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RURAL ECONOMY.

From the Southern Agriculturist.
THE NUT GRASS.

Mr. Editor.—A writer under the signature of "Blue House," has, in your February number, given some directions concerning the management of nut grass, which I have pursued, and found, in part, beneficial. He has, however, committed a capital error in recommending large beds in the first instance. The reverse of this, is the proper course. The beds when made small and flat, will admit of successive haulings, which alone, are found to be efficient. The grass when hoed, will in a couple of days appear again, with renovated strength. But its being buried alive, is what it cannot stand. It is a savage mode of war, which it does not appear to recognize among the usages of honourable war. But an enemy whom no treaty can bind, but who is the determined foe of human intercourse, has no right to claim the civilities of human intervention. I would bury him, Mr. Editor. It is the only sure way of getting rid of him.

A friend of mine the other day, called my attention to his mode of treating this scourge, the effects of which, were most obvious. A piece of ground which he had lying fallow, and which was thick infested with this grass, he had thickly blanketed over with pine-trash. He told me he had tried every thing, and in all had failed to destroy this grass; until, at length, he had nearly determined to abandon his plantation. Just about this time, he heard of the wonderful cures made by the Steam Doctors, and he at once conceived the idea of steaming his enemy; he accordingly had a portion of this nut grass patch, covered with pine-trash to the thickness of six inches, any thing shorter will not cause the perspiration to flow fast enough; and believe me, Sir, when I saw the portion of ground alluded to, which was four months after the operation, I did not see a spear of grass, whilst the portion adjoining, was literally covered with it.

Is "Blue House" in earnest, when he expresses the belief that hogs will destroy the grass? If he is, tell him, my neighbors will be at the trouble of driving their hogs to his assistance, if he will but say so.

Yours,

JAMES ISLAND.

Postscript to an article in the So. Agriculturist.

P. S. If your correspondent Calomel allow his hogs and poultry to range under his fruit trees, he will not longer complain of their being gummy and falling from the tree half grown. The hogs will devour the fruit as it falls with the worms in it, the poultry will destroy the little beetle which causes the fruit to rot, and Calomel must, himself, pick out the worms which he will find in his trees near the surface of the earth. Ours is truly a fruit country, but it is really astonishing how little good fruit is to be seen; had our climate been less favoured, our own exertions would have been greater. A great change for the better has, however, taken place within a few years, and I flatter myself, Mr. Editor, that we shall soon see our markets supplied with abundance of all the finest kinds of fruit which our bountiful climate requires so little exertion or skill, to bring to a degree of perfection not known in less favoured regions.

From the Gloucester Telegraph.

A DROWNING MAN'S APPEAL.

Messrs. Editors.—As I was walking the other day, I was accosted by a man whom I did not know, but whose face gave evident tokens that he was a rum-drinker. After some common place questions and answers, he began to speak upon the subject of grog shops and licenses; and his observations were so pertinent and forcible, that I think it worth my while to lay them before your readers.

"This rum-selling," said the man is a terrible business. It is bad enough to drink rum, but I am sure it is a great deal worse to sell it. I have good reason to think so; for these grog-shops are ruining me and several of my neighbors. I am a strong, hearty man, as able to get a living as any body; and I try to do the best I can. Sometimes I do not drink a drop for three months together, but every now and then rum gets the better part of me—and while I am drunk or half drunk, not only I earn nothing, but I waste my money and run into debt, and every year I get more and more behind hand. If I did not see it, I should not want it; but I have to pass that grog shop on the hill twice every day. I always go by it with fear and trembling; for, though I may get safe by forty-nine times, the fiftieth time I cannot help stopping in; and if I once get in there, it is all over with me. The town has voted not to have any licenses; well, if they will only stick to that, it will be the making of us. I understand the rum sellers have hired a lawyer to go before the County Commissioners, and are looking

around to pick up witnesses to prove their good moral character. Why, sir, it seems to me now-a-days, when the effects of rum-selling are so well known; it is proof positive against any man's character, that he wants to keep a grog-shop. I have suffered by it, sir, and I may speak strongly, but in my opinion, rum-selling is no better than highway robbery. In fact, it is worse—for if a man meets me boldly in the road, and puts his pistol to my breast and demands my money, I have the chance of resisting him; or at any rate, he only takes what I then have in my pocket, and I soon can earn more and make up for my loss. But these grog-sellers set themselves down by the roadside, and stick a rum bottle in the window for a bait, or they pretend, perhaps, to sell flour and groceries, to get us to go in. Well, sir, when we are once in there, they plunder us not only of our money, but of our time, our character, our health; and more yet, they run us in debt, and so plunder us before-hand of our earnings.

