and dead; whilst the Rocky Mountain pea was green and flourishing, and bearing peas in an increased proportion, until the severe white frost the last day in October. They grow more like a cotton plant; do not entwine about the corn, and consequently may be saved with ease for hay. They should be planted by the first of May, in good land, and not more than four in a hill; plant them as you would the common pea. They come up quickly, grow rapidly, and commence bearing as soon as the common kind. L. PIERCE."

COMPOUND HARROWS.



The harrow, when properly used, is a most valuable implement, and amongst the many varieties Mr. Pedder, the former distinguished Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet, gives us the following account of the one represented in the cut:

"These harrows are in general use in some of the agricultural districts in England, where they are highly approved. They are simple in their construction, and very durable. The usual size of each is three feet square; thus the three harrows cover a five turn ridge at wheat sowing, the horses passing along the open furrow on each side, by which the treading of the seeded land is prevented. The joints of the harrows permit them to operate on a concave, convex, or plain surface, with equal correctness, making better work than is possible with those of a different construction. If at any time an extra weight should be thought desirable, a piece of wood the length of the width of the harrows might be made fast across them by which their efficacy would be much increased. By unscrewing the nuts, a pair, or one, or three single

harrows, can be obtained in an instant. They are excellent for harrowing in all kinds of grain on land that is cleared, expediting the work, and performing much better than any other at present in use."

AN OFFER.

For every four new subscribers that any friend will send us, we will furnish him a copy of the first, third, or fourth volume of the Planter, and for every ten subscribers, we will furnish all three of these volumes.

The edition of our back numbers of the current volume is completely exhausted; subsequent subscribers will, therefore, be furnished for one dollar with all the numbers from the time of subscription up to July, 1846.

For the Southern Planter.

MANURES.

Mr. Editor,—You published in the January number of the Planter an article signed Coateswood, headed, "manures do not sink," and you give your approbation to it, by recommending it to your readers. This is an important practical question, and I hoped to have seen before this time, the false reasoning of the article exposed, and the wrong conclusion set aside by some one more capable than myself of doing justice to the subject; as this has not been done, I will even attempt it myself.

The writer *asserts* that "manure does not sink," and to prove it, adduces as a conclusive argument, the fact, that if liquid manure be filtered through sand, the impurities will be detained and the water, will pass off nearly pure. It is true that the coloring matter—the floating particles of undecomposed and insoluble vegetable and animal matter will be retained in the sand; but it is no less true, and it is the gist of the matter that all, or nearly all of the valuable constituents of the manure pass through dissolved in the water. Chemists and apothecaries know this!

In further support of his argument that the soil acts as a filterer preventing the manure from sinking, he refers to the process of clarifying cider and other liquors, and also to the fact, that our springs are kept pure by reason of this filtration. Now as regards the clarifying of liquors nothing is retained but the insoluble vegetable matter, the salts and acids. The constituents which give a character to the liquor, pass off with it, and the same thing happens with the rain that falls on the surface of earth—every drop that returns to our wells or springs, returns charged with more or less saline or mineral matter, unless deprived of it, in its wanderings, by some chemical force, and in truth there is no such thing as *pure* well or spring wather. They are all impregnated with saline or mineral matter, some slightly, others perceptibly. But much the largest part of the rain that falls on our cultivated fields, neither runs off, nor passes into the earth to any considerable depth, but being imbibed by the soil itself, it holds in solution every *soluble substance* fit for the food of plants, (and no others are in a fit condition,) and presents them thus prepared to the roots of the growing crop.

The only other remaining proof that is offered to support the assertion that manure does not sink, but that it all escapes by evaporation, is an experiment which the writer says establishes his proposition beyond cavil, viz: That if manure be enclosed in a box open only at top, it will in a very *short time* become entirely inert. There is such a thing as a false experience, the result of inaccurate observation.

I will venture to say, that no one else who encloses manure in a tight box open only at top, will find it in a very *short time* become entirely inert but that even after a very *long time*, it will contain many of the most active elements of nutrition, and for the simple reason, that many of the constituents of the manure, most important to vegetation are not volatile, and these uniting with the products of the rotting manure which are volatile, form with them soluble and fixed salts. We shall see hereafter that the atmosphere itself, instead of bearing aloft all these nutritious compounds, is made by its presence, actually to minister to their formation and by the strong power of chemical attraction its constituents are separated and forced into new and very different combinations. Now if the box be open at bottom as well as at top, these soluble compounds will be carried downwards by their specific gravity, and by the action of the rains and dews, and will impregnate and enrich the soil. This last experiment my neighbors and myself try every year, on a large scale, in the shape of cow pens and there is no more certain or effectual way of enriching land, and if the pen remains unploughed for a twelvemonth, the improvement is only the more apparent.

