

Sam'l H. Lambdin

# FARMERS VINDICATOR

A Weekly Newspaper: Devoted to the Industrial Interests of the South, the Granges, and the Fireside.

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## Agriculture.

"God Save the Plow."  
BY LYDIA H. SIGOURNEY.

See how the glittering share  
Maketh earth's bosom fair,  
Crowning her brow.  
Bread in its furrow springs,  
Health and repose it brings,  
Treasures that mock at kings,  
God save the plow!

Look to the warrior's blade,  
While o'er the encumbered glade  
Hate breathes its vow.  
Wrath its unsheathing wakes,  
Love at its flashing quakes,  
Weeping and woe it makes,  
God save the plow!

Ships o'er the ocean ride,  
Storms wreck their bannered pride,  
Waves when their prow;  
While the untroubled main  
Garneth the golden grain,  
Gladdening the reaper train,  
God save the plow!

Who are the truly great?  
Minions of pomp and state,  
Where the crowd bow?  
Give us hard hands and free,  
Culturers of field and tree,  
True sons of Liberty,  
God save the plow!

### From Wilkinson County.

MAJOR WALL: A very interesting portion of your paper, which contains much valuable information to planters is contained in the letters from different counties in the State, reporting the condition and progress of the crops, the state of the weather, the manner of employing labor, the kind of crops raised and the success or failure.

Planters read these reports attentively and they are having an excellent influence. They tend to induce a general system of farm management founded on the practice of the most skillful farmers of the State. They furnish the most reliable data for estimating the quantity of farm products throughout the State, the relative amount of each and the probable value thereof.

We, of Wilkinson, have been gathering all the information of this kind from the VINDICATOR that we could, and applying to the best of our ability the practical lessons thus taught by the good farmers of the State, without, so far as I know, giving anything in return, or intending to be selfish.

Thinking that planters and farmers in other parts of the State, might want to know what we are doing and the condition of farming here, I propose to gratify this desire if any such there be, by stating that we had so much rain in January, February and the first weeks in March, that we are behind time with all our farm work. The work of January did not fairly begin until March. Consequently our fencing was hurriedly done, and most of the land that has been planted in corn up to date, was broken too wet and is in a poor condition to encourage the young plants to anything like vigorous growth. To-day, the first of April, is quite cold, raining, with some sleet, very little cotton planted yet.

We have not adopted any fixed rule of contracting for labor. We are trying all the ways of which we have read, and what other plans our ingenuity could invent, and have not yet found any good contract, any that is really beneficial to both employer and laborer or much so to either. I think it is generally believed now to be best to either rent your land or hire for wages. Some planters do both, renting a portion of their lands and working the remainder with hired labor, under their

immediate supervision, and in many instances laboring in the field with the hired laborers.

We have been talking about raising hogs, sheep, cattle and poultry, and having our corn-houses and smoke-houses at home; but it is mostly all talk, we don't do it; we make about enough corn to feed ourselves and mules until March, and sometimes not longer than Christmas, and if our hogs by diligent rooting manage to live through the summer, when they begin to fatten in autumn, it is uncertain in whose chimney they will smoke.

One of our farmers did raise hogs last year, worth talking about, he sold about eight hundred dollars worth of uncured meat, nearly as much as an ordinary cotton crop is worth and yielding a good deal more net income, but he quit trying to raise them for this year at least, on account of the failure of his corn and pea crop.

We hear of a pretty general determination among the planters, to endeavor to make more corn, but the corn crop is not all in yet, and I cannot say whether more than usual will be planted or not, it so often happens that good intentions and good plans are defeated by pressure from unfavorable circumstances, and it is so difficult to break away from bad habits.

The colored people say, they must make cotton, or the merchants will not furnish supplies; and the whites fear a closing of mortgages if they do not produce full crops of cotton. So we, by a species of necessity, either real or imaginary, persevere in the same ruinous policy that has brought us to our present condition, and that too without benefitting any class of men.

The land owners and laborer are wearing out themselves and property, without being in any better condition at the end of the year than at the beginning. And the merchants say that they are not prospering. If so, they, as well as all other parties concerned ought to encourage a change of policy in farm management, and insist on abandoning the all-cotton policy.

Some of the merchants do "talk corn" pretty earnestly, but their dependents know too well how sad and sometimes how angry they are if a full cotton crop does not come in. This full cotton crop excludes a sufficient quantity of corn, for the amount of cotton which is annually reported, cannot be produced by the farm labor now engaged in its culture, if enough corn is grown to supply the wants of the cotton planting community.