"If you will only keep rum out of my sight, I shall get along well enough; but I can't see it every day and not want to drink it; no man can resist a temptation that is all the time besetting him. Put down these grog-shops, and I shall do as well as any body. As long as I can keep sober, I am willing to work, and am able to provide for my family; but if that grog-shop stands there five years longer, I shall either be dead or else in the poor house."

The above, Messrs. Editors, is no fiction. I have endeavored to give as faithfully as I could, the substance of what the man said to me. I must confess I was very much struck by it. The appearance and earnestness of the speaker gave it a force which it loses when put upon paper; but even there, I think no man of any feeling can read it without a mixture of pity and indignation.

From the Metropolitan.

Joseph Bonaparte's seat, at Bordentown, and some interesting particulars respecting the fallen King, as well as Prince Murat, are thus given by a correspondent of the Portland Advertiser.

This is one of the oldest towns in New Jersey. It is delightfully situated on the banks of the Delaware, about thirty miles above Philadelphia, from which steamers are constantly plying to this place, making the passage often in less than two hours.—The principal objects of importance in this village, worthy the attention of a stranger, are the residence of the Count Surveillers and his nephew the Prince Murat. The former has resided here during most of the years of his exile. His dwelling is a plain three story brick edifice, stuccoed and painted a pale slate color, and entirely destitute of architectural ornament. It contains an extensive suite of rooms, richly furnished and adorned with productions from the pencils of the old masters and some pieces from the most celebrated modern French and Italian artists. The library is unequalled in this country. It comprises nearly a perfect series of classics in each cultivated modern language, and is enriched by statues and paintings.

The Count has recently left his abode for Europe. His flattering reception no doubt during his last visit to England having exerted a powerful influence over him in taking this step. In this country we own that kings or ex-kings are such vanities that we do not know how to receive them. The Count lived in the midst of us like a princely hermit. He could not be appreciated by Americans, and so he has gone to an atmosphere where princes and nobles tremble or de throne, are among the "Dit Patrie."

His estate is probably the most extensive of any private possession in this country. I am informed that one can ride fifteen miles over his cultivated grounds, through the most charming labyrinth of avenues without once retracing the same road. A few years since his dwelling, a more elegant structure than the present, was destroyed by fire. It crowned a bold promontory overlooking the Delaware, for several miles its majestic course, and several leagues of the extensive highly picturesque scenery of the shores of Pennsylvania. The site of this dwelling is now marked by a tall tower or observatory, from which there is a widely extended prospect of the surrounding country. At the foot of this tower, suspended like an eagle's nest on a projection of the cliff is a romantic summer house. One side is relieved by a slab upon which is inscribed eight or ten lines from Tasso—a reflection upon the mutability of human affairs—a portion of which might be thus paraphrased—"Reader while you are admiring the beauty of these grounds envy not their possessor."

Formerly marble statues of great value were placed at intervals among the trees. But during the late absence of the proprietor, they were thrown down or mutilated by vagabonds, for they deserve no milder epithet, in the shape of Sabbath-day visitors from the city and neighboring towns, and the ornamented grounds were otherwise injured. The Americans—the "loafers" I mean—seem to have the bump of destruction most enormously developed. It is not expected a gentleman should keep a watch upon his estate to prevent barbaric incursions of visitors. His safety is in the civility and respect of the community. The Count while here, lived in great confinement and was seldom seen by the villagers.

The prince Murat at present resides here. He has expended a vast fortune in building and improving grounds for which he has a decided mania.—He resides now in a plain two story house in the village—he receiving a moderate estate from his mother's estate abroad. He is a fine looking man, a large portly figure, with the best humored countenance in the world. He is very so-

cial, in exchanging the visits of the citizens, with whom he is very popular, with true republican sociability.—He has a charming wife and a lovely family of the rising generation, and in the retirement of his family, the society of the citizens and the field and turf sports of the neighborhood, he seems to be far happier than if seated upon the thorny cushion of a throne. This gentleman exhibits the strange anomaly in society—of a prince, forgetting that he is such; and adapting himself, as if "born to it," to the republican simplicity of American society and manners, as they exist in a small village in New Jersey. P.