It is stated further, that "every body has seen the rapid deterioration of land, exposed to the sun, without the benefit of trees, or a crop to shade it." In other words, that the sun will kill the ground. This is altogether a new idea to me! I had been led to believe, from the practice of those nations most advanced in the art and science of agriculture, as well as from the experience of our own most judicious farmers, that no such result has followed the *oft repeated* summer fallows of the one, nor the early fallows of the other; on the contrary good reasons might be given to show why an actual increase of fertility should attend the exposure of soils to atmospheric influences. The idea of shading the

ground with a *crop*, unless the crop be returned to the land, is a mode of improvement I do not understand.

This writer goes on to show that manure disappears much sooner in sand than in clay; and this altogether by evaporation, which he attributes to its superior heat; overlooking the fact, that the sand acts the part of a filter, suffering every thing soluble to pass through; and it is only in a state of solution that any substance can be appropriated as food by the roots of plants. As the writer sets out with the assertion, that manure does not sink, so he comes to the conclusion that it should be buried *deep*, and the lowest depths should be given to it in sand; a position from which I can testify from my own experience, it will never rise, but its course will be still—downward. It is my opinion, and I am confirmed in it by the experence of many of our best practical farmers, that manure, instead of being buried *deep*, should be kept near the surface, certainly, in no other way, are its beneficial effects rendered more apparent than when it is applied as a top dressing to wheat, to oats, to grass, to tobacco plants, even to the growing crops of corn and tobacco. I have tried it on all these crops, and uniformly with great benefit. I have top dressed equal lots of wheat, in each month, from October until April, at the rate of ten cart loads (ox cart) to the acre, and on each lot the produce was more than double that of the adjoining land without manure; and where it was applied at the time of sowing, it was more than quadrupled. This method of applying manure is very highly esteemed by our most judicious farmers. Mr. Richard Samson, of Goochland, has been practicing on this system for many years.

How are these crops fed by the manure? How is the after crop of grass nourished? How is the soil to a high degree ameliorated? and this too by a light dressing of manure; if it all evaporates; if manure does not sink.

I alluded above to the effect of cow penning in fertilizing land, I have a word or two more to say on that subject. If fifty head of grown cattle be penned every night during one of our hottest summer months, (even without litter,) they will manure one acre, if the land is not very poor, and if it be ploughed the next fall, and at the proper time be well prepared and tilled, it will produce a *good* crop of tobacco, corn, or any other crop, the season suiting.—How is the crop of tobacco fed? How is the soil made rich? if the manure all evaporates! if manure does not sink! Here all the manure is applied to the surface of the ground, not buried *deep*, it is exposed to the intense heat of our summer sun, it may be from June until November, and yet no man will pretend to deny the decided benefit derived from penning cattle or sheep upon land.

Again, the streams that pass through large cities, saturated as they are with the offal of the town, are eagerly sought by the farmers below, and turned to purposes of irrigation. Their effect on vegetation is very striking, owing to the large amount of fertilizing matter carried down in their current, and deposited on the fields they are made to spread over. But how is this matter to benefit the meadows? How are the crops to get at this food spread upon the surface? if all the manure evaporates! If manure does not sink?

In France, Germany, and some parts of Great Britain, an extensive use is made of liquid manures, much the most valuable portion of the manure, by-the-by, and much the most volatile, yet they are invariably used on the surface as a top dressing. Now I ask, how do the plants appropriate these highly nutritious compounds to their use, if they all evaporate; if manure does not sink?

The Chinese, who carefully collect every substance that can be made to minister to the growth of plants, apply them not *deep*, but to the growing plant, and the fertility of their soil, and the millions fed by its products, do not prove that manure all evaporats! that it does not sink!

The nitre beds of France, which are nothing more than compost heaps, being earth, vegetable and animal matter mixed and thrown into long ridges, which are occasionally turned, that the materials may be the better exposed to the air, after standing a twelvemonth, ammonia and nitric acid are both produced in much larger quantities than the materials themselves could furnish, and clearly by the atmosphere itself.—On examination, the heaps are found to contain the most valuable manures. Now how can this be, if manures all evaporate?