The influence of the Patrons has been felt here as elsewhere, and their sound teachings as to farm management, economy and finances, are understood and approved by all, though practiced by few, if any. The great incubus, debt, is the cause of this. We can not do as we wish or as we know is best, but are compelled to content ourselves with the nearest approach we can make to a correct and safe policy, and be satisfied with doing the very best we can, whether the result is equal to our wishes or not.

Industry is not lacking among the farmers here, and economy is a thing of necessity as well as choice.

If we could only have been taught the lessons inculcated by the Patrons in time; before the debts were incurred; or if we could be forgiven our debts as freely as we would then forgive our debtors, all would be well with us. If any one happens to be in debt to us farmers, we do not disturb him; we think it rather refreshing and a comfort to have some one under obligation to us, we do not refuse the money now-

ever, if he offers it, not that we care for it ourselves, but just to please some one else who has been waiting for us to cancel a little of our own obligations. Our creditors are lenient with us too, as regards forced collections, but whether this proceeds from natural goodness of heart, or the difficulty of realizing cash on the sale of lands I am not prepared to say.

P. R. LEATHERMAN.  
Woodville, Miss.

### Cotton Seed as a Fertilizer, and Other Suggestions.

MAJOR WALL: Noticing several communications in your paper on the subject of manuring, and suggesting to farmers to save the same as much as possible it induces me to make a suggestion or two to members of the Granges, hoping that it will be of some little interest to them, and possessed of sufficient merit to induce you to find space in your columns for them. I think that farmers can hardly be aware of the immense drain they subject their lands to by improper cultivation, and not trying to replace some of the ingredients which are used in the maturing of a crop. It is undisputed that shallow plowing is the most destructive cultivation that can be carried on, as it leaves the land in a condition that the first washing rain will relieve you of the most of your soil, and deposit the same in your valleys and ditches. To illustrate to you fully allow me to draw your attention to the condition of a large portion North Mississippi, where valleys alone are productive while the hill-sides barely average one bale of cotton to every seven acres, and it was brought about by shallow cultivation and without any attention to manuring, thus impoverishing their land without one thought to replace the ingredients which their crops consumed. It is strange that farmers who have the article from which to make a fertilizer, nearly if not equally as good as that you buy, will not take the proper steps to place it in a condition to be easily distributed on the land. I mean cotton seed.

I think some of you will be surprised to know that it takes only four pounds of soil ingredients to form the lint of a five hundred pound bale of cotton, while to form the seed alone it takes fifty-six pounds of ingredients without making and calculation for the stalk. Which figures alone, will convince you that cotton is a very exhaustive crop, and that you should, replace as far as possible, the ingredients thus used. I know that a great many throw their cotton seed in piles for the purpose of rotting, but it is in poor condition even when well rotted to distribute, and even when you think that they are in a condition to use, you are mistaken for cotton seed will produce one gallon of oil to the bushel and a great deal of it is almost impossible to rot, from the amount of oil in them. I have known seed, when supposed to be rotted, to be thrown on a field and after two years time good sound seed was found without any sign of decay. I would suggest that you prepare it for a fertilizer exactly as the cotton seed oil mills do, preparatory to extracting the oil, only you will have the hull mixed with it while they use it for fuel, and that is by grinding it in a corn burr mill. It is then in nice condition to handle, and also pleasant. If you could secure mar-

which is in large quantities on Memphis & Charleston R. R., and I think also on line of the N. O. St. L. & C. R. R., and thoroughly mixed together you would have a cheap fertilizer very near equal to the best you buy from factories. The fertilizer made by cotton seed oil companies are composed of cotton seed meal and the ashes of the hull which they used for fuel.

Knowing that you desire to make every edge cut, I will ask you if you have any idea how much cotton you throw away on your seed, by not having good sharp gin saws, and even is a considerable waste. I have seen forty-two pounds of very clean short staple gotten off of one ton of cotton seed, which sold for eight cents while the cotton market ranged at sixteen to eighteen cents. You can average the amount of cotton when taken, say by fifty tons and linted, at about thirty pounds cotton per ton of seed. Now the difficulty with you is to make your seed turn when you require them, let me say that a shaft with four wings made to fit in your gin above the gin-saws, with the hand attached on outside of gin to the gin-saw shaft will make your seed turn finely. You can make your shaft of wood, and the flanges two inches wide also of wood. The shape of the shaft when completed and viewed from the end would be a X. It takes no time to re-gin your seed; so try it, my friends, and keep the money at home which is either lost or given to cotton seed oil mills.