PUBLIC MORALS.

That the increase of some species of crime in our country is more rapid than the advancement of our population, is very apparent to every one who has given attention to the subject. The circumstances attending the melancholy catastrophe in New-York not long since, disclosed one of the sources of moral corruption which, like the upas, is blasting indiscriminately and irreparably all who come within its deadly influence.—The house in which the degraded female was murdered, is not a solitary one of that character—hundreds in that city and thousands scattered in the larger towns throughout our land, are supported by those persons who ought to be now forming characters worthy the rich inheritance of free institutions bequeathed by our virtuous fathers. Such houses are supported too by those who are honored with stations of public trust and authority in municipal, state, and even national affairs!

It is a question of some importance to ask,—what are the upholding causes for such a state of things? and how can these evils, of which all are sensible, best be remedied?

The prevalence of infidelity, is the ground work of loose morality, vice and crime. Societies of men who are attempting to break through all the moral restraints imposed by the laws of God and man, disannulling all those ties which give society a state of social organization—are busily engaged in instilling into the minds of youth those vile principles which are so forcibly illustrated in the case of the deluded Robinson. The gambling room, the tipping house, and the brothel, are schools for those who are taught that there is moral accountability—and there in their degraded revellings, they are consoled by the thought that no small number of the recipients of public honors passed thro' such scenes to the places of dignity they now hold? The elevation to high office of a libertine, a debauchee, a gambler, holds out so many models for the ambitious youth of our land—so many palliatives for the licentious course they feel disposed to pursue.

That "Rank gives force to example," is not to be disputed. When Christianity was almost extinct in the earth, a Constantine ascended the throne—his sanction and example shed a benign influence, and millions of the human race by their reformed lives, showed the impressive force of high example. In later days, when our country was attempting to throw off the yoke of foreign oppression, a Washington hesitated not in public as well as private, to acknowledge his dependence on the Most High and invoke his aid. Then the evils attendant on infidelity were but little known in our land—the virtues of the leader, shed every where a mild moral lustre: such a character was then venerated, and it was the ambition of the young to imitate it.

But what is the public example now of many who are high in office? Cannot the duellist,—the gambler—the debauchee,—be pointed out in stations high? If such crimes are thus made reputable, is it not time for us to look to it? Does not our national character, our individual safety, demand it?

To say nothing of any other candidate, calculate for a moment the influence upon the nation of the elevation by the present dominant party, of their candidate for the second office in the people's gift. An avowed and open libertine—his own family bearing the dark impress of his utter disregard of one of the distinct commands of the second table. If such men are to receive the high honors of our nation, and the influence of their example is as great upon Society as may be reasonably calculated—debauchery will hardly be considered a crime—our youth will be led astray—and robberies and murders will become the common incidents of the day.

Republicans should ever remember that "RANK GIVES FORCE TO EXAMPLE"—and see to it, as they regard the permanency of our institutions, that such men only have rank as set a good example.

Portsmouth, (N. H.) Journal.

WONDERFUL EFFECTS OF CULTURE.

Many plants that are highly nutritious and useful, under culture, are useless, and even poisonous, when growing in their natural state. The apple is the improvement which culture has produced upon the wild acerb crab. The uncultivated peach is said to be poisonous in some parts of Asia. The cabbage is believed to have sprung from the worthless colewort. The potato is but a small bitter root in its natural condition in the wilds of Chili. Most of the plants which furnish food to man, are multiplied in their products, and greatly improved in their quality, when subjected to culture. Every year brings to our notice some species, hitherto useless, which human industry is rendering subservient to our wants. Providence has bountifully supplied us with the materials necessary to our condition, if we will but prepare them for our use. Industry and perseverance are assured of their reward; and indolence may be sure of meeting the penalty

incident to the disobedience of a reasonable command.