Although no chemist, but a plain farmer, I have learned enough to appreciate its value as applied to agriculture. It teaches me that agents engaged in preparing and presenting the raw manure, in a fit shape, as food for plants, are numerous, and always at work. It teaches me that it is the property of all saline and mineral substances to hasten the decay of vegetable and animal matter. The potash, lime, soda, magnesia, &c. &c, which are present in the soil and in the manure, by holding themselves in readiness to unite with the various acids as they are formed, actually provoke their formation, and this the more speedily and perfectly, the more exposed, as in the nitre beds, the different agents are to the sun's light, to the warm air and to moisture. The result is, that the manure gradually disappears, the acids, as we have seen, uniting with the alkaline matter to form salts, some of them unite with and fix the ammonia; (Liebig says, that if plaster be added it will be all deprived of its volatility,) and these salts, by their specific gravity, and by their solubility,

gradually descend and present themselves to the roots of plants. Not only is the greater part of the manure, as we have before stated, preserved and prepared in this way, but the atmosphere itself is made to give up its constituents, its oxygen to form acids, its nitrogen to swell the bulk of ammonia, or to form nitric acid.

If my arguments are sound, and I believe them to be so, am I not justified in asserting that manures *do sink;* that manure does not all evaporate; that manure should not be buried *deep;* that it should be kept near the surface?

The parable of the talents seems an apt illustration—he who buries his *talent deep*, particularly in a sand bank, will lose the use of his capital, while he who pursues an opposite course will get it back with usury.

W. G. Carr.

April 10, 1845.

We are obliged to Mr. Carr for his excellent comments upon the article of Coateswood. We did not mean to endorse all the positions of the latter, but simply to recommend the article to public consideration. For our own part, we suspect the truth lies between the two disputants. The fertilizing properties of manures are both soluble and gaseous, both liable to sink and evaporate, and we would neither spread them upon the surface, nor bury them very deep.

We believe that land is greatly injured by exposure to atmospheric influences: it is true that the benefit to be derived from the shading of a crop, may be counteracted by the exhaustion of the roots where the crop is not turned in, but we are sure that a mere covering of wheat straw which will protect the gaseous properties of the soil from evaporation, will be equal to a coating of manure.

SEEDS.

We omitted to acknowledge our obligations to Mr. Ellsworth for a spring supply of seeds, and were only reminded of our negligence by a renewal of the favor.

APPLE BREAD.

A Frenchman has invented and practiced, with great success, a method of making bread with common apples, very far superior to potato bread.

After having boiled one-third of peeled apples, he bruised them quite warm into two-thirds of flour, including the proper quantity of yeast, and kneaded the whole without water, the fruit being quite sufficient. When the mixture had acquired the consistency of paste, he put it into a vessel in which he allowed it to raise for twelve hours. By this process he obtained very excellent bread, full of eyes, and extremely palatable and light.—*Exchange paper.*

I saw a mode of roasting potatoes, a few days since, that was new to me. I do not know but it is practiced by every lady when I am not present to see it. Take an old cracked iron kettle, hang it over the fire, put in coals, then the potatoes, and then more ashes and coals, and you will soon have them well roasted by the heat above and below. Any body could do it, if they only could think of it.—*Maine Farmer.*

CORN PLANTER.

We have received from Mr. Holladay, of Spottsylvania, (too late for notice in the last number,) an implement for planting corn and depositing plaster, guano, or other dry fertilizers at the same time. He wishes its merits, in which he seems to have great confidence, tested by some experienced farmer. It is at our office for public inspection.

CONTENTS OF NO. V.

SANDS'S SARSAPARILLA,

FOR THE REMOVAL AND PERMANENT CURE OF ALL DISEASES ARISING FROM AN IMPURE STATE OF THE BLOOD, OR HABIT OF THE SYSTEM.

THIS medicine is constantly performing almost incredible cures of diseases arising from impurities of the blood and general system. It has arrested and cured numerous cases of scrofulous affections, diseases of the skin, rheumatic gout, diseased liver, painful enlargement of the knee, elbow and wrist joints, chronic rheumatism, sore throat, chronic constitutional disorders, and various other disorders arising from impure secretions. In this preparation are strongly concentrated all the valuable medicinal properties of Sarsaparilla, on which its activity depends, compounded with other remedial agents, selected from the vegetable kingdom, the whole strength of which is extracted on an entirely new principle, which has cost many years of labor and much expense. The great object desired is now triumphantly accomplished, in the production of a remedy possessing a controlling power over supposed incurable diseases, heretofore unknown in the history of medicine.

The testimony of those who have been cured by its use, with their residence, has been published from time to time, and were it desirable a mass of the most overwhelming testimony could be brought forward, proving most conclusively its inestimable value, as an active and curative medicine in the above diseases. The afflicted, or those who may have given up in despair, and all who are interested, are invited to make a trial of this valuable medicine, or to call on those who have come forward and borne public testimony of its priceless value to them, and satisfy themselves individually of its power in arresting and curing disease, and of what it has performed for others.