If any one has tried an experiment in the cultivation of Castor beans, I wish he would let himself be heard from. I know of fifteen bushels being raised to the acre without hardly any cultivation, and I think it is a subject worthy the attention of our farmers.

Is it not a shame that Western poultry are worth so much more than ours and are always preferred, simply because they are larger and fatter, even after a long tedious ride without water and food. Improve your stock of chickens and have good houses for them with a lock to keep Sambo out of it.

Hoping I have occupied no unnecessary space and if so please attribute, it to a desire to make some suggestions for your benefit.

Respectfully,  
BUNK.  
Osyka, Miss.

THE JAPAN PEA.—Any Patron of the FARMERS VINDICATOR, who would like to give this product a trial, can obtain a few seed peas, free, by sending an addressed and stamped envelope to Prof. J. P. Stelle, agricultural editor of the Mobile Register, Box 580, Mobile, Alabama. Prof. Stelle was the first to stir up a general interest in the Japan pea, and he is therefore, desirous that it should have a fair showing in all parts of the country. The pea grows upon a stalk about like that of cotton, and should be put in as you would put in a cotton crop. The dried peas prepared for the table on the "bacon and beans" plan, must be soaked twelve hours in water before cooking.

A practical sermonizer made these remarks on the soul-saving question: "My brethren, a man cannot afford to lose his soul. He's got but one, and he can't get another. If a man loses his wife he can get another; if a man loses his horse, he can get another, but if a man loses his soul—good-bye John."

### Improving Plants by Pinching and Pruning.

"How shall I grow my plants compact and symmetrical in form?" is a question frequently asked by amateur florists. It is a simple matter, and is accomplished by judicious pruning and cutting. In nearly all kinds of flowering plants excepting those grown from bulbs, also in trees and shrubs, buds are formed at the axis of the leaves along the stem or branches, while the growth proceeds from its termination. This, in perennials if not checked continues to grow, and usually causes a tall or unshapely form, but by cutting off at any point, or pinching out the terminal buds, new shoots start out at the leaf joints below the cut, or if already started, commence to grow with increased vigor, and will in due time, result in a better shaped or more bushy plant or branch. Pruning or pinching should be more generally resorted to than it is, for, by observing the principle of growth just alluded to, and varying the pruning to the habit of the kind, it is just as easy to have your plants, either in the house, conservatory or garden, of fine form, as to have them otherwise, and they are so much more rewarding and agreeable to work among. Little danger exists of cutting away too much; persons who resort to pruning frequently err in cutting too little. Old plants with long leafless branches may be entirely re-shaped by severe pruning.—The Home Florist.

### A Word to Cotton Planters.

Cotton planting season is again on hand, and would it not be wise in planters to calculate a little as to the probable price they may expect to realize for their next crop. There is a certain amount of capital used annually, in the purchase of cotton. If a large crop of cotton is made, this same capital purchases all of the cotton. If a small crop of cotton is made, this same crop purchases all of the capital. The price of any article is governed by the supply and demand; the world demands about 3,500,000 bales of cotton annually; the crop of 1872-3 was 3,980,000, the crop of 1873-4 was 4,171,000, and the crop of 1874-5, according to the present calculation will most probably be about 3,834,000. Assuming that the world demands annually, 3,500,000, on the 1st of September there will be in store, left over from the three previous years, 1,400,000 bales; all of this will not be found in bales, in its raw state or in goods, it is all the same to the planter.

Now, that we are beginning to plant for the purpose of supplying a demand for cotton, is it not well to remember that the demand is half supplied.—"Look before you leap."—Aberdeen Examiner.

HOW TO ESTIMATE CROPS PER ACRE.—Frame together four light sticks, measuring exactly a foot square inside, and with this in hand walk into the field and select a spot of fair average yield, and lower the frame square over as many heads as it will inclose, and shell out the heads thus obtained carefully, and weigh the grain. It is fair to presume that the proportion will be the 43, 560th part of an acre's produce. To prove it go through the field and make ten or twenty similar calculations, and estimate by the means of the whole number of results. It will certainly enable a farmer to make a closer calculation of what a field will produce than he can by guessing.