What a beautiful lesson do these facts teach to the young. The wild uncultured mind, is like the wild crab, wild potato, or colewort—a comparatively useless or noxious cumberance in society. And yet, if brought under suitable culture, how useful—useful to its possessor, and useful, like the plants we have spoken of, to the family of man. The ignorant, selfish being, who lives but for himself, may, like the fire-fly, emit a transient light, and is forgotten. He never realizes the sublime pleasures that are purchased by knowledge, and efforts to do good. While the learned industrious man, appreciating the high duties he owes to society, actuated by an ardent desire to fulfil them, confers blessings on his species, and, living or dead, is theme of gratitude and praise.—Cultivator.

A Revolutionary Veteran.—We had a conversation yesterday, at the Planters' & Mechanics' Bank, with one of the Heroes of the Revolution, Mr. Thomas Garret, of Sumter District, aged one hundred and five years and eight months, who came to this city on horseback, alone, for the purpose of receiving his pension. The old gentleman appears to be in the perfect possession of all his faculties, answers questions readily, and is quite humorous in his conversation. He served for a considerable period under Gen. Sumter, the "Game Cock of the South," as he termed him, and was profuse in his praise of that brave and chivalrous Commander. He was also at the battle of Fort Moultrie and at the siege of Savannah, at the storming of the latter place he stated that while viewing a wounded fellow soldier, who lay among heaps of slain, the gallant Pulaski rode up, and remarked, "my brave fellow take care, you are in a dangerous position," to which Garret made answer "General, if you intend to be in a place of safety, I'll keep near you." Pulaski, put spurs to his horse and rushed into the thickest of the fight; but a few moments only intervened, when Garret saw the noble foreigner fall from his horse, mortally wounded. Mr. Garret informed us that his mother attained the extraordinary age of 120 years, and his grandmother 115.—Charleston Courier.

Sagacity of a Horse.—At the sitting of the committee of the Plymouth and Tamar Humane Society in this town, on Wednesday last, a singular instance of brute sagacity or instinct, called it what you may, was brought before the meeting, in connection with a case in which a man's life had been preserved by two other persons going to his rescue in a damaged boat. It appeared that as a man was driving a cart, loaded with lime, from the kiln near Deadman's bay Coxside, the lime set fire to the cart. The man, to save his property, with great promptitude tilted the lime into the road, and hastened back to the beach at Deadman's bay, where he drove his horse into the water and extinguished the flames, but the cart coming in contact with a heap of stones lying under water, turned over, and precipitated the driver into the sea. A man and boy seeing the accident, instantly put off in an old leaky boat standing on the shore, but when they arrived on the spot, the driver had just sunk for the third time. Neither of the parties could swim, but the man in the boat seeing the body about three feet under water, with great presence of mind fixed his feet under the thwart, and by throwing his arms and shoulders over, succeeded in catching the poor fellow by the hair of his head, and held him on while the boy sculled on shore, the boat by this time being nearly full of water. Meanwhile the horse in his alarm, had made seaward with the cart, and he was given up for lost, when strange as it may seem, another horse standing on the beach, with harness on, who had been attentively surveying the scene, plunged into the water and made after his friend in distress, whom he soon overtook, and applying his mouth to the affrighted animal's ears, he seemed to whisper something; he then turned about neighing loudly to encourage his companion, when the latter also turned & followed his gallant leader to the beach, where they both arrived in safety. The man and boy were rewarded by the committee with 15s each for their noble and spirited conduct.—Western Luminary.

SHOPPING.—"Where are you going Letty, my dear, this morning," said an indulgent father to his pretty daughter, who had her Tuscan on and her parasol in hand.—"O Pa—the old place Ruination Row, as you call it—there is a splendid new store just opened, plate glass windows as large as a church door, and such a rich display as you never saw." "But, my dear, you want nothing." "Oh, nothing, but I do love to rummage the goods and make the Clerks open the shawls and unfold the silks—they are so obliging; but I do want something—give me three shillings to buy a half yard of Gros de Nap to line my bonnet—the smallest favors you know are gratefully accepted."