The following interesting case is presented, and and the reader invited to its careful perusal. Comment on such evidence is unnecessary.

NEW YORK, July, 25, 1844.

Messrs. Sands:—Gents—I consider it but an act of justice to you to state the following facts in reference to the great benefit I have received in the cure of an obstinate CANCEROUS ULCER on my breast.

I was attended eighteen months by a regular and skilful physician, assisted by the advice and counsel of one of our most able and experienced surgeons, without the least benefit whatever. All the various methods of treating cancer were resorted to; for five weeks in succession my breast was burned with caustic three times a day, and for six it was daily syringed with a weak solution of nitric acid, and the cavity or internal ulcer was so large that it held over an ounce of the solution. The Doctor probed the ulcer and examined the bone, and said the disease was advancing rapidly to the lungs, and if I did not get speedy relief by medicine or an operation, the result would be fatal. I was advised to have the breast laid open and the bones examined, but finding no relief from what had been done, and feeling I was rapidly getting worse, I almost despaired of recovery, considered my case nearly hopeless.

Seeing various testimonials and certificates of cure by the use of "SANDS' SARSAPARILLA," in cases similar to my own, I concluded to try a few bottles, several of which were used, but from the long, deep seated character of my disease, produced no very decided change; considering this as the only probable cure for my case, I persevered, until the disease was entirely cured. It is now over eleven months since the cure was completed; there is not the slightest appearance of a return, and I *therefore pronounce myself* WELL, and the cure *entirely effected by* "SANDS' SARSAPARILLA," as *I took no other medicine of any kind during the time I was using it, nor have I taken any since.* Please excuse this long deferred acknowledgment, which I think it my duty to make. Your valuable Sarsaparilla cured me, with the blessing of Divine Providence, when nothing else could, and I feel myself under lasting obligations to you. I can say many things I cannot write, and I do most respectfully invite ladies afflicted as I have been, to call upon me and I will satisfy them fully of the truth as stated above, and many other things in reference to the case.

NANCY J. MILLER, 218 Sullivan st.

The following letter from one of the most eminent Physicians in the city of Baltimore, is presented with a view of showing the opinions of Physicians generally in relation to this valuable medicine,—many others of a similar tenor have been received from several of the most distinguished physicians throughout our country.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 4th, 1843.

A. B. & D. Sands.—Gentlemen:—I have used your Extract of Sarsaparilla since its introduction into this city. It gives me pleasure to state, I have found it to answer my most sanguine expectations. I believe it to be the best preparation of that valuable article now in use. With much respect, yours,

JOHN WHITRIDGE, M. D., 46 Gay Street.

For further particulars and conclusive evidence of its superior value and efficacy, see pamplets, which may be obtained of agents gratis.

Prepared and sold Wholesale and Retail by
A. B. & D. SANDS, Druggists and Chemists,
79 Fulton st. New York.

Authorized agents for the Proprietors, in Richmond A. Duval & Co., in Petersburg Rosser and Anderson, in Norfolk M. A. Santos, in Lynchburg D. R. Lyman, in Fredericksburg James Cook, in Raleigh, N. C., Williams & Haywood.

Sold also by Druggists generally throughout the United States. Price $1 per bottle—six bottles for $5.

☞The public are respectfully requested to remember that it is Sands's Sarsaparilla, that has and is constantly achieving such remarkable cures of the most difficult class of diseases to which the human frame is subject, and ask for Sands' Sarsaparilla and take no other. my 1 6t

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REAPING MACHINES.

THE subscriber, as the authorized agent of Cyrus McCormick, is prepared to receive orders for his celebrated Reaping Machine, for the next harvest.—The character and value of this implement are so well established, that it is unnecessary to say any thing more in its favor. Many gentlemen were disappointed in getting the Machine last year in consequence of delaying their orders too long. The demand for them is increasing so rapidly, that it will be impossible to fill any but the earlier orders that will be given. Apply immediately to

C. T. BOTTS.

JAMES RIVER LAND.

THE subscriber is authorized to sell, upon very accommodating terms, a valuable plantation of 474 acres on James River, within two miles of Goochland Court House. C. T. BOTTS.

CHEAP FARM FOR SALE.

THE subscriber is authorized to sell a valuable, highly improved, and healthy estate in the county of Greensville, for $2 25 an acre. It contains about 1100 acres, and is probably the cheapest tract of land ever offered to the public. C. T. BOTTS.

J. W. RANDOLPH & CO.

BOOK-SELLERS, BOOK-BINDERS, STATIONERS,

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Orders from the country will be supplied at moderate prices and with despatch.