AMERICAN HEROISM.—The Allgemeine Zeitung, a Gazette published in Vienna, gives an account of a pleasure boat in the river there, by which the Princess Adelaide Sophia was precipitated into the water and would have been drowned, if it had not been for the heroic exertions of Mr. Bell, a young American gentleman, son of Dr. Bell, of Charleston, S. C. who happening to be near in another pleasure boat immediately plunged into the river, (without knowing the quality of the lady,) and rescued her from a watery grave. He was the next day invited to the imperial palace, where he was presented by the lovely Sophia herself with a breast pin studded with diamonds, valued at twenty thousand dollars. Our correspondent to whom we are indebted for the paper,

states that "it is impossible to conceive how high the Nation Americanishe stands in this capital. The Austrian Court is certainly the proudest in Europe, yet the archduke has lately been heard to say that an American gentleman is fully on a par with an Austrian Nobleman. I should not therefore be surprised if something further grew out of this matter—particularly as yong Bell is remarkably handsome and intelligent."

COAL.—The apprehension of a scarcity of this article, which prevails in so great a degree abroad, is probably, says the Pottsville Miners Journal, without foundation. The apprehension has arisen from the numerous paragraphs in the newspapers of our large cities, sounding the alarm, and spreading panic throughout all classes of the community. To increase this feeling, it was confidently stated, that the supply was falling short of 200,000 tons. Those who know nothing on the subject, readily believed this statement. At the very time this rumor was put in circulation, the supply had increased, and was rapidly increasing. It was generally thought, that the increase of the present year would amount to one hundred thousand tons at least. Nothing has subsequently occurred to weaken this opinion, but much to confirm it. The whole supply will probably amount to 700,000 tons; an increase of about 170,000 over last year's supply.

From the Charlotte Journal.

At a special meeting of the delegates from North Carolina, to the Rail Road Convention at Knoxville, on 9th of July, 1836—it was unanimously

Resolved—"that the Chairman of the meeting do select and appoint three members, of said delegation, who should act as a joint committee, to prepare and present a memorial to the next Legislature of North Carolina, asking the aid of the State to cooperate with other States in constructing the Rail Road from Cincinnati to Charleston, so far as the interest of North Carolina may be concerned—provided that said Road shall be made to pass the Blue ridge East of the Butt mountain,—and provided further, that said Road shall pass down to Charleston, somewhere on the East side of main Broad River, so as to give facilities to a branch from said road which may be connected with the general improvement of the State.

Therefore—J. Robert Williamson, chairman of said meeting, do appoint David L. Swain, J. Bissell and I. T. Avery, to compose the committee contemplated in the above resolution.

ROBT. WILLIAMSON, Ch'n.
Lincolnton, Aug. 24, 1836.

MR. VAN BUREN'S OPINIONS.

Mr. Sherrod Williams, Member of Congress from Kentucky, addressed a letter to Mr. Van Buren dated April 7th, putting to him, as a candidate for the Presidency, several questions in relation to the course which, if elected, he would pursue. Mr. V. B. replied after a fortnight that he would not answer the questions till after the adjournment of Congress, because he might be called upon as President of the Senate, to vote on some of the subjects embraced in the questions. To this Mr. W. returned a reply of which this is the conclusion: "If the reason you assign for answering my questions until the adjournment of the present Congress be a good one, the same reason will continue to exist and apply with equal force until the 4th of March next; for at the next Session of Congress (whether you shall be elected President of the U. States or not) you may be called upon, as President of the Senate to vote upon all or some of the subjects mentioned in my letter. I am in good faith anxious to obtain your opinion upon the points submitted in my letter, and therefore again most earnestly and respectfully solicit your answer as soon as practicable." The following is the close of Mr. V. B.'s brief reply: "You may therefore dismiss from your mind all apprehensions of not receiving it (the answer to the questions) in full time for the object you have in view."

The answer finally came, and is dated August 8. It would occupy more than ten columns of our paper. We proceed to furnish extracts. We this week give the entire answer to the first question, which was in the following words:

Will you (if elected President of the United States,) sign and approve a bill distributing the surplus revenue of the United States to each State according to the federal population of each, for internal improvements, education, and to such other objects as the Legislatures of the several States may see fit to apply the same?

MR. VAN BUREN'S ANSWER.

In my opinion, Congress does not possess the power, under the constitution to raise money for distribution among the States; and if a distinction can be maintained between raising money for such purpose, and the distribution of an unexpected surplus, (of which I am not satisfied,) I think it ought not to be attempted without a previous amendment of the constitution, defining the authority and regulating its exercise. Apprehending danger to the Union from the course of federal legislation upon the subject of internal improvements, and fearing that it could not otherwise be arrested, I was inclined, at the commencement of President Jackson's administration, to favor the idea of a distribution annually among the States, of the surplus revenue, and an amendment of the constitution conferring on Congress authority to make it. President Jackson, entertaining similar apprehensions, submitted suggestions to this effect to the consideration of Congress. They met with appro-

bation in some quarters, but were denounced in others, with extraordinary severity, as encouraging a policy particularly unjust and ruinous to a part of the Union, and subversive of the principles upon which it was founded. Time and circumstances have worked changes of opinion on the subject, from which my own mind has not been exempted. The intelligence and patriotism of the people proved adequate to the desired reform, in the legislation of Congress upon the subject of internal improvements, without resorting to the proposed distribution: and the experience of the last session has fully satisfied me of the impropriety of any such measure. "The support of the State governments in all their rights, as the most competent administration of our domestic concerns, and the surest bulwarks against anti-republican tendencies;" and "the preservation of the General Government, in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad," were described by Mr. Jefferson as among the essential principles of our Government, which ought always to shape its administration. The experience of more than thirty years has attested the wisdom and justice of these sentiments—and it behooves those who are entrusted with the management of public affairs, to beware how they disregard the admonition. They who can yet allow themselves to hope that these great principles can be maintained under the operation of any of the proposed systems of distribution, have looked upon the signs of the times in a different light from myself. It is my firm conviction, that any system by which a distribution is made among the States, of moneys collected by the Federal Government, would introduce vices into the legislation of both governments, productive of the most injurious effects, as well upon the best interests of the country, as upon the perpetuity of our political institutions. I sincerely hope, therefore, that the good sense and patriotism of the American people will prevent the adoption of any such plan. The deposit bill (recently passed) will remove any pretense for a speedy necessity for such a step, and give time to provide against the recurrence of a redundancy. It would, indeed, be a great misfortune, if that law were regarded by the country as pledging the future course of its legislation to the policy to which you refer. The circumstances under which it was passed, were of an extraordinary character, and cannot well again occur. To give a legislative organization to the fiscal agency for the collection and disbursement of the public revenue, which had been established through the Treasury Department by Executive authority, as a substitute for that of the Bank of the United States, was an object of the very highest importance. It was the successful winding up of one of the most arduous conflicts between the well understood will of the people on the one side, and the moneyed power of the nation acting in concert which a formidable portion of its political power on the other, that has ever taken place, certainly that has ever resulted in the triumph of the popular will in any country. To accomplish this by the assent of all parties, to make all responsible for the future working of the system, by consulting liberally their opinions and wishes in its formation, and to put an end to those fierce and incessant assaults upon the management of the fiscal affairs of the Government, by means of which every interest was disturbed, was a result which could not be too ardently desired. The President had, for several sessions, called the attention of Congress to this subject without effect; and this opposition party in Congress, by availing itself of partial diversities of opinion among the friends of the administration, acquired the power to prescribe conditions to its final settlement. That to which their demands were ultimately reduced, was a distribution of the deposits of a portion of the public moneys among the States. After ineffectual efforts in both Houses, on the part of the great mass of the supporters of the Government in each, to separate that part of the bill which provided for the regulation of the deposit banks from the sections which made a different disposition of the surplus revenue, the friends of the administration, differing among themselves in regard to details and construction, but with the same general object in view, yielded their support, by large majorities, to the bill, in the modified form in which it came from the House of Representatives. The amendment of the House, although it did not strip the bill of all its dangerous tendencies, made an essential change in the character in respect to the question of constitutionality. In its previous form, it took the money by appropriation out of the Treasury, and thereby necessarily raised the question whether the use which was proposed to be made of it, was amongst the "expenditures" authorized by the federal constitution. By the bill, as amended, no money is drawn from the Treasury, but the State treasuries, like the State banks, are, to a limited extent, made places of deposit; of the constitutional power to do which, with the consent of the States, there can be no question. The President, assuming, as he was bound by a proper respect for the institutions of the country to do, that good faith would be kept in the dealings which it authorized between the Federal and State Governments, gave his assent to the measure. I would have given to the bill a similar direction, if it had become my duty to decide on the question of its passage or rejection. It now remains for public opinion, to the efficacy of which we all have so much reason to look with confidence and hope, to determine the